

American Literature Summer Reading

Each student in American Literature is required to read the “One Book, One School” selection: *Rhyme Schemer* by K.A. Holt. You must have a Reader’s Notebook for the novel you read this summer. Please note that you will be using this notebook for the school year 😊

Follow the directions to set-up the Reader’s Notebook:

Reader’s Notebook Instructions

1. You will need a 100 page 3 ring spiral notebook
2. In the front inside cover title it: Books I Want to Read; on the back inside cover title it: Books I Have Read
3. Each novel you read=1 page in your notebook (front and back)
 - a. At the top of the page write the title of the book and author
 - b. Draw a line for parent signature. Draw a line down the middle of the page so you have two columns on the front AND back of the page. Divide each book into four sections (divide the number of pages by 4 so you know the number for each section. For example: *The Alchemist* has 182 pages in it. Divided by 4=45.5 pages so after 45 pages STOP and write. Each column MUST be completely filled with your thoughts about the section.

Reader’s Notebook Written Response Possibilities:

Please note that this is not to be used to ONLY summarize your novel. It is important to make connections to what you are reading.

If you’re having trouble understanding or following the plot, you can...

Look up vocabulary

Write the word and the dictionary definition.

Summarize each chapter

Note important details. List important events chronologically.

At the end of the chapter, complete this sentence for each character: (A character) wanted....but....so....

Ask clarifying questions

Then try to answer your questions through re-reading, thinking about the question, or asking someone.

Visualize the text

Describe in your own words or draw a picture of the characters, setting, or a particular scene.

Pay attention to your attention

If you can’t concentrate on the story, why not? What could you change to help you pay better attention?

To get a deeper understanding, you can...

Make inferences

Inferences are conclusions you can draw based on information that’s available and your own experiences. For example, if you saw a child in a stroller with a woman pushing it, you might infer the woman was his mother. But be careful to check your inferences when new information comes up – that woman could be a kidnapper or the baby sitter or his aunt.

Ask deep questions

Deep questions usually begin with “Why” and don’t just have a single answer. Think about the possible answers.

Make connections

You can make text-to-self connections (what in the book reminds you of your own life?), text-to-text (what in the book reminds you of another book?), or text-to-world (what in the book reminds you of something on the news, or that you’ve seen?).

React

How do you feel about the characters or what’s happening in the book?

Predict

What do you think is going to happen next? Why?

Pick out important, interesting, or confusing passages.

Explain why you picked the passage from the text. Use the passage to make inferences, ask questions, make connections, react or predict.

Look at the writer’s technique

Pick a rich passage and explain how the passage is put together. Look for and explain symbols, figurative language, and imagery.

Think about the big ideas and the writer's overall purpose.

Pick a passage and explain how it connects to one of the big ideas and the writer's overall purpose.