

# SPX Middle School Summer Reading Summer 2022

## Books as Windows and Mirrors

*“Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of a larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and readers often seek their mirrors in books.”*

— *Rudine Sims Bishop*

This summer, rising middle school students will complete a summer reading project helping them recognize books as windows into other worlds or lives and mirrors reflecting their own lived experiences.

Students will read three (3) books: two from the attached list and one of their choosing. These novels may be experienced by physical book, ebook, or audiobook. For each book, students will use the attached packet to reflect on the book and the way the author created a window or mirror for the reader.

Each novel analysis must be complete and the assignment is **due the first day of school**. Students should be prepared to defend their analyses in classroom discussions that will happen the first two weeks of school.

Reading List:

6th Grade	
<i>Show Me a Sign</i> by Ann Clare LeZotte	730L
<i>A Night to Remember</i> by Walter Lord	950L
<i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt	550L
<i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> by Grace Lin	810L

7th Grade	
<i>House Arrest</i> by K.A. Holt	610L
<i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i> Frank Gilbreth Jr.	890L
<i>Out of the Dust</i> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt	NP
<i>Focused</i> by Alyson Gerber	750L

<b>8th Grade</b>	
<i>Long Way Down</i> by Jason Reynolds	720L
<i>The Sword in the Stone</i> by T.H. White	1120L
<i>Stepping On the Cracks</i> by Mary Downing Hahn	780L
<i>When Stars Are Scattered</i> by Victoria Jamieson	530L

“As much as kids need books to be mirrors, kids need books to be windows. Kids who always see themselves in books need to be able to see things from other viewpoints.”

GRACE LIN – TEDXTALK

Use this **Glossary** to help you answer the questions for each book:

<b>Windows</b> are books that let us see into the lives and worlds of others, allowing us to better understand other people and develop empathy and compassion.
<b>Mirrors</b> are books that help us to see our lives and experiences in a different, but familiar, way. These stories help us to better understand our place in the world and help us feel less alone.
<b>Theme</b> is the universal idea or message explored in a work of literature. Examples of theme include war, love, revenge, friendship, redemption, forgiveness, etc.
<b>Characterization</b> is the way an author introduces, describes, and develops a character in a work of fiction.
<b>Imagery</b> is the way an author “paints a picture” in the reader’s mind. Using descriptive language and triggering the senses allows the author to put the reader in the scene or mind of a character.
<b>Personification</b> is using human traits to describe non-human things. Author’s use this literary device to help illustrate human behavior and emotions.

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**Books as Windows and Mirrors Reflection**

Complete the following form for **each book**. All three are due on the first day of school. Please write legibly, in complete sentences with correct spelling and grammar. You may type your responses and paste them below.

Name and Author of **Book 1**: \_\_\_\_\_

This book acted as a \_\_\_\_\_ for me.  
(mirror or window)

Explain how this book serves as a mirror or window for you. Give details from the text to support your opinion.

Choose one literary device (theme, characterization, imagery, personification) and describe how the author uses it to create a mirror or window for their reader.

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Complete the following form for **each book**. All three are due on the first day of school. Please write legibly, in complete sentences with correct spelling and grammar. You may type your responses and paste them below.

Name and Author of **Book 2**: \_\_\_\_\_

This book acted as a \_\_\_\_\_ for me.  
(mirror or window)

Explain how this book serves as a mirror or window for you. Give details from the text to support your opinion.

Choose one literary device (theme, characterization, imagery, personification) and describe how the author uses it to create a mirror or window for their reader.

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**Books as Windows and Mirrors Reflection**

Complete the following form for **each book**. All three are due on the first day of school. Please write legibly, in complete sentences with correct spelling and grammar. You may type your responses and paste them below.

Name and Author of **Book 3**: \_\_\_\_\_

This book acted as a \_\_\_\_\_ for me.  
(mirror or window)

Explain how this book serves as a mirror or window for you. Give details from the text to support your opinion.

Choose one literary device (theme, characterization, imagery, personification) and describe how the author uses it to create a mirror or window for their reader.