



# Lanier Middle School Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

Lanier English teachers recommend that you read **at least one book every two weeks**. You may choose from the suggested Fairfax County list, but you are not limited to those titles. Be sure you are reading books appropriately challenging for you. We would also like for you to **read at least one non-fiction book**. Please avoid reading books that have been made into movies.

During the first week of school, you will have an assignment based on one of the books you have read. Read, read, read! Then **write a 75-125 word summary for your top four (4) favorite books**, with at least one being non-fiction. Follow the guidelines below for what to include in your responses. There is a fiction example on page two (2) of this document. Simply list the titles and authors of the other books you read.

## FICTION

Title, author's full name and genre should be included in your opening sentence. As you summarize the book, be sure to include the following:

- Describe the setting
- Identify and describe main characters (protagonist, antagonist)
- Describe and identify the primary conflict.

These three elements should make up the body of your response. You decide which order.

Close with a theme statement. What does the author want readers to learn about life? Remember, theme statements are just that, statements, not single words. Although a theme may center on friendship, you would need to clarify that with a statement. Here is one example:

Friendship sometimes grows stronger when it is tested by problems.

Use any of these additional terms to guide your thinking.

Setting	Characters	Types of Characterization
time	protagonist	physical appearance
location	antagonist	speech and actions
situation		inner thoughts/feelings
duration		reputation

Plot	Type of Conflict
initiating event	internal (individual vs. self)
rising action (complications)	external
climax	individual vs. individual
falling action	individual vs. society
resolution	individual vs. nature
	individual vs. technology
	individual vs. supernatural

## NON-FICTION

Title, author's full name and the primary subject of the book should be included in your opening sentence. As you summarize the book, be sure to include the following:

- author's purpose
- why you are interested in this topic or person
- knowledge you gained from this reading that was new to you

These three elements should make up the body of your response. You decide which order.

Use any of these additional terms to guide your thinking.

- author's credentials
- author's bias
- cultural or historical impact
- fact vs opinion
- type of overall text structure used of these 7 examples (chronological order-sequencing, listing-enumeration, compare-contrast, concept-definition, cause and effect, problem-solution,

Happy reading! See you in September.

## *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton

Ponyboy Curtis, greasy-haired and green-eyed protagonist in *The Outsiders*, is a member of a gang called the Greasers. Most of the external conflicts that occur between Ponyboy and the Socs (Socials) a rival gang, take place in a city during the 1960s. The Socs are rich, spoiled teenagers always looking to rumble with the Greasers because of differences in their economic and social backgrounds. Ponyboy and a fellow Greaser, Johnny, have to flee from the city because one of them has committed murder. The author S.E. Hinton uses the characters and conflicts in this novel to illustrate that people share similar fears, dreams, goals, and emotions, despite differences in gender, race, and economic background.