

## TCMS Summer Reading Project for Incoming Grade 8 Students

\*\*\*\*Welcome to the 8th grade Advanced Language Arts Summer Project\*\*\*\*

This summer you will be expected to complete a summer reading project. Here is the breakdown. . .

**Novel Choices: \*\*\*All novel choices are 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Levels\*\*\***

1. **Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps**, by Andrea Warren RL 7-9<sup>th</sup>
2. **Anne Frank: The Diary of Anne Frank**, by Anne Frank RL 7-9<sup>th</sup>
3. **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas**, by John Boyne RL 7-9<sup>th</sup>

*You are not required to buy the novel you choose. You can find most of these novels at your local library.*



### Choice Novel Requirements

#### 1. Summarize the Literary Elements of Novel

**A. Directions:** Summarize the novel overall in three, well described paragraphs. You may organize your ideas using the five elements of plot (basic situation, Inciting incident/rising action, climax, falling action, resolution) OR by organizing your ideas into beginning, middle and end. In this summary, I am looking for a few specific Literary elements taught in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade:

1. information presented in chronological (or time) order
2. information that clearly links either (1) problems to solutions, or (2) causes to effects

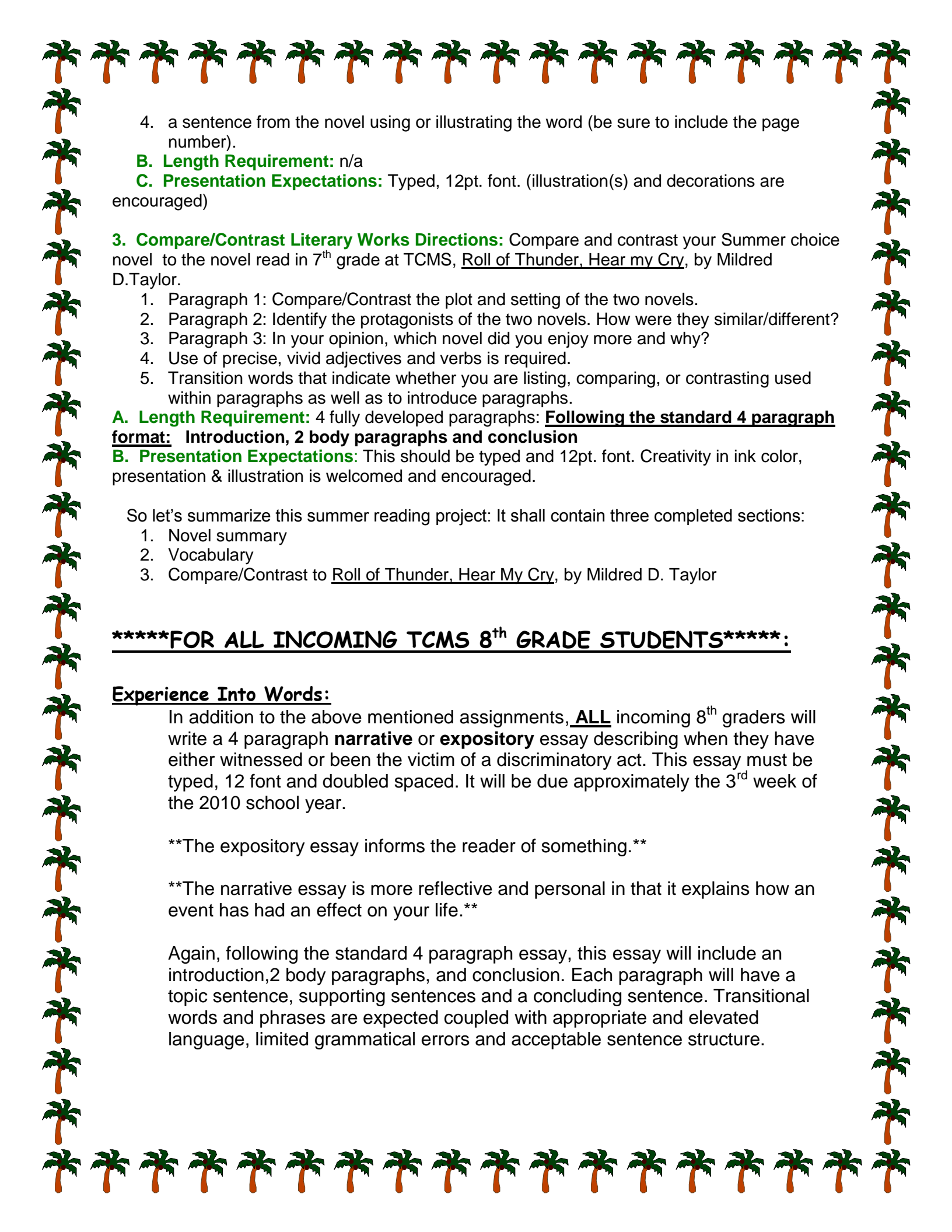
**B. Length Requirement:** 3 paragraphs, depending on method of development. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  to one full page in length.

**C. Presentation Expectations:** This should be typed (double spaced in 12 point readable font). Illustrations, creativity and personality are welcomed & encouraged.

#### 2. Vocabulary

**A. Directions:** Identify 5 key vocabulary words that you had difficulty understanding. Create a full entry for the word including

1. the word
2. the part of speech
3. the definition most appropriate to your novel (you can make this up if you need to)



4. a sentence from the novel using or illustrating the word (be sure to include the page number).

**B. Length Requirement:** n/a

**C. Presentation Expectations:** Typed, 12pt. font. (illustration(s) and decorations are encouraged)

**3. Compare/Contrast Literary Works Directions:** Compare and contrast your Summer choice novel to the novel read in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at TCMS, Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry, by Mildred D. Taylor.

1. Paragraph 1: Compare/Contrast the plot and setting of the two novels.
2. Paragraph 2: Identify the protagonists of the two novels. How were they similar/different?
3. Paragraph 3: In your opinion, which novel did you enjoy more and why?
4. Use of precise, vivid adjectives and verbs is required.
5. Transition words that indicate whether you are listing, comparing, or contrasting used within paragraphs as well as to introduce paragraphs.

**A. Length Requirement:** 4 fully developed paragraphs: **Following the standard 4 paragraph format: Introduction, 2 body paragraphs and conclusion**

**B. Presentation Expectations:** This should be typed and 12pt. font. Creativity in ink color, presentation & illustration is welcomed and encouraged.

So let's summarize this summer reading project: It shall contain three completed sections:

1. Novel summary
2. Vocabulary
3. Compare/Contrast to Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred D. Taylor

**\*\*\*\*\*FOR ALL INCOMING TCMS 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE STUDENTS\*\*\*\*\*:**

### **Experience Into Words:**

In addition to the above mentioned assignments, **ALL** incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders will write a 4 paragraph **narrative** or **expository** essay describing when they have either witnessed or been the victim of a discriminatory act. This essay must be typed, 12 font and doubled spaced. It will be due approximately the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the 2010 school year.

**\*\*The expository essay informs the reader of something.\*\***

**\*\*The narrative essay is more reflective and personal in that it explains how an event has had an effect on your life.\*\***

Again, following the standard 4 paragraph essay, this essay will include an introduction, 2 body paragraphs, and conclusion. Each paragraph will have a topic sentence, supporting sentences and a concluding sentence. Transitional words and phrases are expected coupled with appropriate and elevated language, limited grammatical errors and acceptable sentence structure.

\*\*\* IF you are new to TCMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year, please see below\*\*\*

**THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENT IS ONLY FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE NEW TO TCMS OR DID NOT READ THE NOVEL Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor:**  
**(If you were at TCMS last year, you read it!)**

**Novel Choices:**

1. Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps, by Andrea Warren
2. Anne Frank: The Diary of Anne Frank, by Anne Frank
3. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, by John Boyne

*You are not required to buy the novel you choose. You can find most of these novels at your local library.*

**Novel Review:**

**Summary:**

- 3 paragraph summary organized using the 5 elements of plot: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution.
- Information should be in chronological (time) order.
- Information should be linked by problems to solutions or cause and effect.
- Must be typed (12 pt. font)

**Descriptive Language:**

- Identify 3 examples of each: vivid verbs, lively adverbs, precise nouns, vivid adjectives, and prepositional phrases.
- Copy the sentence in which you find the example, highlight the example and write the page number where it was found.

**Understanding Theme:**

- Write one paragraph response that explains the theme of the novel and how that theme could relate to a real life situation.
- The situation could be something that has happened to you or could be hypothetical.