

Grade 8 Summer Reading

For your summer assignment, please read one of the following novels as well as any novel of your own choice. The novels you must choose from are:

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier

The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine

After you have read the book, respond to the following prompt:

Each story is a coming-of-age story in which the protagonist must learn to understand and eventually accept many complicated aspects of life, including love, death, family, friendship, and finding his or her place in the world.

In an essay, explain how the main character, Tim or Marlee, grows as a character from the beginning to the end of the story. Discuss **three events or characters** that have the greatest influence on them. Describe each character, situation, or event, and explain its importance. Be sure to use quotes or specific examples from the novel to support your ideas. (If you quote anything directly, please include a page number).

Use these steps as guidelines:

- Write an introduction that establishes the story, the main character, and how he or she changes.
- Write three body paragraphs, each discussing an event or character.
- Write a conclusion that summarizes your thoughts about the novel and its themes.

Now you have to convince me to read your other summer reading novel! Write me a persuasive letter using a friendly letter format and tell me why I need to read your book. Your letter must tell me about your favorite part of the book using descriptive language, but remember no spoilers. Don't give away the ending! **Your book must be an appropriate 8th grade reading level or higher.** You may email me if you are uncertain about your book choice. You must have chosen a book and emailed me, if you have questions, before Friday, **July 19th**.

Your letter and essay must both be typed in MLA format and printed before the first day of school. Your essay should be at least 500 words. They will be due on the first day of school, **August 28th**, during the period in which we meet for Literature class.

