

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.

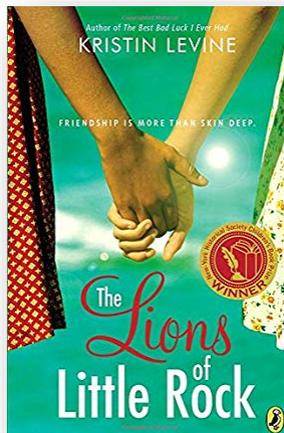
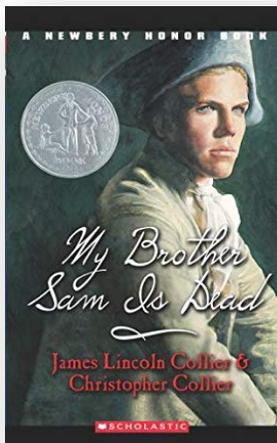
In an essay, explain how the main character, Tim or Marlee, grows as a character from the beginning to the end of the story. Discuss **three events or characters** that have the greatest influence on them. Describe each character, situation, or event, and explain its importance. Be sure to use quotes 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 paragraph that establishes the story, the main character, and how he or she changes.
- Write three body paragraphs, each discussing an event or character. A well written 8th grade paragraph is 6-8 sentences.
- Write a conclusion paragraph 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 in an email, 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 31st**.

Your essay must be typed in MLA format and printed before the first day of school. Your essay should be at least 750 words. The essay is due on the first day of school, **August 26th**, during the period in which we meet for Literature class. Your email must be sent on one of the following days: Monday 8/24, Tuesday 8/25 or Wednesday 8/26. Early and late emails will not be accepted.



Email Guidelines

Your email must contain the following in order to receive full credit for this assignment:

- Completed Subject Line
- Salutations at the beginning and end of the email which include my name and your full name
- Italicized book title
- Author's name
- 2 paragraphs describing the book and your favorite scene that have been proofread for spelling and grammar

Summer Reading Assignment - Persuasive Letter - Message (HTML)

FILE MESSAGE INSERT OPTIONS FORMAT TEXT REVIEW ACROBAT

Paste Basic Text Attach File Attach Item via Link Signature Adobe Acrobat Tags Zoom View Templates My Templates

To... Laura Cannon;

Cc...

Send

Subject Summer Reading Assignment - Persuasive Letter **Completed subject line**

Dear Mrs. Cannon, **Opening salutation**

I think you should read A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle because it is a wonderfully suspenseful story with a great adventure!
italicized title and full author name

You should write 1-2 paragraphs describing your story. Use descriptive language, that means describe your favorite scene using adjectives and adverbs. Be careful not to plagiarize though! If you use the same words as the author you must put it in quotations, then put the page numbers in parentheses (98) so I can look up your reference later on.

Sincerely, **Closing salutation**

Laura Cannon|

Note: This sample does NOT contain 2 complete paragraphs, it is only a sample.

Laura Cannon Independence Day (Observed)