

Summer Reading for Rising 8th Graders Books & Assignments

Books

As a rising 8th grade student at SRS, you will read **three** books this summer. Two books are required, and one is a free choice book. The **two required** books are:

Johnny Tremain, by Esther Forbes

The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton

PLEASE NOTE: at the beginning of next year in the first quarter, we will have discussion, activities, quizzes, and a test based on *The Outsiders*. **I strongly encourage you to read *The Outsiders* and complete the trading cards assignment in August, so that the story is relatively fresh in your mind when school starts.**

“Free choice” book—choose from the enclosed list of suggested books.

All books are available in your public library and on **amazon.com** and **barnesandnoble.com**.

Reading Assignments

ALL reading assignments are due on the first day of school (late submissions will lose points). I will combine these assignments as a test grade in Reading for the first quarter.

1) Assignment 1: Johnny Tremain

For *Johnny Tremain*, you will make business cards for **four major characters** in the story. See enclosed instructions and sample when you create your cards.

2) Assignment 2: *The Outsiders*

For *The Outsiders*, you will make trading cards for **three major characters**. See enclosed instructions and sample when you create your cards.

3) Assignment 3: Free Choice Book

For your free choice book you will complete the enclosed reading log. **PLEASE NOTE:** your parents must sign this log each time you read.

Have a wonderful summer! Happy reading!

Free Choice Books for Rising 8th Graders
CHOOSE ONE BOOK FROM THIS LIST AND COMPLETE READING LOG AS YOU READ

Fiction

The Boy Who Dared, Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Red Kayak, Priscilla Cummings

The Foundation Series, by Isaac Asimov (students can read one in this science fiction series)

The Hound of the Baskervilles, Arthur Conan Doyle

Etiquette and Espionage, Gail Carringer

The Giver, Lois Lowry

Kira Kira, Cynthia Kadohata

Stormbreaker, Anthony Horowitz

Ender's Game, by Orson Scott Wells

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott

Codetalker: A Novel, Joseph Bruchac

Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie

Call of the Wild, Jack London

Ungifted, Gordon Korman

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

Watership Down, Richard Adams

Crispin: The Cross of Lead, Avi

Non-Fiction

The Long Walk, Slavomir Rawicz

Chasing Lincoln's Killer, James Swanson

The Great Fire, Jim Murphy

The Nazi Hunters, Neal Bascomb

Spies!: Women in the Civil War, Penny Colman

All About Sleep: From A to ZZZZ, Elaine Scott

Johnny Tremain

Character Business Cards

Using index cards, or a word processing program (eg. MS Word), or a publishing program (eg. MS Publisher), create business cards for **four** main characters in *Johnny Tremain*. Your business cards must include the **five** “required” elements listed below, plus **three** additional elements—your choice—from the list below.

Business Card Elements:

- Name of character (**required**)
- Job title for character (**required**)
- Name of business or organization (most appropriate for character) (**required**)
- Tagline or description of business or organization (**required**)
- Logo or image(s) (**required**)
- Address
- Phone number [example: 1-800-GOT-JUNK]
- Email address
- Website address
- Twitter account name
- Facebook account name

Use the following questions to guide your decisions about what information to include on the business cards and how to design the layout of the cards.

- **Character:** For which character are you making a business card? How would the character be most likely to use the card? In other words, to whom would the character give the card, and what would the recipient be likely to do with the card. You are thinking about the purpose and audience for the card here.
- **Products and Services:** What products or services is the character best suited for? Does the character perform a particular job in the book? What talents might you highlight on the card?
- **Tagline and Characteristics:** What are the words and ideas that relate to the character? What jobs does the character have? Should the card be formal, informal, fancy, simple?
- **Images, Colors, and Graphics:** What pictures or images would relate to the character? What graphics would catch someone’s eye and stir up interest in learning more about the character? What colors best suit the character? If the character had a logo, what would it look like?
- **Address, Phone Number, Email, Website, Twitter, Facebook:** Be creative with the words you use in these; use words that relate to your character, and/or words that the character might use to identify themselves online or in social media.

The Outsiders

Character Trading Card Assignment

Using the following instructions, create trading cards for **three major characters** in *The Outsiders*. See the enclosed sample.

1) Draw or computer-generate a picture of the character on the front of the card (needs to be large enough to fill three quarters of page).

2) On the back of the card include “Character Stats” on that character. This part must be typewritten, single-spaced, 14-point font. What you type up should look like the enclosed template (a sample trading card has also been provided). **DO NOT HANDWRITE ON THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED HERE.** That is only for reference. You must type your cards up to look like the template.

In the different sections on the card you will provide basic biographical details of the character, as well as personality traits, some of the character’s thoughts and feelings, and the major conflict the character faces in the story.

Character Stats:

Name of character:

Book:

Setting (time and place):

Biographical details:

(age [approximate is OK], occupation, relationships with other characters, other details)

Personality traits of character: (list three)

Thoughts and feelings of the character in the story:

Major conflict the character faces in the story:



THE SCOOP:

Name of character: Annemarie Johansen

Book: Number the Stars

Setting (time and place):

The setting is in Denmark during World War II. The year is 1943.

Biographical details:

Annemarie is the protagonist of the story. She lives in Copenhagen, Denmark with her mother, father, and younger sister Kirsti. Annemarie's best friend is Ellen, the girl who lives next door. Annemarie is ten years old. She is tall and unusually thoughtful for her age.

Personality traits of character:

Annemarie is a thoughtful and introspective 10 year-old girl. She is sensitive to her parent's feelings. From her father she learns to value bravery.

Thoughts and feelings:

Annemarie is annoyed because there are Nazi soldiers at every corner of her city. She is aware of the changes that her family has had to adapt to, such as food and fuel shortages. Annemarie understands that she mustn't draw attention to herself, that she needs "to be one of the crowd."

Conflict:

The **conflict** in the book *Number The Stars* is that all the Jews in Denmark are being "relocated" by the Nazis. While Ellen's family goes away, they leave Ellen (who is Jewish) with Annemarie, her best friend. Annemarie's family helps Ellen and her family escape to Sweden, a neutral country, to avoid capture by the Nazis.

