



Middle School Summer Reading  
Pre-Advanced Placement  
8th Grade English  
2019



**Stargirl**  
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Advanced Academics & Guidance Services  
EDINBURG CISD



# Middle School Summer Reading Pre-Advanced Placement 8th Grade English 2019



Dear Parents of ECISD English Pre-AP students,

As this school year comes to an end, the middle school English teachers here in the Edinburg C.I.S.D. would like to let you know that we have your child's education in mind when we make decisions about summer reading assignments. We understand how important it is for students to develop a love of reading as part of their intellectual growth and future success.

We have high expectations for all our students, but especially for our pre-AP students. Pre-AP classes help prepare students for the rigorous, yet rewarding academic challenges they will face in high school and college. Students need to develop a sense of responsibility and dedication to work to ensure their success—now and for the future.

In order to help develop your child's independent reading skills and critical thinking skills, we require all 6<sup>th</sup> grade pre-AP, 7<sup>th</sup> grade pre-AP, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade pre-AP, and English I pre-AP students to read an assigned novel during the summer months. Students will also be required to complete an activity and an essay over their reading. Students will be assessed over the novel through tests, essays, and class activities at the beginning of the school year.

All students registered for 6th grade English Pre-AP, 7th grade English Pre-AP, 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Pre-AP and English I Pre-AP for the 2019-2020 school year are required to read the assigned novel and complete the corresponding assignment during the summer (English I Pre-AP students will read the summer novel for the assigned high school their middle school feeds into.).

The Summer Reading Assignment is due by the end of the second week of school, followed by an exam.

Thank you,

ECISD Middle School Pre-AP English teachers



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## Shadowbox Activity:

After reading the novel, Stargirl, create a personal mini shadow box using the following format:

- Your shadow box can be in a picture frame (Smallest size acceptable is 8 x 10; largest size accepted is 11 x 14). In general, a shadow box is decorative and contains many personal artifacts and mementos. Items may be photographs, articles of clothing, awards, stickers, or any other personal items of your choosing. Your name must be included in your shadow box.
- Your shadow box will give an insight into who you are, your interests, and/or your accomplishments.
- You must include a short description, separate from the shadow box, explaining the objects you have chosen to represent you.

### Things to keep in mind:

- The items you choose must reflect your personality, interests, and accomplishments.
- All items in the shadow box should be relevant to you.
- The shadow box should include your name in the display.
- The shadow box should demonstrate creativity, be well presented, and inviting.
- The short description should be typed, free of grammatical and spelling errors and punctuated correctly.
- The shadow box and descriptions should be free of offensive language and inappropriate pictures or ideas.



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## **Shadowbox Grading Rubric**

\_\_\_\_\_100-90%: Insightful, creative, colorful, thorough, follows all directions, detailed explanation, no spelling or grammatical errors, and neat.

\_\_\_\_\_80-70%: Adequate, some creativity shown, follows most directions, adequate explanation, no more than 5 spelling or grammatical errors, and neat.

\_\_\_\_\_60-50%: Simplistic, lacking sufficient creativity or effort, minimal explanation, over 5 grammatical errors, and does not follow major parts of the directions

\_\_\_\_\_40-30%: Insight or interpretation is incorrect, lacking creativity and effort, does not follow directions, no explanation included, and errors affect meaning of project.

\_\_\_\_\_20-0%: Lacking creativity, effort, and insight, does not follow directions, partially completed project, did not submit project, and no explanation included.



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**The assignment is due by the end of the first week of school.**

William Shakespeare once wrote, “To thine own self be true.” Instead of being true to who we really are, sometimes we find ourselves conforming to society’s norms just to fit in or belong to a group.

## **ASSIGNMENT**

**Write an essay discussing whether it is more important to “fit in” or “stand out.” Be sure to provide personal experience and text evidence from the novel to support each of your examples.**

*\*Plagiarizing is an automatic ZERO!*

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

This is NOT a novel summary. This is *a personal reflection* based on personal beliefs and making connections to what you read.

Your essay should include an introduction paragraph with a clear thesis sentence, at least three body paragraphs with text evidence from the novel present in each, and a conclusion.

Essay MUST be typed (1 ½ pages, 12 pt., Times New Roman font, double spaced, inch margins)

*\* Do not modify or stray from the required format*

Essay MUST have a cover page that includes your full name, class period, and date.

Essay MUST be stapled and NOT in a folder or research binder.



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## Summer Reading Student/Parent Agreement

### Student

By signing below, I am indicating that I fully understand my responsibilities for summer reading and related assignments. I also guarantee to be ready to meet these expectations by the end of the second week of school, followed by an exam.

School attended in 2018-2019: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of English teacher (2018-2019): \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Parent

By signing below, I indicate an awareness and understanding of my child's responsibilities for summer reading. I also support my child's efforts to fulfill his/her classroom expectations and be prepared by the end of the second week of school, followed by an exam.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Note:

Summer reading is REQUIRED for all students who will be taking Pre-AP/GT English classes during the 2019-2020 school year.