

Dear Future 8th Grader,

I hear you've had a great year! Please continue to grow as readers and writers as you enter 8th grade and beyond. This summer you will read two books and submit to projects on the first day of school. Our theme is "Caring for others". The concept of "Caring for Others" is broad, but may include taking care of our neighbors, reaching out to the Lost, meeting natural and spiritual needs, and putting other people first.

Please choose one of the two listed non-fiction books and one of the four listed fiction books. That's one non-fiction AND one fiction from our lists. Then complete the projects as described below. Books must be completed and projects are due on the first day of school.

A. NONFICTION

For the first book, choose **one** of these Non-fiction options:

1. Soul Surfer by Bethany Hamilton (ISBN: 978-1416503460)
2. Peace Child by Don Richardson (ISBN: 978-0764215612)

After reading your chosen non-fiction book,

- ❖ Write a paper, at least one page long (typed, double spaced, MLA Format)
- Summarize the story; discuss the plot, setting and characters.
- Explain how the mood and tone play into the story as well as what you think the theme is.
- Describe how this story demonstrates the theme and how this can be applied to your own life.

B. FICTION

For the second book, choose **one** of these Fiction options: * *You will read the book **and** watch the movie based on the book.**

1. The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan (ISBN: 9780786838653 or similar)
2. The Princess Bride by William Goldman (ISBN: 978-0156035217 or similar)
3. Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett (ISBN: 978-0064401883 or similar)

As noted, read the book and then watch the movie based on the book. Then complete both parts of the assignment:

❖ PART ONE

a. Compare the book to the movie in two parts:

- Make a Venn Diagram comparing the book and the movie. List at least 5 different points in all three parts of the Venn Diagram for a total of 15 points.
- Write one paragraph (6-10 sentences) expressing your opinion about whether the book or the movie was better and why you think so.

-AND-

❖ PART TWO

Imagine you work for a Marketing Company and need to show an audience that either the book or the movie demonstrates the theme “Caring for Others”.

Choose one of the following assignments:

1. Create a “movie” poster showing illustrations of a scene or a collage of illustrations of various scenes from the book/movie where the theme “Caring for others” is demonstrated.

- ❖ At least 18”x 24” in size
- ❖ Include the Title and Author
- ❖ Should be neat and colorful, with little or no empty space
- ❖ Words should be clear and large enough to read
- ❖ Spelling counts

2. Write the script to a commercial describing how the book/movie shows the theme “Caring for others”.

- ❖ 500 words (typed, double spaced, times new roman font, size 12)
- ❖ Start by describing the setting and characters of the commercial
- ❖ Clearly mark the dialogue or conversation (who is talking and doing what)

For example:

George: (*trips over his own feet*) Aaaahhhh!

Henry: Oh no, George! Are you alright? (*looks down at George*) George: Help me, Henry!

Henry: I'll get help, George! Wait here!
(*Henry runs away. George lies on the ground, looking at the sky*)

3. Create and record an original 2-minute video commercial demonstrating how the book/movie shows the theme "Caring for others".

- ❖ Video & audio must be loud and clear and easy to understand
- ❖ Creative and thoughtful
- ❖ Include the title and author of the book
- ❖ Email the video to jcook@ggca.org **before** the first day of school

If you have any questions, please contact me at jcook@ggca.org.

See you in the fall,

Mr. Cook

***Note to parents/guardians:

The novels and movies listed in the fiction group above are generally considered acceptable for our age group, but may contain subject matter or scenes which may not be suitable for every family. Please discuss these options together and decide which of the books best suits your family. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or check out the detailed information listed at www.commonsemmedia.org for each movie or book listed.