

Dear Future 8th Grader,

This summer, you will read **two books** and complete the assigned work for each. All work is due on the **first day of school**.

Our theme is “**Caring for Others.**” This concept may include taking care of neighbors, reaching out to those in need, meeting physical and spiritual needs, and putting others before ourselves.

You will choose:

- **ONE non-fiction book**
- **ONE fiction book**

A. NONFICTION (Choose ONE):

- *Soul Surfer* by Bethany Hamilton
- *Peace Child* by Don Richardson

After reading your chosen non-fiction book, complete the following:

Written Paper Requirements:

- At least **two full pages**
- **Handwritten, double-spaced, MLA format**

Your paper must include:

- A summary of the story (plot, setting, and key individuals)
- An explanation of the **mood and tone**
- Identification and discussion of the **theme**
- A clear explanation of how the book reflects “**Caring for Others**”
- A personal reflection on how this theme can be applied to your own life

B. FICTION (Choose ONE):

- *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
- *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman
- *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- *Shane* by Jack Schaefer (**Required for new students**)

You will **read the book AND watch the movie adaptation**.

Fiction Project Requirement: Movie Poster

Create a **movie-style poster** that reflects the theme “**Caring for Others**” as seen in your chosen story.

Poster Expectations:

- Inspired by **classic movie posters**
- Must include:
 - **All main characters** (drawn or represented visually)
 - **Key scenes or symbolic elements** from important events in the story
 - A clear connection to the theme “**Caring for Others**”
- Include:
 - Title of the book/movie
 - Author’s name
- Size: **At least 18” x 24”**
- Must be:
 - Neat, colorful, and creative
 - Visually engaging with minimal empty space
 - Easy to read (clear, large writing)
 - Free of spelling errors

In addition, there will be a **20-question test during the first week of school** that will demonstrate that you have read and understood your chosen fiction book. You should come prepared with a **basic understanding of the plot, main characters, and key events** of the story.

Happy Summer Reading!

Note to Parents/Guardians:

The novels and films listed above are generally considered appropriate for this age group, but may contain material that may not be suitable for every family. Please review the options together and choose accordingly. You may also visit www.common sense media.org for additional details on each title. Feel free to reach out with any questions.