

Northridge Summer 2021 Reading Program Middle School

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."
– Joseph Addison

Assigned Readings

Incoming 6th graders: *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

Incoming 7th graders: *True Grit*, by Charles Portis

Incoming 8th graders: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

Creative Writing Assignment

In addition to reading the book, all students are assigned to write a creative "reaction" to the book - explained below. The top three assignments will earn a prize!

This creative reaction is more fun than the standard book report and allows for freedom in approach - making this a more appropriate way to do summer reading.

Your assignment will be graded. This will be your first grade for next year's literature class.

Guidelines for the Creative Writing Assignment

- The creative writing assignment must be connected somehow – in terms of theme, character, plot, or setting – to the summer reading assignment (see next page for some possible ideas).
- May be in any creative form (short story, epic poem, theater script, screenplay, etc.).
- No group writing projects.
- While comedy is permitted and even encouraged if used in a creative and productive way, the writing must still have a sincere voice and avoid sarcasm/making fun of the assignment in any way.
- Must be a Microsoft Word document 2-6 pages long (though poetry may be somewhat shorter), size 12 font, double spaced.

Submission due August 23. Please email your Microsoft Word document by **Monday, August 23, 2021** to:

6th Grade: Mr. Harrington, pharrington@northridgeprep.org

7th Grade: Mr. Hadley, ahadley@northridgeprep.org

8th Grade: Mr. Ayers, sayers@northridgeprep.org

Some Ideas for the Creative Writing Assignment

feel free to come up with your own

- Write either a prequel or sequel to your book. What happens to one or more of the characters before or after the book? Make sure your story fits in with what we know about the characters/events from the book.
- Write a story that parallels an important theme from your book. For example, if you are a 7th-grader doing *True Grit*, you could do a modern retelling of the story which examines similar themes of justice and revenge.
- Write a letter or letters between multiple characters in the book, exploring their relationship and their motivations through your invented communication,