



# Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

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May 26, 2017

Dear Parent(s),

With the end of the school year quickly upon us, we know that you are making plans for your child's summer vacation activities. Like most parents, you are aware that while the summer months are a welcome opportunity for fun and relaxation, the break from school activities often causes students to experience a lag in learning upon returning to school in the fall. To lessen this effect, Miami Dade County Public Schools, in conjunction with Lamar Louise Curry Middle School has implemented a Summer Reading Initiative. This program aims to help reduce the usual summer reading learning loss by encouraging students to read over the summer.

The Language Arts department at Lamar Louise Curry Middle School has selected one book per grade level and based on your child's academic placement for the 2017-18 school year. They are required to read and complete their novel project before returning to school in August. We hope that you will encourage your child to read over the summer months. Remind your child that reading is important and fun, too. The following is the list of summer reading books:

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Regular/ELL: **Flush** by Carl Aiasen

Gifted/Advanced: **Leapholes** by James Grippando and **Phantom Tollbooth** by Norton Juster

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Regular: **Crash** by Jerry Spinelli OR **The Cay** by Theodore Taylor

ELL: **Flipped** by Wendelin Van draanen

Advanced/Gifted: **Peter and the Star Catchers** by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Regular: **Found** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Advanced/Gifted: **Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark** (Book 1) by Ridley Pearson

Sixth and Seventh Grade Book Report: Go to the following site: <https://curryib.com>

Eighth Grade Summer Book in a Bag Project: Go to the following site: <https://curryib.com>

We hope that you will join us in this important effort and assist your child in becoming a Summer Reading Achiever.

Sincerely,

Lamar Louise Curry Middle  
Language Arts Department



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## Grade 8 - BOOK REPORT in a BAG PROJECT

You will be completing a Book Report in a Bag project. If you don't normally have brown paper grocery bags at home, please be sure to pick one up the next time you head to the grocery store or recycle a gift bag so you are ready for this project. We are NOT accepting boxes, manila envelopes, storage bins, file folders, etc. This summer reading project will be worth two (2) to three (3) grades.

### Directions:

1. Get a brown paper grocery bag or gift bag. Make sure the bag will be big enough to hold all of your project objects (see below). You can find brown paper grocery bags at any supermarket. Used gift bags are also acceptable, but please be sure to cover it creatively.
2. Read your required novel. Don't wait until the last minute to read the book.
3. **On the front of the bag**, write the title and author's name. You also need to draw and color a scene from the story and write your favorite quote from the book. Get creative! Attaching a small basketball hoop or fake plant leaves onto the front of the bag are examples of creative details that make the bag look great!
4. **On the back of the bag**, write a summary of the book. The summary should tell about the main character. Do not focus on the physical and obvious. You can include the obvious information (family background, physical traits, etc.); however, do not include ONLY this information. Tell how this character changed throughout the story. What happened to him/her to cause this change; how did this change affect the development of the story, etc. Additionally, list the other major/minor characters by name and a one sentence description. The summary should also include the setting (time and place of the story), and the plot (brief explanation about what happened at the beginning, middle, and end of the story). You may write your summary on line paper and then glue or staple it to the bag. Your summary should be about 2-3 pages long. It should be in YOUR own words, and not your parents, or older siblings, or Google, and yes, you may type it. Please refer to the rubric under SUMMARY to include each component in well-written paragraphs.
5. **On the left side of the bag**, select two characters from the story and create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two characters.
6. **On the right side of the bag**, write about the theme of the book and what are your feelings about the message in this novel?
7. **Inside the bag**, pick 10 interesting vocabulary words from the story. Write down the words and tell what they mean. You may illustrate, too!
8. **Inside the bag**, choose 5 different literary elements such as characterization, plot, theme, setting, point-of-view, figurative language, etc. (Google search "Literary Elements" or Elements of Fiction" for more ideas). Find an item related to your book to represent each of the five literary elements you have chosen. For example, if you read Holes by Louis Sachar, you could put a shoe in your bag to represent plot because Stanley goes to a juvenile detention camp for stealing a pair of shoes. You must collect actual objects. Please do NOT put food in your bag. Do NOT draw/print pictures of objects. Write a paragraph (6-8 sentences) explaining how each object relates to the book and the literary element it represents. Be imaginative and creative and make sure each item that you pick is unique.
9. **Bottom of the bag**, please print your full name. Also, draw stars to show how well you liked the book. Four (4) stars indicate you loved it; one (1) star means you didn't care for it. You need to write a paragraph that tells why you liked or didn't like the book. You can do this on paper and glue it to the bag.
10. Practice for your book report presentation. You will be sharing your project (3 - 5 minutes) with the class.

### Grading:

- Read the attached Rubric. It will tell you how you will be graded and the point value for each component of the project.
- Make sure you hide any pictures or words that might be on your paper bag with your own work! (We don't want to see that you shop at Publix!)
- The summary is a big part of your grade. Be sure to include the setting and characters. Your summary needs to tell what happened at the beginning, middle, and end of the story. It should be on lined paper and be neat and easy to read. Your summary should be 2-3 pages in length and in YOUR own words. You can type if it you like, but please be sure to double space.
- Remember to use complete sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation. Check your spelling!
- Be neat and creative. You should take your time and do your best work. It will show if you did your project the night before.

## Summer Book Report-in-a Bag Project

Category	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Fair	1 - Inadequate
<b>Front</b>	Includes the title, author's name and color scene from the story along with a favorite quote. It is neat, clear and creative	Is missing one of the following: the title, author's name, color scene from the story and favorite quote. It is neat, clear and creative.	Includes the title, author's name and color scene from the story and a favorite quote. It isn't neat, clear or creative.	Is missing one of the following: the title, author's name, color scene from the story or favorite quote. It isn't neat, clear or creative.
<b>Right Side</b>	Includes the theme of the book and your thoughts and feelings about the message presented is clear and focused.	Includes the theme of the book and your thoughts and feelings about the message is adequately presented.	Includes the theme of the book and your thoughts and feelings about the message is somewhat presented.	Is missing one of the following: the theme of the book or your thoughts and feelings about the message presented.
<b>Left Side</b>	Includes all important character traits to clearly compare and contrast the two characters. Neat and clean.	Includes most important character traits to clearly compare and contrast the two characters. Neat and clean.	Includes some important character traits to clearly compare and contrast the two characters.	Includes an inadequate comparison and contrast of the two characters.
<b>Bottom</b>	Includes full name and stars to represent level of book enjoyment. Includes a thorough paragraph explaining reason for liking/disliking the novel including 3 citations	Includes name and stars to represent level of book enjoyment. Includes most of the information for explaining like or dislike for the novel. Includes at least 2 citations	Includes name and stars to represent level of book enjoyment. Includes some reasons for explaining like or dislike for the novel. Paragraph includes at least one citation.	Includes name and stars. Little information is provided for explaining like or dislike for the novel. Does not provide any citations.
<b>Back Side</b>	Includes a thorough summary of the book including characters, setting and plot; includes other major/minor characters.	Includes most of the summary information including characters, setting and plot; includes most of the other major/minor characters	Includes a brief summary information but may be missing 1 of the following: characters, setting, plot, or major/minor characters	Includes little information in the summary; missing 2 or more of the following: characters, setting, plot, or major/minor characters
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>Main Character</b>	Includes ALL important information about the main character (including character traits and how s/he changed over the course of the story).	Includes most important information about the main character (including how s/he changed over the course of the story).	Includes some important information about the main character, but excludes other information.	Includes little important information about the main character OR chooses a minor character rather than the main character.
<b>Setting</b>	Includes ALL settings and times that were important to the book, as well as an appropriate illustration.	Includes most of settings and times that were important to the book, as well as an appropriate illustration.	Includes either some settings and times that were important to the book or an appropriate illustration.	Includes incorrect or incomplete settings/times and/or an incomplete illustration.
<b>Plot</b>	Includes ALL key events to story, without retelling the entire book; includes only the most necessary information (beginning, middle, end).	Includes most key events to story, without retelling the entire book; includes only the most necessary information (beginning, middle, end).	Includes some key events to story, but excludes other important events (beginning, middle, end).	Includes an inadequate explanation of the plot, excluding many of the key events.
<b>Conventions</b>	All spelling and punctuation is correct. Paragraph is written/typed neatly.	Most spelling and punctuation is correct. Paragraph is written/typed neatly.	There are many errors with conventions. Paragraph is written/typed neatly.	There are multiple errors with conventions. Writing/typing is sloppy.
<b>Overall</b>	Report covers any print on the bag, is neat, easy to understand, and is creative	Report covers any print on the bag, is neat, easy to understand, but lacks creativity.	Report doesn't cover all print on the bag, but is neat and easy to understand.	Report looks rushed. It is not neat, clear or easy to understand.
<b>Presentation</b>	Maintained excellent eye. Showed a high level of confidence and was ready to present. Appropriate volume and tone of voice for the entire presentation. Didn't go over allotted time.	Maintained good eye. Showed some confidence and was ready to present. Appropriate volume and tone of voice for most of the presentation. Didn't go over the allotted time.	Maintained some eye. Was not ready to present, but was somewhat confident without preparation. Appropriate volume and tone of voice after intervention from the teacher. Went over time.	Avoided eye contact. Lacked confidence; wasn't ready to present. Inappropriate volume/tone of voice even after intervention from the teacher. Went over time.
<b>Active Listening</b>	Listened actively for ALL of the presenters.	Listened actively for most of the presenters.	Listened actively for some of the presenters.	Had to be asked to listen more actively.

Inside: Students will receive 1/2 point for each unique item included and 1/2 point for each complete and correct description of the object.

Object 1	/
Object 2	/
Object 3	/
Object 4	/
Object 5	/

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_/53 Points

Comments: