

RLA Middle School Students
2018 Summer ELA Reading Assignments due at the start of next school year.

1. Students read the book, How to Read Literature like a Professor, for Kids, by Thomas Foster
 - take journal notes about main ideas
 - be prepared for discussions in the Fall Semester about major points made by the author.

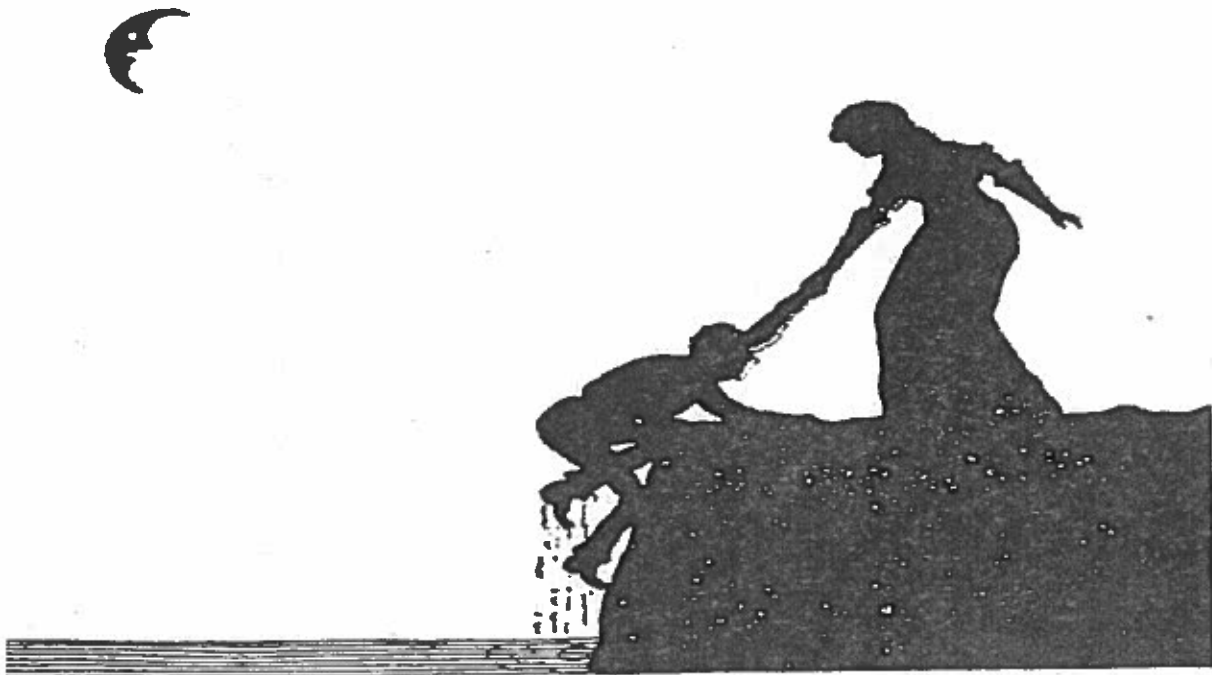
2. Students will read Two Fiction novels and write a **Comparative Book Report** about how the characters grow and change.

Choose one of the following:

- The books may have different authors (but of the same genre), have dynamic characters entwined with a similar theme, may have different plots and characters. What are the similarities and differences in the way the characters grow and change? Do they do any better in subsequent books? What are some comparisons and/or contrasts of theme, setting, conflicts and other literary elements of your choice.

OR

- The books may have the same author of a **Fictional Series of books** that are in sequence. How do the dynamic character(s) develop over time and exposure to different conflicts? What are some comparisons and/or contrasts of theme, setting, plot and other literary elements of your choice.



It is important to clearly understand and follow the objectives in this writing assignment. The following is review information to help you:

In the construction of this book report, you'll increase your knowledge about the following:

(1) Some novels can be understood by an examination of their characters.

(2) Characters can be analyzed in the same way they are created (Put yourself in the place of the author; how did he/she create the characters?)

(3) Characters can be "dynamic" (they change during the course of a novel).

- "In this book report you'll examine and describe the development of the main characters from each of the two fiction books.
- "In your first section, you'll introduce to your reader the books, authors, publishers and publication dates.
- "In your second section you'll let your reader know that the central ideas in your books correspond with the authors' development of the main characters. You'll describe the characters' makeup and show how the changes are evident because of what happens to the characters.

- "Things you should look at that demonstrate changes are:
 1. Relationships with other characters;
 2. Reactions to events;
 3. Attitudes toward the things that happen to people and animals;
 4. Interactions between the characters and others;
 5. Formation of new values or attitudes of the characters, and;
 6. Metacognition of the characters, how he or she views himself or herself change, and/or knowledge gained.
- There should be sections taken from the books, in the form of quotations and examples, to support everything you say about the characters' development.
- The conclusion of your book report should again mention the books' titles and should suggest that your examination of the development of the characters is an important way, but only one of many ways, these two books can be examined and enjoyed.