

Will Rogers Middle School 2009 Summer Reading Program
Incoming 8th Grade Students
Created by the Language Arts Department



The Summer Reading Program at Rogers Middle School is designed to stimulate the imagination and to guide students towards literature that will serve as a basis for classroom discussion and activity. The listed books, recommended by the Young Adult Library Services Association, were selected because of their alignment to grade appropriate curriculum. Please read a novel of your choice from the provided grade level list and complete one assignment of your choice. Your teacher will collect your assignment the first week of school in September.

Novel Choices

- *Elijah of Buxton* **Curtis, Christopher Paul**
- *Sucks to be me: The All-True Confessions of Mina Hamilton, Teen Vampire* by **Pauley, Kimberly**
- *Jacob Have I loved* **Paterson, Katherine**
- *Crash Spinelli, Jerry*
- *Things Not Seen* **Clements, Andrew**

Assignment Choices

Postcards

They are used to send messages through the mail. Write two postcards from the main character (first person point of view) to someone else in the story describing three different critical events in the novel. Include how the character feels about the event. The front of the postcard should be a colored illustration of the setting where the event occurred. Sign the postcard format from the main character. Put your name in parenthesis underneath.

Postcard Example: From *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Front:



Back:

Dear Abuelita,

You would not believe the huge dust storm that we had last week. We took cover in the house and put rags under the doors to keep the dust out. We must not have done a great job as Mama has been sick ever since the storm. I am really worried about her. I so wish you were here to help us all. Please say some prayers for Mama.

Since Mama has been in the hospital, I have taken over more responsibility. Miguel helped me find a job in the fields cutting potato eyes. It is not fun, but it is my responsibility to help the family. I miss taking care of Lupe and Pepe, but times are changing! I'll write next week. I love you,

Love,
Esperanza

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Summer Reading Program: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade
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Postcard Rubric

Trait	Advanced 5	Proficient 4	Basic 3	Below Basic 2	Far Below Basic 1
Content	Writing directly relevant to the book	Writing somewhat relevant to the book	Writing remotely related to the book	Writing unrelated to the book	Writing off topic
Standards: Written Conventions 1.4 Demonstrate the mechanics of writing and appropriate English usage (Grammar) 1.5 Use correct punctuation (. , ' ? ! ") 1.6 Use correct capitalization 1.7 Use correct spelling	All grammar and spelling are correct	Contains a few errors	Noticeable errors that do not change meaning	Many grammar and spelling errors	Serious grammar and spelling errors
Postcard Format	Has completed all elements of the format: (date, greeting, body, closing, signature, stamp, address, drawing)	Has completed at least 6 elements of the format	Has completed less than 5 elements of the format	Has completed less than 4 elements of the format	Has completed less than 3 elements of the format
Artwork	Picture goes with text and make others want to read text Entire card colored	Picture goes with text Careful effort	Picture somewhat goes with text Some effort	Not clear if picture relates to book Little effort	No picture or picture not connected to the book No color
Overall Neatness	Exceptional effort	Careful effort	Some effort	Little effort	No effort

Book Jacket

- Use blank construction paper (white or colored). Leave two (2) or two 2 and a half (2 ½") inch flap on either side of the folded paper. (10 points overall presentation, neatness etc...)
- Cover- The cover must be an original illustration (You draw it!) that relates to your novel. Include the book title and "real author" on the cover. (10 points)
- Front Flap- Type and paste a short summary of the plot, including: (10 points)
 1. A description of the setting (when and where the story takes place)
 2. An explanation of the conflict (the problem the main character faces)
 3. The theme (the lesson that the main character learned or the author's message about life)
- Back Flap- Type and paste a complete, detailed, in-depth description of the main character. (10 points)
- Back Cover- Paste a picture of the illustrator (that's you!!!) Give background information about the illustrator – Be sure to include your name, age, residence, family, interest, hobbies, talents, accomplishments, and goals. (10 points)
- On the SPINE, write the title and author's name of the novel you read (5 points)

16. POSTCARD FORMAT

A postcard usually has two parts.

- On the **left** side is the **MESSAGE**.
- On the **right** side is the **NAME** and **ADDRESS** of the person you are sending the postcard to.

Example 1

Look at the postcard below. Notice the different parts of the message, and where they go on the postcard.

	<u>MESSAGE</u>	<u>NAME & ADDRESS</u>
DATE	left justify ← 6/13/86	
GREETING	Dear Mom,	
BODY	I just got to New Orleans. It's beautiful here, and my hotel is really lovely.	Mrs. Mamie Stoller
	I miss everyone.	10 E. Superior St.
	See you soon.	Kokomo, IN 46901
CLOSING	Love, Alma	

_____ (DATE)

_____ (GREETING)

_____ (CLOSING)

_____ (MAIN CHARACTER'S NAME)

_____ (YOUR NAME)

STAMP

STAMP

Use a symbol from the story.

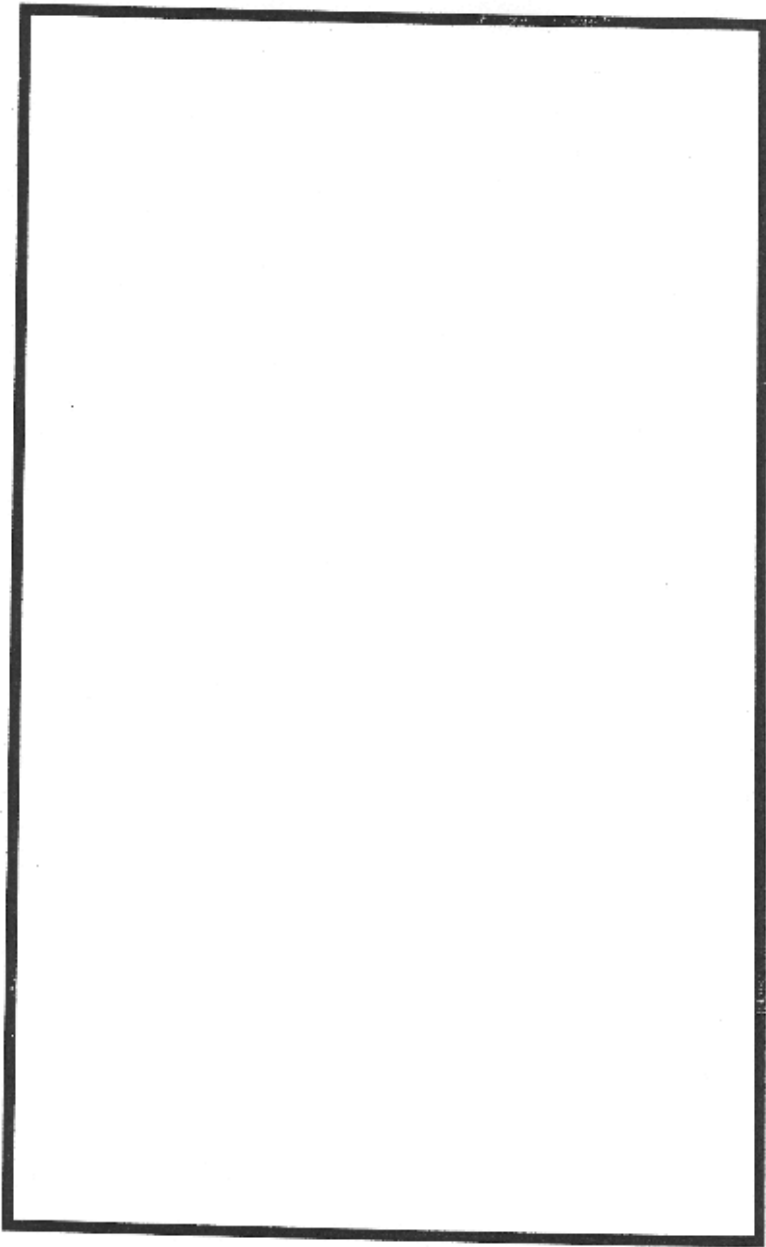
(BODY)

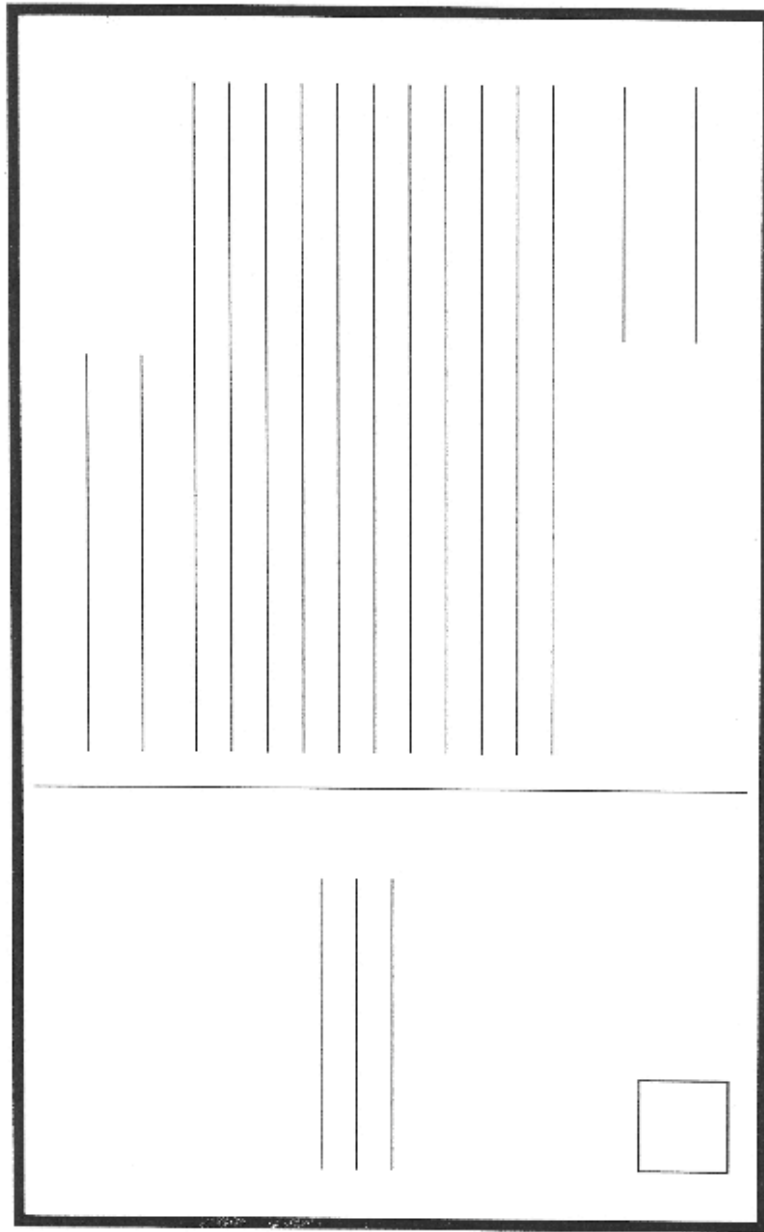
(NAME OF A CHARACTER FROM STORY)

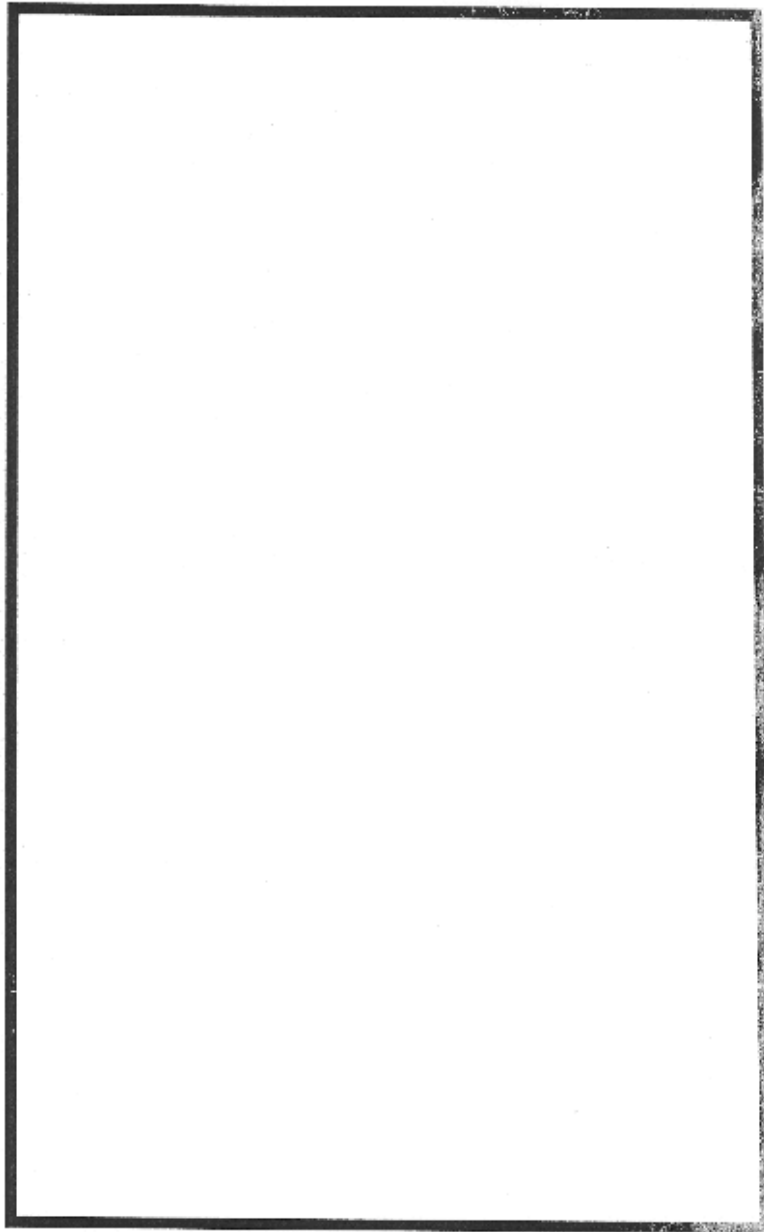
USE AN

ADDRESS THAT YOU MAKE UP THAT RELATES TO THE SETTING. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE SETTING IS NEW YORK, DO NOT USE CALIFORNIA FOR THE ADDRESS.

The front of the postcard should be a colored illustration
FRONT: of the setting where the event occurred.







THE FROG PRINCESS

E.D. BAKER

THE FROG
Princess



E.D. BAKER

Princess Emma kisses Prince Eadric, who was turned into a frog by a cruel witch. This is supposed to reverse his curse but instead...ZAP! Emma is turned into a frog herself and Eadric is still as green as ever. Emma and Eadric then go on a quest to find the witch that had cast the spell in the first place. They are unsuccessful in finding the witch that they were looking for but they do run into a witch that wants to make a potion out of them! Chances for them to change back look slim, but Emma's aunt Grassina, who is a witch, says that she can find a way to change them back. Finally they change into their former human selves. That isn't all though, Prince Eadric proposes to Emma! I guess you can say that they lived happily ever after. Δ Frog Princess takes place a long, long time ago in the medieval ages when fairies, witches, wizards, dragons, and other mythical creatures were around. This tale takes place mostly in Emma's castle, the swamp, and the enchanted forest. The moral that Emma and I both learned from this book is that you shouldn't give up even when those around you don't think that you can do something.

Princess Emerald is a.k.a. Emma is a clumsy fifteen year old girl. Her mother is always saying that she isn't even close to being graceful enough to be a princess. She has long brown hair that reaches down to her back. Emma is self-conscious about herself. She has a distinctive laugh that very well suits her non-graceful self. This laugh is said to sound a lot like a donkey's bray. Emma can use magic though most of it doesn't work right. For example the time when she made crab cakes that sprouted pinching claws! Emma doesn't like to use her magic because she is afraid of what might happen to her and those around her. Emma also loves the outdoors. She especially loves to visit the swamp near her castle.

As a frog Emma was green, of course. She kept her human personality, but did change some as a frog. Such as learning how to swim and eating a lot of things she wouldn't touch as a human. Things like dragonflies, flies, and other insects were all a part of the menu.



About the Illustrator

Corinne Sathoff is a twelve year old girl who loves to read. She enjoys going to school, but also likes summertime. One of her favorite things to do during the summer is to travel. She is interested in visiting National Parks and likes to take her own photos when she travels. Her favorite sport is swimming. Corinne also does a lot of needlework such as knitting and sewing. Some of her accomplishments include: working as a Junior Aide, and earning her Leadership and Bronze awards in Girl Scouts. Additionally she will be swimming this summer as an LA County Junior Guard. One of her goals is to study the Rainforest. She would also like to visit the Seven Wonders of the World, all seven continents, and the North Pole.