



Cathedral Parish School  
2011 Summer Reading Grade 8

*“While thought exists, words are alive and literature becomes an escape, not from, but into living”. –Cyril Connolly*

Please read the requirements and feel free to email me at [Imanfredo@cpsschool.org](mailto:Imanfredo@cpsschool.org) if you have any questions!

This summer, middle school students will be required to read **two** books total. Please check below for information in choosing the titles. Students must read **one** title from

**List 1**. There will be a test on this selection during the first full week of school.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade List 1- Read one title for a test**

Hahn, Mary Downing. All the Lovely Bad Ones

Korman, Gordon. Schooled

Robert Harris & Jane Yolen. Girl in a Cage

Students may either choose their second book from the “List 2” choices I make, or they may choose a book of their own (see guidelines).

Guidelines: Specific number of pages- 8<sup>th</sup> grade 200 or more, must print out the Editorial review (Barnes & Noble is a good site to use) as well as another source of a summary. Parent must read and sign the review and summary, showing approval for the selected book and it must be submitted to me no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade List 2**

Warriors Don't Cry- Beals

A Year Down Yonder- Peck

The Phantom Tollbooth- Juster

Dandelion Wine- Bradbury

A Gathering of Old Men- Gaines

The Devils Arithmetic- Yolen

Code Orange- Cooney

Any Maximum Ride Series-Paterson

Into Thin Air- Krakauer

Nothing But the Truth- Avi

Flowers for Algernon- Keyes

The Graveyard Book- Gaiman

Waiting for Normal- Connor

The Book Thief- Zusak

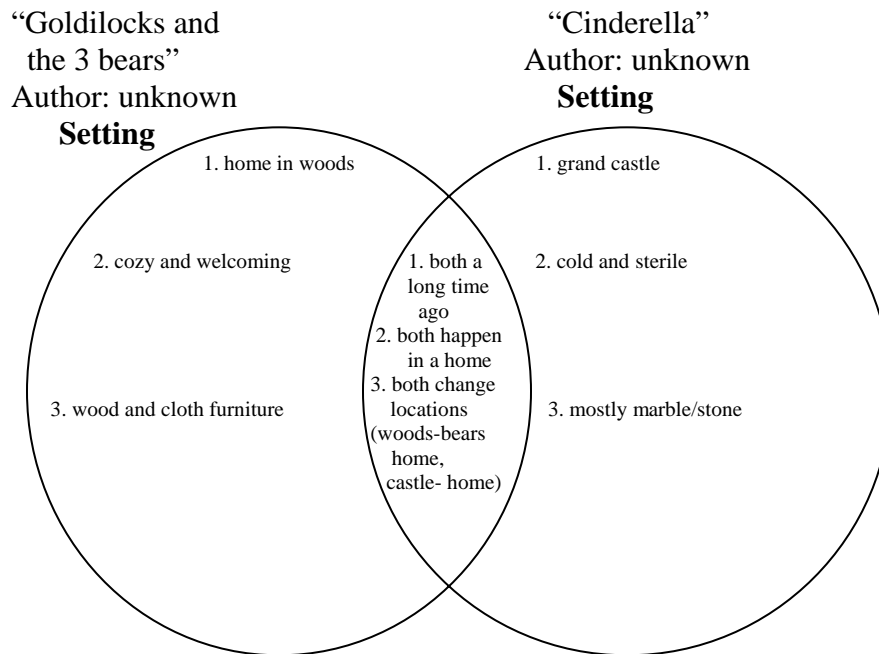
After reading the two books, the students will be required to complete **2 assignments**.

1. A venn diagram -11 x 8 sheet of paper, on computer or hand drawn

- Compare/contrast ONE ELEMENT of the 2 books chosen (choose **one** of the following to compare/contrast: plot, theme, main character, or setting).
- REMEMBER, in a venn diagram, the left part describes one book, the right side describes the other book, and the overlapping section lists what the two books have in common.

(Venn diagram continued)

- Do not list *basic* differences, ex. the main character in one book is a boy and the other main character is a girl- give me character traits!
- In the venn diagram, students must list at least three points for each book and three points in common.
- Write the book title and author above each circle that contains the information from the selection as well as the literary element (cont.) they will be describing.
- The following is an example comparing the element of SETTING between Goldilocks and the Three Bears with Cinderella.



## 2. A short paragraph explaining the venn diagram.

After completing the venn diagram, students must write and attach a narrative piece, minimum of one paragraph, explaining their venn diagram. The essay must:

- must be typed!! Use 12 font, double space typing
- have at least 6-9 sentences for each paragraph
- define the literary element they are comparing (that means give a simple definition)
- give support from the story of this element’s presence

I will collect the diagram and paragraph on the first Friday we are in school, August 13.

>>>NO FOLDERS OR BINDERS- STAPLE REPORT TO VENN DIAGRAM

\*\*Please remind students to take notes for the books they read as we will be completing another project at school during the first quarter. If their book was borrowed and returned, they will need to have information about the book to complete the project.

If you have any questions regarding the assignments, please feel free to email me at [lmanfredo@cpsschool.org](mailto:lmanfredo@cpsschool.org)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Manfredo, Middle School Literature teacher

“Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already become.”

-C.S. Lewis

