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**EAST SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**SUMMER 2019 HUMANITIES ASSIGNMENT FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

**Due: September 5, 2019**

Dear incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders:

We would like you to complete a reading and writing assignment over the summer in preparation for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Humanities. This assignment will help us get to know you as readers and writers, as well as lay the groundwork for our Civil War Unit, which will begin the school year.

Keep all of your work in a twin pocket **folder labeled** with your name and "8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Humanities Assignment."

**Bring the folder containing your work to class with you on the first day of school.** You will be assessed on the quality of your responses and the effort your work shows. **This will be the first grade you earn in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Humanities.**

**DIRECTIONS FOR PURCHASING SUMMER READING BOOKS:**

1. Purchase (or borrow) and read the novel *Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulsen (ISBN 978-0-440-22838-7).
2. Purchase (or borrow) and read ONE of the following novels of your choice:
  - *The River Between Us* by Richard Peck (ISBN 0-14-240310-5)
  - *Shades of Gray* by Carolyn Reeder (ISBN 0-689-82696-6)
3. Using both novels, independently complete all of the assignments in this packet.

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## **QUESTION ONE: Conflict**

In every story the main character must face a conflict. There are two types of conflict:

1. **External** - A struggle with a force outside one's self such as another person, nature, or a social, political, or economic circumstance.
2. **Internal** - A struggle within one's self; a person must make some decision, overcome pain, quiet their temper, resist an urge, etc.

Write a two-paragraph response as follows relating to Soldier's Heart:

- **Please describe one of the main conflicts Charley faces in Soldier's Heart. Include in your answer:**
  - **Paragraph 1**: Is this an external or internal conflict? Why? Explain your reasoning with evidence.
  - **Paragraph 2**: How does Charley resolve, or deal with, the conflict? Explain your reasoning with evidence.

**NOTE: Please type your response and staple it to this packet.**

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## **QUESTION TWO: Historical Research**

1. Pick a 2-4 page excerpt from the novel of your choice (*The River Between Us*, *Shades of Gray*, or *Across Five Aprils*). **Do NOT use *Soldier's Heart* for this question.**
2. Consider, what historical research went into writing this section. Using the novel of your choice, answer each prompt on the graphic organizer below.
3. Make sure to read the questions carefully before you begin.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Book Choice:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Page #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary of the excerpt you chose:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>Questions:</b>  | <b>Your Book Choice:</b> _____  |
|--|---|
| <p>1. What is historically represented in this excerpt from the book?</p> <p><b>Bullet point at least five observations that you made based on the excerpt you chose. Include quotations and page numbers.</b></p> <p><b>You may focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Perspectives (e.g. whose story is being told—a soldier, a politician, a mother, etc)</i></li><li>- <i>events,</i></li><li>- <i>individual historical figures (e.g. Lincoln),</i></li><li>- <i>tools,</i></li><li>- <i>geography, etc.</i></li></ul> <p><i>(These are the Historical Details you can find in the book).</i></p> | <p>Example Observations (from <u>Soldier's Heart</u> Pages 3-4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <u>Quote and Page Number:</u> "Minnesota was forming a volunteer regiment to go off and fight. It would have near on a thousand men when it was full..."(3)</li><li>● <u>Historical Observations:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Soldiers were volunteer at the beginning of the war.</li><li>○ A regiment was made up of men from different parts of the state.</li></ul></li><li>● <u>Quote and Page Number:</u> "I hear they give eleven dollars a month. I'll send most of it on home to you and Orren" (4)</li><li>● <u>Historical Observations:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Soldiers were supposed to be paid monthly.</li><li>○ One reason men volunteered may have been to send money home to family members.</li></ul></li></ul> <hr/> |

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| Questions:   | Your Book Choice: _____  |
|--|--|
| <p>2. What perspectives, events, or places are not represented in <i>this</i> book? <b>Bullet point at least five.</b></p> | <p>Examples of Perspectives Missing Based on <u>Soldier's Heart</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Volunteer soldiers in cities (Charley is from a farm)</li><li>- Conscripted (drafted) soldiers (Charley is a volunteer)</li><li>- Political leaders, like Lincoln (Charley mostly interacts with other soldiers)</li><li>- Objectors to the war (Charley is mostly surrounded by other volunteer soldiers)</li><li>- Family members on the homefront who are experiencing the impacts of war (Charley talks to his mom briefly before he goes to war, but not after he's enlisted)</li></ul> <hr/> |



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## Summer Assignment Rubric - 8th Grade

\*\*The summer assignment will count toward the HW portion of your grade.\*\*

### Organization of Materials

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 100 | All parts of the summer assignment have been completed thoroughly. All materials are organized and the assignment is submitted on time. |
| 90  | Some, but not all, of the above criteria are met.   |
| 80  | All parts of the summer assignment have been attempted. The assignment may be turned in late or materials may be somewhat disorganized. |
| 60  | The summer assignment was not completed.  |

### ELA: Question 1: Conflict

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 100 | A central conflict in <u>Soldier's Heart</u> is identified AND discussion of how the character deals with the conflict is thorough and thoughtful. |
| 90  | Most, but not all, of the above criteria are met.  |
| 80  | Some historical details are identified.  |
| 60  | The summer assignment was not completed.   |

### Social Studies: Question 2: Historical Research

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 100 | <u>Specific</u> historical details are identified and carefully interpreted. 5 <u>thoughtful</u> observations are written per category. |
| 90  | Most, but not all, of the above criteria are met.   |
| 80  | Some historical details are identified.   |
| 60  | The summer assignment was not completed.  |