

## BCS JR HIGH SUMMER READING – 2018

Students are required to read a book over the summer. The titles for this year are listed below. Each student is required to annotate the book from his/her grade level. Annotation guidance is attached. In addition to the annotation assignment, there will be a test over the book during the first couple weeks of school in August.

Please purchase the version of the book with the ISBN number given below, as students and teacher will use the books during class in August.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – *Watership Down*, by Richard Adams

ISBN: 978-0743277709

"*Watership Down* is the compelling tale of a group of wild rabbits struggling to hold onto their place in the world...

A phenomenal worldwide bestseller for more than forty years, Richard Adams's *Watership Down* is a timeless classic and one of the most beloved novels of all time. Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society." (Amazon)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – *Johnny Tremain*, by Esther Hoskins Forbes

ISBN: 978-0547614328

"*Johnny Tremain*, winner of the 1944 Newbery Medal, is one of the finest historical novels ever written for children. As compelling today as it was seventy years ago, to read this riveting novel is to live through the defining events leading up to the American Revolutionary War. Fourteen-year-old Johnny Tremain, an apprentice silversmith with a bright future ahead of him, injures his hand in a tragic accident, forcing him to look for other work. In his new job as a horse-boy, riding for the patriotic newspaper, *The Boston Observer*, and as a messenger for the Sons of Liberty, he encounters John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and Dr. Joseph Warren. Soon Johnny is involved in the pivotal events shaping the American Revolution from the Boston Tea Party to the first shots fired at Lexington. Powerful illustrations by American artist Michael McCurdy bring to life Esther Forbes's quintessential novel of the American Revolution." (Amazon)

## BCS ANNOTATION ASSIGNMENT – SUMMER 2018 JR HIGH

Annotating is basically having a conversation about the book while reading it. In order to document your conversation, you will write down your thoughts on a sticky note and stick it in the book on the page you are reading when your ideas happen. You should spread your notes out over the whole book.

Attached is the annotation rubric. It shows the requirements for the number of sticky notes you will use and the information you will write on them.

## ANNOTATION RUBRIC

- Setting Notes:** As you read, take note of the setting. Answer questions such as: *Where does the story take place? When does the story take place? Why is it important that the story take place in this time or space?*  
Make a total of 5 notes about **setting**. \_\_\_\_\_ (15 pts)
- Character Notes:** As you meet and get to know characters, take notes about them. Make sure you have notes over each main character. Answer questions such as: *What is this character's personality like? How does this character think? How does this character interact with other characters? How is this character alike or different from other characters? What spiritual characteristics do you see in this character? What spiritual characteristics could the character benefit from having?*  
Make a total of 10 notes about **characters**. \_\_\_\_\_ (30 pts)
- Mood Notes:** As you read the story, write notes about the atmosphere of the work or about how it makes you feel. *Is it gloomy? Is it festive? Is it inspiring? Is it strange? Is it exciting?*  
Also consider *why* or *how* it makes you feel this way.  
Make a total of 5 notes about **mood**. \_\_\_\_\_ (15 pts)
- Figurative Language Notes:** As you read, make notes on some of the figurative language you see. If you would like to review figurative language, see the attached sheet.  
Make a total of 5 notes about **figurative language**. \_\_\_\_\_ (15 pts)
- Theme Notes:** Once you get far enough into your book that you can see a theme developing, start making notes about it. In order to recognize theme, ask yourself: *What is the author trying to say through his work? What message do I hear? What is a biblical connection to the theme?* If you need to go back and add notes after you are finished reading, you may do so.  
Make a total of 3 notes on **theme**. \_\_\_\_\_ (9 pts)
- Personal Connections Notes:** Sometimes when we read, we make personal connections to things in the story. As you read, make note of things that connect with your life, stick in your thoughts, remind you of other books you've read, speak to you spiritually, or make any other kind of connection for you.  
Make a total of 2 notes about **personal connections**. \_\_\_\_\_ (6 pts)
- Coverage:** Notes should be spread out over the entire book. \_\_\_\_\_ (10 pts)
- TOTAL GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ (100 pts)

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Below are definitions and examples of some types of figurative language.

**HYPERBOLE** – an exaggerated statement that is used to emphasize a point and is not meant to be taken seriously

EXAMPLE: I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

**IDIOM** – a saying that doesn't make sense if you just look at the individual words but that is commonly understood; an expression

EXAMPLE: He's a couch potato.

**METAPHOR** – a comparison of two unlike things without using "like" or "as"

EXAMPLE: Life is a rose.

**OXYMORON**: a type of paradox consisting of a pair of contradicting words that makes up an expression

EXAMPLE: jumbo shrimp

**PARADOX**: a statement that includes elements that contradict each other and that may appear illogical, impossible, or absurd but in fact have a logical meaning that reveals a hidden truth

EXAMPLE: You have to spend money to make money.

**PERSONIFICATION**: the giving of human qualities to an inanimate object, abstract idea, or animal

EXAMPLE: The wind cried in the dark.

**SIMILE**: a comparison of two unlike things using "like" or "as"

EXAMPLE: Life is like a rose.

**SYMBOL**: an object, person, place, or action that has both a meaning in itself and that stands for something larger than itself, such as a quality, attitude, belief, or value.

EXAMPLE: The tortoise represents slow but steady progress.

**UNDERSTATEMENT**: a statement that, in order to make a point, purposely represents something as being much less than it really is

EXAMPLE: Said in a hurricane: "There is a little bit of wind."



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## EXAMPLE of how to annotate a text

On each annotation, be sure to include what you found in the text *plus* YOUR COMMENTARY on what it means or suggests -

"This means ...." or

"This shows the author is saying...."

from *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

"But that would just nibble the edges. The whole culture's shot through. The skeleton needs melting and re-shaping. Good God, it isn't as simple as just picking up a book you laid down half a century ago. Remember, the firemen are rarely necessary. The public itself stopped reading of its own accord. You firemen provide a circus now and then at which buildings are set off and crowds gather for the pretty blaze, but it's a small sideshow indeed, and hardly necessary to keep things in line. So few want to be rebels any more. And out of those few, most, like myself, scare easily. Can you dance faster than the White Clown, shout louder than 'Mr. Gimmick' and the parlour 'families'? If you can, you'll win your way, Montag. In any event, you're a fool. People

What you found

Theme note  
"Firemen are rarely necessary. The public stopped reading of its own accord."  
This means the people are accepting the government's rules and adapting to them without question - even though the rules are detrimental to people.

Murdering!"  
... been moving east all the time they talked, and only now did the...  
... sten, feeling the great jet sound tremble inside themselves.  
... Let the war turn off the 'families.' Our civilization is flinging itself  
... back from the centrifuge."  
... meone ready when it blows up."  
... g Milton? Saying, I remember Sophocles? Reminding the  
... as his good side, too? They will only gather up their stones to  
... Montag, go home. Go to bed. Why waste your final hours racing  
... saying you're a squirrel?"  
... e any more?"  
... sick."  
... me?"

your commentary

