

SOUTH LAKE SUMMER READING 2008

All incoming 8th graders are required to read two (2) books over the summer break: The Slave Dancer and one of your choice for Novel #2. As you read these novels, you are required to fill in a **Plot Development Diagram** for each book. When you return to school next fall, you will take a **Comprehension Test** for both books on one of the first days of school. The scores for these tests **will be a part of your grade!** During these tests, you will be able to use your completed Plot Development Diagrams, a blank copy of which can also be found on the South Lake web page.

DUE DATE: The first day of school in September.

NOVEL #1 ~ THE SLAVE DANCER by Paula Fox.

Plot Synopsis: Young Jessie is kidnapped in the dark of the night. He is taken aboard a slave ship on its way to Africa. Jessie sees the horrors of slavery while being forced to play his pipe for the slaves. The truth of the harsh treatment of the slaves becomes real. Jessie is forced to realize that slaves are people too.

NOVEL #2 ~ CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOOKS

GATHERING BLUE by Lois Lowry

Plot Synopsis: In this novel that unites characters from "The Giver" and "Gathering Blue," Kira, a young girl who is lame and suddenly orphaned, is mysteriously removed from her squalid village and must now live in the palatial Council Edifice. Here she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

THE MESSENGER by Lois Lowry

Plot Synopsis: In this novel that unites characters from "The Giver" and "Gathering Blue," Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.

RUMBLE FISH by S.E. Hinton

Plot Synopsis: Rusty-James knows he is a tough teen, but he wants to be even tougher, just like his older brother, the Motorcycle Boy. He wants to stay calm and laugh when things get dangerous, to be the strongest street fighter and the most respected guy this side of the river.

THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW by S.E. Hinton

Plot Synopsis: Sixteen-year-old Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate.

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NOVEL #1 ~ *THE SLAVE DANCER* by Paula Fox

NOVEL #2 ~ CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

GATHERING BLUE - by Lois Lowry

THE MESSENGER - by Lois Lowry

RUMBLE FISH - by S.E. Hinton

THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW - by S.E. Hinton

Return this form signed no later than Wednesday, JUNE 11 to indicate that you have been informed of this assignment.

Print Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____