Assignment for Students Entering Grade 8

All students will read <u>two</u> books.

"A genre is a particular type of literature, painting, music, film, or other art form which people consider as a class because it has special characteristics" *(Collins COBUILD Dictionary of American English)*. This year, students entering grade 8 are being asked to read from two genres, science fiction and nonfiction. Science fiction, which includes characters and events that do not exist in the real world and often involves technology and/or scientific information, can be very engaging for students as they explore an imaginary world *(Genre Study*, Irene Fountas & Gay Su Pinnell, p. 101). The nonfiction genre includes many different categories of texts including biography, autobiography, memoir, narrative nonfiction, expository nonfiction, procedural texts, and persuasive texts.

All genres present different kinds of demands on the reader. It is our goal to expose students to different genres so that they learn to anticipate these demands and adjust their reading accordingly. Furthermore, "having a deep understanding of the characteristics of genres is a strong foundation for all literacy-related learning" *(Genre Study*, Irene Fountas & Gay Su Pinnell, p. 19).

*Title #1 – Genre Study: Science Fiction

*Title #2 – Genre Study: Nonfiction

Please see out district website for the following suggested reading lists:

➢ Science Fiction Titles for Students Entering Grade 8

➢ Nonfiction titles for Students Entering Grades 6-8

We are providing suggested reading lists as a guide but students may choose any books within the assigned genres that spark their interest AND represent an appropriate level of challenge.

In addition to exploring our list of science fiction titles, students may also consider exploring one of the famous science fiction writers listed below.

<u>Science Fiction Writers</u>

Isaac Asimov	*I Robot* and other titles
Orson Scott Card	*The Ender's Game* and other titles
Arthur C. Clarke	*2001: A Space Odyssey* and other titles
Robert Heinlein	*Stranger in a Strange Land* and other titles
Ursula LeGuin	*Earthsea* trilogy and other titles
Anne McCaffrey	*Dragonsinger* series and other titles
Jules Verne	*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* and other titles

SPECIAL OFFER!
> **http://www.capstonepub.com/library/digital/capstone-interactive-summer-reading-2018/**
> Capstone is offering FREE ACCESS to Capstone Interactive all summer! Students will be able to access ebooks from any computer or internet connected device until August 31st.

NONFICTION NOTE CATCHER: Grades 6, 7, & 8

It is suggested that students complete this note catcher to help them gather information about their book choice as they read. They will be able to use this information as they work on activities assigned in September by their English teacher.

Your Name:_____

Title/Topic:_____   Author:_____

Look at the list of nonfiction text features below. In the chart provided, identify two text features you found in your book and explain how each helped you to understand or gather information about the topic of your book.

Nonfiction Text Features

bold print	table of contents	labels	index	pictures/illustrations
italics	charts or graphs	captions	glossary	photographs

Text Feature #1: _____

How did this feature help you understand the topic more deeply?

Text Feature #2: _____

How did this feature help you understand the topic more deeply?

Book Choice

Explain why you chose this particular book.

Vocabulary

Write any new words you learned while reading your nonfiction text. You can also include words you found challenging or interesting.

Write 3 facts you learned while reading your nonfiction book.

1._____

_____

_____

2._____

_____

_____

3._____

_____

_____

WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
BEACH STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL/UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL
<u>SCIENCE FICTION NOTE CATCHER</u>

Task: All students entering eighth grade are asked to read **ONE science fiction book** and **ONE nonfiction book** this summer. A suggested reading list is located on the district website. While it is helpful, students **do not have to choose from that list**.

<u>This graphic organizer</u> will help you to analyze the genre of science fiction and the specific book you are reading. You may elect to complete it as you read the book. (This is a very good idea.) However, you will also have <u>the first two weeks of the school year</u> to complete it as well.

Definition of Science Fiction: Science fiction combines elements of fiction and fantasy with scientific fact. Many science fictions stories are set in the future.

I. THE SETTING OF THE STORY:	II. TECHNOLOGY IN THE STORY **Does technology aid or act against the protagonist?** **(Hint: It is most likely one or the other. Choose one below and explain**.)
A .**<u>Specific place</u>**(location):	
B. **<u>Time</u>**: Year:	A. Does technology help the hero/protagonist/main character in the story? If so how?
C. **<u>Mood</u>**: (How do you feel as you read it?)	B. <u>Or</u>, does technology act against the hero/protagonist/main character? Explain how it acts against him/her. (It acts as the antagonist.)

III. **THE STORY CHARACTERS AND THE PLOT**:	IV. **CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE-- AND FANTASTIC ELEMENTS**
A. Who are **the important or main characters**? Bullet them and write one specific line about each.	A. **Which elements in the story make it believable and connect the story to your own life or our world?**
B. What is the problem or conflict in the story for the main character?	B. **Which elements in the story are imaginative and are not found in real life and make the story futuristic/fantastic?**
C. How is the problem resolved by the character or for the character?	

How did the author's word choice, text structure, or point of view help you gain a deeper understanding of this genre?

_____

_____

_____

_____