

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignments

Readings from *The Book of Virtues* by William J. Bennett:

“Ulysses and the Cyclops” page 467

“Marley’s Ghost” page 154

“America the Beautiful” page 722

“An Appeal from the Alamo” page 484

“The American Creed” page 219

“The Donner Party” page 576

“Go Down Moses” page 560

“Indian Cinderella” page 612

Be able to identify quotations from each selection for the test that will be given during the first week of school. Also, please write a well-constructed paragraph indicating which selection was your favorite and why. (15 points)

In addition to the above assignment, please read *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London and complete the following assignment. Please type your answers to items one through five, staple them together with the paragraph from above, and have it ready to submit on the first day of school. There will also be a test on this novel during the first week of school.

1. Find and document five interesting facts about Jack London: bullet them and note your sources. These need to be longer than one sentence each and you must use at least three sources. (15 points)
2. Please list and briefly describe the three different teams of people who lead the dogs. (15 points)
3. Identify and briefly describe three external conflicts and two internal conflicts. (15 points)
4. There are several themes that revolve around the following ideas: A. survival of the fittest, B. the value of good leadership, C. the value of love, D. the value of loyalty. Choose one and in a well-written paragraph explain what Jack London’s message is to the reader. I will grade your pre-write as well as the final product. (25 points)

Prewrite:

- A. Using A., B., C., or D. from above, jot down a sentence that looks something like the following but be sure to finish the sentence with your thoughts. (I used B for my example.)

Jack London reveals that good leadership is

- B. Now, jot down (bullet) four pieces of proof from the novel that you will use as you prove your point.

Paragraph: Using your work from above, write a well-constructed paragraph.

5. In another well-constructed paragraph, describe the ending of the story incorporating a theme that was NOT mentioned above. In your paragraph include whether you think it is happy or sad ending and why. (15 points)

