

Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading:

Students in 8th Grade will read three books over the course of the summer-- one assigned book and two others from the [South Carolina Junior Book Awards](#) list.

All 8th-grade students will read *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes.

Students are welcome to listen to an audible version of the book; if students choose to listen to the novel, we encourage them to read along as they listen.

Part 1:

Directions: For your assigned book, *Ghost Boys*, answer the following questions.

Please number each answer. You may write neatly on paper or type and print your answers to be turned in the first week of school.

1. Give the ***title*** and ***author*** of the book and the ***date*** you finished reading.
2. When and where does this story take place? (***Setting***) What other events were happening in the world during this time period? (***Context***)
3. Who is/are the ***main character(s)***? Who is the ***opposing character*** or character who makes challenges for the main character? (***Characters***)
4. What are some of the ***hardships or challenges*** the main character faces? Refer to at least ***two specific events*** in the story. (***Plot/Conflict***)
5. What does the main ***character learn about himself/herself*** and life as he/she faces these challenges or hardships? (Ex: patience, determination, acceptance of others, etc.) Use at least ***three specific examples*** from the story to support your answer. (***Themes***)
6. Write a brief paragraph showing how this story ***reminds you of something else*** you have read or experienced (something from the Bible? real life? a movie? a play? another book?) Think in terms of setting, characters, conflicts, etc. Be sure you use specific details from both pieces. (***Symbols/Connections***)
7. Give this ***book a rating*** (4* the highest and 1* the lowest) and tell in a ***few sentences*** why you rated it this way. (***Opinion***)

Part 2:

Directions: Please read two other books from the [SC Junior Book Awards](#) list.

For each of the books, you should write a paragraph that is at least 8-10 sentences long. You may

write more if you wish! You may write neatly on paper or type and print your answers to be turned in the first week of school.

Be sure to include the following information:

- **Characters**
- **Setting:** the time and place
- **Context:** the important outside events occurring around the characters that influence the ideas in a literary work (i.e: a war, a government change, racial discrimination, a financial crisis, etc.)
- **Plot:** the events in a literary work and their sequence
- **Themes:** a major overarching or underlying idea in a literary work; an idea that an author repeats, revealing it as significant for readers to consider (ex: love, friendship, bitterness, hatred, despair, suffering, marriage, hope, death, faith, etc.)
- **Motifs:** an image, sound, action, idea or figure that repeats. It has symbolic significance and contributes toward a theme. Though similar to theme, it is not a central idea in a story; instead, it develops or explains a theme
- **Symbols:** An object representing another to give it a deeper and more significant meaning that is different from its literal sense. (Sometimes an idea, action, or event can have symbolic value) (ex: a dove could symbolize peace; a rose could symbolize hope or love; a chain could symbolize union or imprisonment, etc.)

SC Junior Book Award Nominees 2021-2022 - Choose Two

Free Lunch—Rex Ogle

The Light in Hidden Places—Sharon Cameron

The Mystwick School of Musicraft—Jessica Khoury

Nightbooks—JA White

The Only Black Girls in Town—Brandy Colbert

Revenge of the Red Club—Kim Harrington

Running Wild—Lucy Jane Bledsoe

Searching for Lottie—Susan Ross

Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You—Jason Reynolds and X. Kendi

Summer of a Thousand Pies—Margaret Dilloway

Things You Can't Say—Jenn Bishop

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky—Kwame Mbalia

When Stars are Scattered—Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Wildfire—Rodman Philbrick

From the Desk of Zoe Washington—Janae Marks

96 Miles—J.L. Esplin

The Blackbird Girls—Anne Blankman

Black Brother, Black Brother—Jewell Parker Rhodes

Efre'n Divided—Ernesto Cisneros

Other Words for Home—Jasmine Warga