

**MYSTIC VALLEY REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**2008 Summer Reading Program – Grade 7**

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Dear Parents:

While the summer vacation is a time for reflection and rejuvenation, in keeping with Mystic Valley’s philosophy of rigorous academic training and in anticipation of the upcoming academic year, the English Department encourages students to read over the summer. The school has made a concerted effort to select texts that are both challenging and accessible, and that will stimulate classroom discussions in the fall.

**Required Reading, Grades 7-12**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Book 1</b>	<b>Book 2</b>
7	<i>The Red Pony</i> , John Steinbeck	<i>The Miracle Worker</i> , William Gibson

**Assessment I: Reading Response Notebook (10% of first quarter English grade)**

Complete the following for each book:

- A series of four typed entries for each book, to be completed as you read (a total of 8 for the two books)
- Collected on the first day of the 2008-2009 academic year
- Entry must be at least one paragraph, double spaced, 12-point font
- Each entry must be dated
- Teachers will assess the notebook according to the attached rubric
- Notebook entries must follow the following specifications:
  - Entry one
    - Write about the major characters in the novel, the plot, and what you predict will happen
  - Entry two
    - Give examples of the following imagery – i.e., images that stay in your mind and describe persons, places, things, or events (choose four)
      - visual imagery
      - sound imagery
      - touch imagery
      - smell imagery
      - taste imagery
  - Entry three
    - Explain the style of sentences the author uses. Are they long and flowery? Are they short and plain? Give significant quotes from the book and explain the circumstances surround them.
  - Entry four
    - Write about your feelings at the end of the book. Have they changed about the characters or plot? Were your predictions correct? What details would you have changed or added?

**Assessment II: Summer Reading Test (10% of first quarter English grade)**

- Within the first two weeks of the 2008-2009 academic year, students will take a test on the required summer reading

Should you have any questions about the reading requirements, please contact Alex Dan at [adan@mvracs.org](mailto:adan@mvracs.org). Thank you on behalf of the English Department and the Leadership Team.

**Summer Reading Notebook Rubric**

	<b>0 None</b>	<b>1-2 Little</b>	<b>3-4 Some</b>	<b>5-6 Adequate</b>	<b>7-8 Good</b>	<b>9-10 Excellent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Knowledge of the Text</b>	No understanding.	Little understanding of the thought and feeling expressed in the text; almost no references to the text.	Some understanding of the thought and feeling expressed in the text; some references to the text.	Adequate understanding of the thought and feeling of the text; appropriate references to the text.	Good understanding of the thought and feeling expressed in the text; detailed references to the text.	Perceptive understanding of the thought and feeling expressed in the text; detailed and persuasive references to the text.	
<b>Responses</b>	No responses.	Journal entries respond to little of the assignment's specifications.	Journal entries respond to some of the assignment's specifications.	Journal entries respond adequately to the assignment's specifications.	Journal entries respond well to most of the assignment's specifications.	Journal entries respond to all of the assignment's specifications.	
<b>Appreciation of Literary Features</b>	No appreciation of literary features.	Little mention or consideration of the literary features of the text.	Some consideration of the literary features of the text.	Adequate appreciation of the effects of the literary features of the text.	Generally detailed appreciation of the effects of the literary features of the text.	Detailed and persuasive appreciation of the effects of the literary features of the text.	
<b>Presentation, Structure, and Organization</b>	No structure.	Little evidence of structure; sloppy presentation; little organization.	Some evidence of structure; somewhat organized.	Adequate structure; adequate organization; clean presentation.	Good structure; good organization; clean and thoughtful presentation.	Excellent structure; excellent organization; exceptional presentation.	
<b>Formal Use of Language</b>	The language is not clear or coherent.	The use of language is not readily comprehensible; many lapses in grammar, spelling and sentence construction; vocabulary is rarely accurate or appropriate.	Some degree of clarity and coherence in the use of language; some degree of accuracy in grammar, spelling and sentence construction; vocabulary is sometimes appropriate to the discussion of literature.	Adequately clear and coherent use of language; only a few significant lapses in grammar, spelling and sentence construction; some care shown in the choice of vocabulary.	Clear, varied and precise use of language; no significant lapses in grammar, spelling and sentence construction; effective and appropriately varied use of vocabulary.	Clear, varied, precise and concise use of language; no significant lapses in grammar, spelling and sentence construction; precise use of wide vocabulary.	