

April 29, 2016

Dear Students,

Over the summer, you must read at least three books: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien and two additional books of your choice. Please choose books that are appropriate for your reading level; I encourage you to talk with your parents about your reading choices.

After reading *The Hobbit*, please complete the Travel Brochure Project described below. For each of your other two books, please complete one of the Choice Book Activities. You must do a different activity for each book.

Your three projects (*The Hobbit* Travel Brochure and two Choice Book Activities) are due on the first day of school. Each of the three projects will be worth 20 points, for a total of 60 points. This will be your first major project of the year.

***The Hobbit* Travel Brochure Project**

Pretend that you are a travel agent in Middle Earth. Choose one of the many fascinating settings from the text and create a travel brochure for that location. Fold a piece of printer paper into thirds and write several sections that “sell” the place to potential tourists. What sorts of creatures/people might visitors meet? What sorts of attractions could they see? Convince your viewer/reader to visit this place (even if it’s not the most desirable of locations!). Include at least 3 colorful, vivid drawings.

Watts

Summer Reading: 8th Grade

Choice Book Activities

1. Choose three songs that somehow represent or relate to your book. For each song, include the song title, artist, lyrics, and a complete paragraph (6-8 sentences) explaining why it suits the book.
2. Draw a portrait of the main character and write a description (at least one paragraph of at least 6-8 sentences) of him/her.
3. In at least one full page, write an alternate ending for the story. Do your best to write in the style of the author.
4. In at least one full page, write a “pitch” to a producer explaining why the story would make a great movie. (You may not do this activity if the book has already been made into a movie.)
5. Using images/words found in magazines, newspapers, etc., create an 8x10 inch collage that represents the book. Write several sentences explaining your artistic choices.
6. Choose a scene in the book, and retell that scene (in at least one full page) from the point of view of a different character.

I hope you all have wonderful summers! Wear sunscreen!

Sincerely,

Ms. Watts