

GATE Summer Reading
For Rising 8th Grade Advanced/GATE Literature and Composition Students
And 8th Grade English I Honors Students
Summer 2019

Reading is an essential skill for all academic work, and the more students read, the better readers they become! Wide recreational reading can extend vocabulary, increase comprehension, and stimulate higher order thinking.

Every rising 8th grade Advanced/GATE Literature and Composition and 8th grade English I Honors student is required to read *The Last Book in the Universe*. This novel is aligned with concepts and themes that will be addressed and connected to throughout the year; therefore, students will have multiple opportunities to showcase and connect their new learning with their already present knowledge. *The Last Book in the Universe* is readily available in libraries, bookstores, or on-line.

As your child reads this novel, he/she will create a scrapbook (refer to the back of this paper for a detailed explanation). This scrapbook will assist in comprehension and synthesis of the text. *Please note that this scrapbook project will count as a grade when students return to school in August.* Also, when students return to school, they will participate in class discussions and complete an assessment addressing the many themes and issues presented in the novel.

Required Novel

The Last Book in the Universe by Rodman Philbrick (acceptable formats include print, eBook, and audio book)

Suggested Additional Readings

Students are also encouraged to read other novels for enjoyment at an 8th grade reading level including Newbery Award or Honor books and/or South Carolina Book Award books. Historical fiction and nonfiction books about South Carolina history are also highly recommended. Libraries and bookstores have lists of these books.

****Note:** Please preview books that your child chooses to read. Books that are studied during the school year have been read and reviewed by a team of teachers. All of the Newbery Award or Honor books, however, may not have been previewed.

Please detach and return to the ELA teacher by Friday, May 10th.

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8th Grade Advanced/GATE Literature & Composition and 8th Grade English I Honors
Summer Reading Assignment
Parent Acknowledgement

I have received and understand the 2019 summer reading assignment for my child and understand that it is a required assignment and the content will be a part of classroom instruction when students return in the fall.

Student Name _____

School _____ Grade Level _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Scrapbook Project for *The Last Book in the Universe*

This project is due when you return to school in August.

This summer you will create a scrapbook to demonstrate your understanding of *The Last Book in the Universe*. Your scrapbook can be in a traditional scrapbook style or bound in a three-prong folder with 8½ x 11 paper. You may use colored paper if you wish. In general, scrapbooks are decorative and contain many illustrations. Pictures may be images from the computer, newspapers, magazines, or may be hand-drawn illustrations. If any items are hand-drawn, please do them yourself. Your name should be on the outside of the scrapbook.

You can find a copy of this letter and the grading rubric for the scrapbook on both your middle school and Dorchester School District Two websites.

Your scrapbook will be divided into five sections:

- **Characters** – This section will contain pictures and character descriptions of each of the following characters: Spaz, Ryter, Bean, and Lanaya. If you would like to include other characters, please feel free to do so.
- **Setting** – Identify at least two major settings from the novel and create a visual depiction of each setting. Describe each setting and list a minimum of three important events that occurred in that setting.
- **Letter** – The letter should be written from the point of view of a character in the novel *other than* Spaz and addressed to a different character in the novel. It must be at least one page long in letter format and can be either neatly hand-written or typed. Also, include an envelope with addresses indicating where the letter is coming from and where it is going. It should include a date relevant to the novel. The letter should be based on an issue of importance from the novel or describe and explain an incident or scene from the novel. Be sure to explain the character’s feelings about the issue, incident, or scene and make it clear how the character’s life is impacted.
- **Journal Entry** – Choose a character from the story that you really identify with or would want to have as a friend. Write at least one page explaining why you chose your character. Give specific character traits and actions found in the book that led you to your decision. If you were friends in real life, what kinds of things would you do together? Discuss at least three activities.
- **Newspaper clipping** – Identify one of the major events of the novel that would make a good newspaper article. Write a newspaper article relating what happened during this event. Remember that most journalists ask themselves “information questions” with words like WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW. Include at least one illustration of the event. The article should be thorough and written in paragraphs.

Things to keep in mind:

- The captions in the scrapbook should be clear and descriptive.
- All items in the scrapbook should be relevant to the novel.
- The scrapbook should indicate a full understanding of the novel.
- The scrapbook should demonstrate creativity and be well presented and inviting.
- The scrapbook should be free of grammatical and spelling errors. Punctuation should be applied correctly.
- The scrapbook should be free of offensive language and inappropriate pictures or ideas.