



Dear Rising 8th Grader,

I hope you have a wonderful summer! You should celebrate all of the hard work you have completed throughout your first year of middle school. To keep the momentum going, over the break, you will need to do three things in order to keep your brain in shape: (1) Relax, (2) have fun, and (3) read! The following assignment **MUST BE** completed prior to the beginning of 8th grade. This assignment is **due in class on Monday, August 26 AND will count for a grade.** Happy reading!

**Disclaimer:** The novel *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park has a couple instances of violence in which people are killed. While they do not go into graphic detail, and this book is noted as a middle school text, if you or your parents would prefer to take an alternate route, I would be happy to provide you with the information for a replacement text called *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Reader's Edition)* by William Kamkwamba.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns over the summer at [rebecca.huff@plymouthchristian.org](mailto:rebecca.huff@plymouthchristian.org).

Best,

Miss Rebecca Huff  
*Middle School English Language Arts Teacher*

**Step One, Record your Initial Beliefs:**

- *Journal Entry #1* Use one complete paragraph (5-8 sentences) to respond to the following prompt:
  - Write a narrative (story with a beginning, middle, and end) involving **water**. This can be a piece of fiction, or a true story about you or someone you know. (**Remember:** Water can be in a glass, a shower, a pool, a lake, a rainstorm, etc.)

**Step Two, Read:**

- Enjoy reading *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park

**Step Three, Record Key Text Information:**

- *Journal Entry #2* Use one complete paragraph (5-8 sentences) to answer the following prompts after reading the novel. Support your answers with text evidence (quotes).
  - Compare and contrast Nya and Salva’s experiences. What do they have in common? What makes them unique?
  - Why did the author, Linda Sue Park, choose to write a book with two protagonists (main characters)?
  - What can we learn from Nya and Salva?

**Step Four, Comparative Studies:**

- Carefully read the information found in the following article:
  - *Water Scarcity: A Global Issue*  
[https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/water-scarcity-a-global-issue?search\\_id=20576403](https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/water-scarcity-a-global-issue?search_id=20576403)

**Step Five, Record Any New Understandings:**

- *Journal Entry #3* Use one complete paragraph (5-8 sentences) to respond to the following prompts. Support your answers with text evidence (quotes) from both the novel AND the article:
  - Why should we care about water scarcity issues around the world in the United States?
  - How might intentionally learning about the challenges other cultures face impact your life and how you see the world?

**Tips:**

- If you find reading challenging, try following along in the novel while listening to the audio book.
- Do not wait until last minute to complete this assignment. It’s not worth the stress!
- Work with your family to create a “reading schedule” that helps you to know what chapters to read each week, so that you complete the novel on time.

**Rubric (How it will be graded):**

<b>Insufficient (55%)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement (70%)</b>	<b>Satisfactory (85%)</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations (100 %)</b>
Student completed very few to no components of the assignment and does not understand the texts.	Student completed most of the assignment and somewhat understands the texts.	Student completed every part of the assignment and displays a complete understanding of the texts.	Student thoroughly completed every part of the assignment and displays a deeper understanding of the texts.