

SUMMER READING
(For those students who have completed Grade 7)

Students who have completed grade 7 are to read 2 books this summer. All students will read required book - THE DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC by JANE YOLEN. It is highly recommended that students read this book carefully and take notes as they read. This will assist the students to complete the attached assignment based on the novel. If at all possible, the assignment should be typed, and must be submitted on the due date given. It should be noted that this novel will be used in preliminary Literature 8 discussions/and assessments when we return to school in August.

Incoming 8th graders are requested to read at least one other book from the following list. Please have a parent complete the parent Verification form and return to school along with the written assignment. Happy Reading!

The Breadwinner - Deborah Ellis

The Pearl - John Steinbach

Of Mice and Men - John Steinbach

Gathering Blue - Lois Lowry (girls)

Stone in Water - Napoli Donna Jo

The Hobbit - J. R. R. Tolkien

Izzy Willy Nilly - Cynthia Voigt (girls)

Nothing But the Truth - Avi

Letters from Rifka - Karen Hesse (easier read)

The Man Who Was Poe - Avi

Farewell to Manzanar - Jeanne Wakasuki Houston

THE DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC - Assignment

The Devil's Arithmetic begins with Hannah, the young protagonist, whining, "I'm tired of remembering," and ends with Hannah asserting, "I remember. Oh, I remember."

- A) Trace Hannah's transformation by first responding to the following questions:
1. Why didn't Hannah want to go to the Seder?
 2. What family members were present at the Seder?
 3. What happens to Hannah when she opens the door for Elijah?
 4. Who is Chaya and describe her new setting.
 5. Why does Shmuel's wedding not take place?
 6. Where are the Jewish villagers "resettled"?
 7. Describe the conditions at the camp.
 8. Who is Rivka? Explain her relationship to Chaya.
 9. How does Chaya prove herself a hero?
 10. After entering Lilith's Cave, where does Chaya/ Hannah find herself?
- B) Now explain why Hannah's attitude towards the Seder and her family changed by the end of the novel. What lessons did she learn?
- C) Explain the significance of the novel's title – The Devil's Arithmetic
- D) Comment on Jane Yolen's assertion that "history is really about the small heroes. How does this relate to the Holocaust? To this novel? To you?
- E) The author has also stated that she wanted her readers "to remember as if they had been there." Why is it important to remember the Holocaust?
- F) Do you think it is important to learn about and remember your family's history and culture? Do you listen, really listen to older relatives when they tell you "stories"? Why or why not?
- G) The author utilized a number of literary devices to make the characters and setting seem authentic such as the use of German, Hebrew, and Yiddish words and sayings. Identify at least 5 of these and do your best to translate.

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Please complete this assignment in outline form as given. Section A questions are to be answered in complete sentences, and sections B – G in paragraph form. This assignment is to be typed, and will be reflected as our first Lit 8 grade.

SUMMER READING - GRADE 8

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Student's name: _____

Title of book: _____

Author: _____

Parent verification: _____

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