

Summer 2025 Required Readings | 7th and 8th Grade

Continue reading even when school is out for the summer! Reading promotes fluency, increases children's vocabulary, stimulates their imagination, expands their knowledge of the world, and increases/maintains their comprehension skills. To prevent the typical "summer slide" students experience when not in school, we are requiring students to read. Each grade level has developed a specific reading assignment (see your grade level below). These are also some resources and many offer prizes.

- Sign up for your local library summer reading program. The Harker Heights summer library program has kicked off and offers many great opportunities. The Killeen Public Library also has a summer reading program with prizes when completed. You could even check out the summer library program at the Copperas Cove!
- Read books on-line through Open Library, Story Line online, Tumble books, Goodread Free shelves, and many more. All for free.
- **Barnes & Noble** Summer reading: read any 8 books, complete the B&N reading journal form (<https://www.barnesandnobleinc.com/our-stores-communities/summer-reading-program/>); take the form to any B&N store and pick your free book from their list.
- **Half-Price Books** Summer reading camp: <https://www.hpb.com/summer-reading.html>
- **H.E.Buddy's** Summer Reading program: read 10 books, submit their form and win prizes. <https://www.heb.com/static-page/H-E-Buddy-Reading-Club>
- **MWR Library Summer Reading** program. Sign up and check it out at Casey Memorial Library at Fort Cavazos. <https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/libraries/summer-reading-program>
- **Pizza Hut Camp Book It!** Meet your monthly reading goals and earn a free, one-topping personal pan pizza. <https://www.bookitprogram.com/book-it-for-parents>
- **Scholastic**: a completely free digital destination which offers stories, characters, games, and a community of readers, the more students read, the more digital experiences they earn. Check it out! <https://kids.scholastic.com/kid/homebase/>
- **Sonlight Summer Reading Challenge**: <https://www.sonlight.com/homeschool/homeschool-101/sonlight-media/ebooks/summer-reading-printables#signupform>

Required Reading – Entering 7th Grade

The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Available through Overdrive – a digital library; access with a library card from HH Stewart C. Meyer Library, Copperas Cove Public Library, Salado Public Library.

- Plot Diagram
- Character Trait Chart for one main character: be creative when creating your character trait chart.

Required Reading – Entering 8th Grade

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by J. Boyne
Also, Available through Overdrive – a digital library; access with a library card from HH Stewart C. Meyer Library, Copperas Cove Public Library, Salado Public Library.

- Plot Diagram
- Character Trait Chart for one main character: be creative when creating your character trait chart.

Additional Reading for both 7th and 8th Grade

Triple Crown Reading program (read all 9 by April 25, 2026 earn a reading award) Books are available to be checked out through the front office.

The Mona Lisa Vanishes by Nicholas Day
Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson
It's Not Bragging If It's True: How to be Awesome at Life by Zaila Avant-Garde
The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum by Lisa Yee
Black Girl You Are Atlas by Renée Watson
The Secret Language of Birds by Lynne Kelly
The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Madd Science by Kate Mckinnon
Maggie and the Mountain of Light by Mark Snoad
When We Flew Away: A Novel of Anne Frank Before the Diary by Alice Hoffman

- Students should spend 20 minutes per day per subject using BJU [Afterschool Help.com](https://www.bju.edu/after-school-help) to review and preview Writing and Grammar concepts and Math skills.

Plot Structure Diagram

8th Grade

Name _____

Date _____

Period _____

TURNING POINT
(The main event between the protagonist and the antagonist or the moment for which the reader has been waiting.)

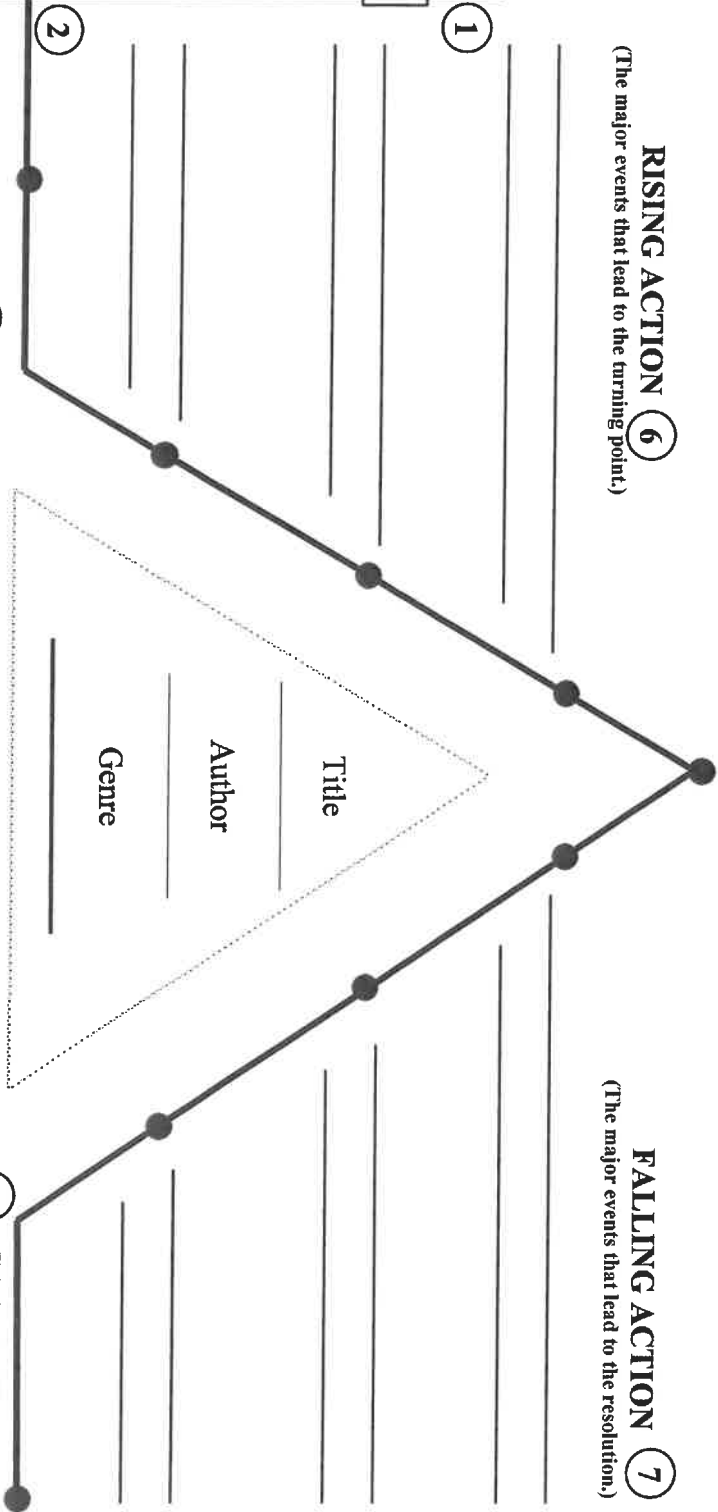
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RISING ACTION 6
(The major events that lead to the turning point.)

FALLING ACTION 7
(The major events that lead to the resolution.)

4 RESOLUTION
(How was the conflict solved?)

CONFLICT 3
(What's the problem between the protagonist and the antagonist?)

CHARACTERS * 1 Protagonist and Main Character(s) _____ _____ _____	
Antagonist _____ _____ _____	
SETTING * Time _____ _____ _____	
Place _____ _____ _____	

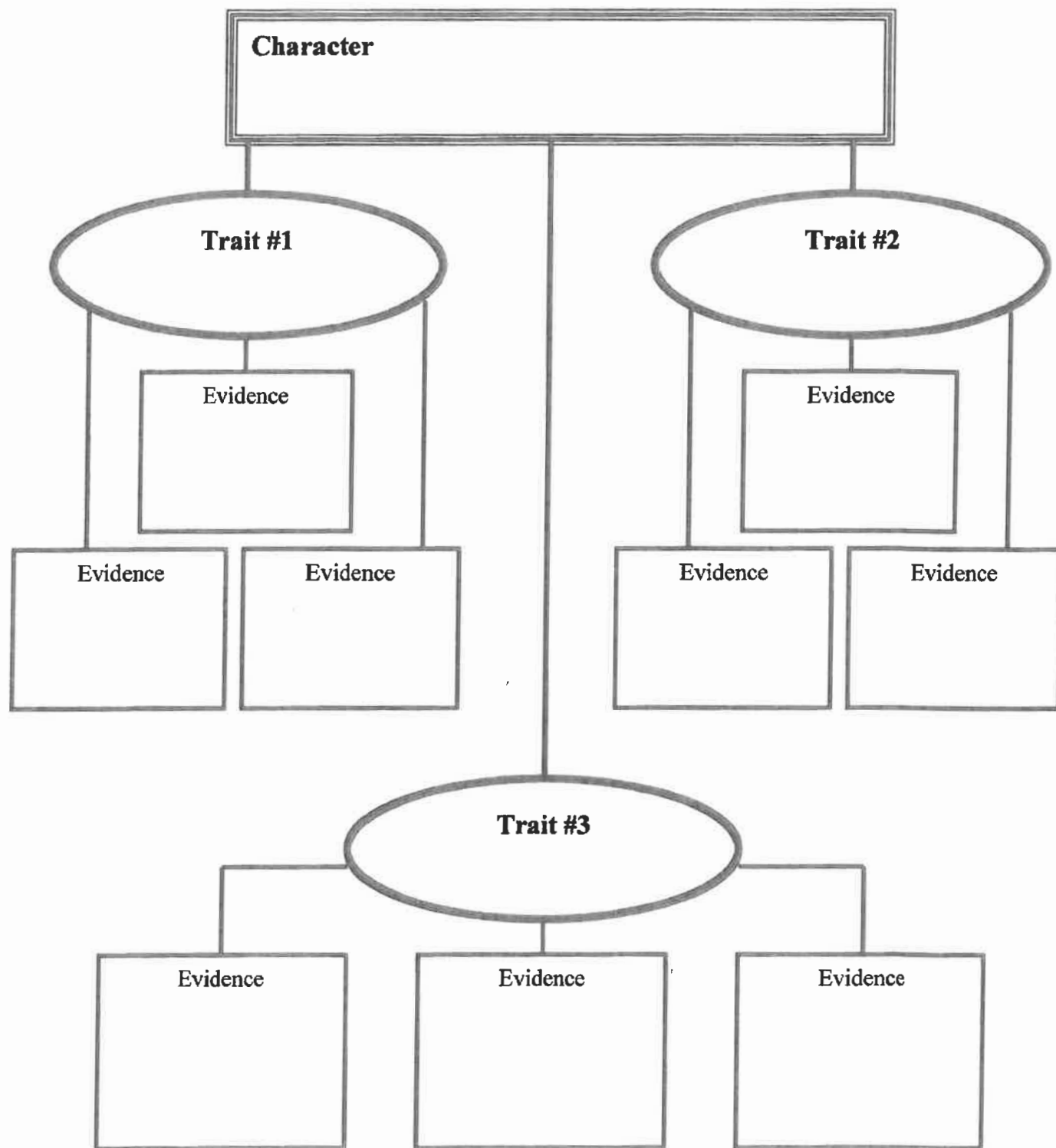
THEME
(The lesson or message the author is trying to help us understand.)

*Characters, Setting, Conflict and Mood
(how the story makes you feel) combine
to create the EXPOSITION which helps
you "get into" the story, novel or movie
from the very beginning.

- How To Figure Out the Theme**
1. Actively read the text.
 2. Fill out the Plot Structure Diagram (follow the circled numbers)
 3. Examine the conflict, resolution and turning points.
 4. Ask yourself, "What is the lesson the protagonist learned?"
 5. Reword #4 so that it can apply to anyone who reads the story.

CHARACTER MAP # 2

Name: _____ Date: _____



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