



Greetings, Parents,

Welcome to 8th grade Language Arts! I am excited to be teaching your child again next year and look forward to continuing our progress in reading comprehension, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. To make sure your child stays connected over the summer, I have assigned some summer reading.

Students will be required to read two books this summer. They will select **one book of their choice** and complete a book report on that book using the attached book report form. They will also read *Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson, and complete the attached writing assignment. The book report and writing assignment will be due on the first day of school this fall.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at n.arteberry@yahoo.com. Thank you, and have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Nancy Arteberry

8th Grade Language Arts Teacher

Summer Writing Assignment: 8th Grade

Forge, by Laurie Halse Anderson

Write an essay in response to **ONE** of the following questions:

- **Informational Essay:** Valley Forge wasn't a battlefield. Instead, it was a winter encampment for Washington's army. What types of personal battles did the soldiers endure at Valley Forge?
- **Informational Essay:** How does the experience of serving in the Continental Army change Curzon? How did he grow as a person?
- **Informational Essay:** Curzon is the victim of prejudice. He deals with it by remembering something that his father once told him: ". . . a lot of white people have twisted hearts. It prevents them from seeing the world properly and turns them into tools of the Devil." (p. 54) Who has the most twisted heart in Curzon's company? How does he spread "poison" about Curzon?
- **Persuasive Essay:** Is it ever okay to steal? Discuss times in the novel when Curzon is forced to live a lie because the truth is simply too dangerous. Take a stance on whether his stealing is justified, citing specific examples from the text.

Your response must:

- Be at least five paragraphs in length, including an introductory paragraph and concluding paragraph
- Include citations from the text to support your claims (author's last name, page number)
- Be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font
- Include a title
- Be carefully proofread and edited
- Be submitted to the teacher on the first day of school

Student Name: _____

Summer Book Report Form: 8th Grade

**Complete this form for your book of choice. You may print this form and write your responses, or you may type the information separately.*

Title of Book: _____

Author: _____

Setting (time and place): _____

Main Characters: 1. _____ 2. _____

(choose 3-6) 3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

The main character often faces a conflict or a problem at the beginning of the story. Describe the problem below in complete sentences.

Describe the main points or events in the story. Use complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Describe the resolution of the problem or how the story is concluded. Use complete sentences.
