

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### FICTION – CHOOSE ONE

*The Picture of Dorian Gray*—Oscar Wilde

In this novel handsome young Victorian, Dorian Gray supernaturally retains his youthful appearance while pursuing a debauched life of hedonistic pleasures. As the years slip by, Dorian never grows older, more wrinkled, or grey. His portrait, however, becomes increasingly corrupted and repulsive with each of his decadent immoralities, thus giving a fresh twist to the novel.

*Member of the Wedding*—Carson McCullers

Set in Georgia near the end of World War II, McCullers' play captures the frustration and yearnings of Frankie Adams, a spirited young girl who runs away from home when told she cannot accompany her brother and his new wife on their honeymoon. Ignored by her widower father, the painfully sensitive Frankie turns to Berenice, the family's African-American housekeeper, who helps the twelve-year-old meet the challenges of growing up, assisting Frankie in growing up.

*And Then There Were None*—Agatha Christie

This stylishly written and intricately plotted murder mystery tells the story of ten people invited by a common friend to enjoy a holiday on a deserted island. The holiday turns bleak when the guests begin to be murdered one by one, in accordance with the children's nursery rhyme suggested by the title. The survivors grow increasingly anxious, unable to discover the murderer's identity and wondering who will be next. Many consider Christie's *And Then There Were None* one of the best murder mysteries ever written.

### NON-FICTION – CHOOSE ONE

*Anne Frank Remembered*—Miep Gies

Miep Gies and others helped protect the Frank family for 25 months, bringing them food and news from the outside world while they hid from the Nazis in the Annex, a secret living space above Otto Frank's office. Eventually, the Gestapo discovered the hideout and sent Anne to Bergen-Belsen, a concentration camp.

In the confusion following the discovery of the Franks, Miep Gies saved young Anne's diary, hoping to give it back to her after she returned at

the war's end. *Anne Frank Remembered* is Miep Gies' story about how she and her husband did what they could during World War II to protect Jews from the Nazis' brutality.

*Barrio Boy*—Ernesto Galarza

In his acclaimed autobiography, *Barrio Boy*, Ernesto Galarza (1905-1984) tells of his experiences as an eight-year-old boy after he emigrated from a Mexico torn by revolution to California with the hope of a better life. The experiences described in *Barrio Boy* show the origins of Galarza's life-long struggle to achieve both social justice and a quality education for Latinos in America. His autobiography focuses on the closeness of the Galarza family, the tragedy of illness, politics, and the family's fear of violence.

*Freedom Riders*—Raymond Arsenault

A narrative account of the freedom riders of the 1960's and their struggle for equality.

## **Literary Tool Kit for Summer Reading Response/Prewriting Form**

**Biographical Information**—facts about an author’s life, including date and place born, places lived, schools attended, jobs held, things accomplished, date died, and place buried.

**Historical information**—facts about the time period when a specific literary text *was written*; including major events of that time period, types of writing popular at that time, and the importance of the text.

**Author’s Style/Voice**—An author’s way of arranging ideas through language used, word choice, sentence structure and length, figurative language, and tone (serious, ironic, light, humorous).

**Memorable Quote**—exact line or lines of a specific literary text containing something a person thinks is valuable because of a personal connection.

**Character**—a person or creature in a literary work; is dynamic/round, one who changes and can be seen from several points of view OR static/flat, one who does not change and is presented in a very limited way.

**Role**—a character’s specific part, function, or position in a specific literary, text, such as protagonist or antagonist.

**Setting**—the time and place in which the events of a piece of literary text take place.

**Symbol**—specific person, place, or object that stands for or represents a larger idea, trait, or belief.

**Opening Passage**—first part of a piece of literary text. **(OVER)**

**Closing Passage**—last part of a piece of literary text.

**Theme**—an important truth about life expressed by the author of a literary text.

**Main Idea**—the most important point expressed by the author of a text.