SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT GRADE 8

The Devil's Arithmetic (required).

AND ONE of the following:

Anne Frank Remembered by Miep Geis

Surviving Hitler by Andrea Warren

Maus My Father Bleeds History by Art Spiegelman

Memories of Anne Frank: Reflections of a Childhood Friend by Alison Leslie Gold

Who was Anne Frank? By Ann Abramson

Students who are entering grade 8 are required to read two books this summer, one historical fiction read and the other nonfiction. To complete the following assignment, it is highly recommended that the student take notes as he/ she reads. These notes should reflect any / all historical details of the Holocaust time period. Upon our return to school in September, these notes will assist the student in literature discussions and assessments as well as enabling the 8th grader to complete the following summer assignment.

The teacher is offering the student a choice of 5 formats **(TIMELINE, or POWERPOINT, or TRIBOARD, or Visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., or Design a Holocaust Memorial Museum Suitable for Middle School Students.)**. Using one of these formats, the student will demonstrate his/her research into the time period known as the Holocaust. While the teacher expects that most students will enjoy following the plot (or story line) of The Devil's Arithmetic, it should be remembered that the focus of this assignment is on historical information of the time period, and NOT the plot.

ASSIGNMENT CHOICES: *** NOTE TO PARENTS

The choice of task should be based on your student's ability in Language Arts. If your student struggles in this subject area, then choose an easier task. If your student excels, then encourage your student to complete a more challenging task. There will be NO effect on the grading process. All will have the same opportunity for success. Discuss the choice on the home front, and, if necessary,

confer with me by email. Upon our return to school, all students are expected to present the completed task to the class.

TASK 1: A TIMELINE The student will create a time line reflecting the discrimination and atrocities committed against the Jews by the Nazis under Hitler's directives. The timeline will begin in 1933 when Hitler came to power, and may extend as far as 1945 when the last concentration camps were liberated. A brief explanation of each event must accompany each date. Students may produce a traditional timeline **(easy)** OR may choose to create the timeline digitally on the computer. To do this, go to: www.officetimeline.com Go to making timelines and download the free edition. Then simply follow the directions of the set up wizard. **(average)** Minimum number of significant dates - 10.

Task 2: POWER POINT (average)

Historical Fiction / The Devil's Arithmetic

Jane Yolen uses accurate, authentic information of the time setting and then blends this info into a fictional story. The historical details are essential in The Devil's Arithmetic. The characters, setting, conflict, descriptions, and dialogue contribute to the authenticity of the book.

Power Point:

Slide 1 - Title slide

Slides 2 - 5 The Devil's Arithmetic / **HISTORICAL FICTION**

Essential Historical details found in this book

Slides 6 - 9 Anne Frank Remembered **OR** Surviving Hitler **OR** Maus /

NON FICTION

Essential Historical details presented in either one of the books

Slides 10 - 13 Compare the two books. Identify informational similarities found in both books. (fiction and non fiction)

Slides 14, 15, 16 Although both books contained historical details , explain the difference in how this info was presented to you, the reader. Do you have a strong preference of one read over the other? If so, why? What did you learn in your summer reading assignment? Did either book affect you personally? Explain.

CHOICE 3: TRI BOARD (cardboard presentation board) (easy)

TYPED and then placed within 1/3 of the Venn diagram circles and glued

Any titles, labels placed above the diagram must be lettered neatly

Left side of board - The Devil's Arithmetic / Historical Fiction

Present essential historical details

Right side of board - Anne Frank Remembered OR Surviving Hitler

OR Maus

Present essential historical details

Center section of board - Any similarities? List within circle and then

***See directions for Power Point task 2 slides 14 - 16 and complete

TASK 4: Visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and complete the self guided tour of the Permanent Exhibition (4th through 2nd floors). Take a few notes for yourself as this will help you later when you write a personal reflection. Allow some time to reflect on what you saw and heard at the museum. Then write a personal reflection paper in which you express your personal response to what you learned at the museum. (approx. 2 pages typed) This reflection will be shared orally with the class. Bring proof of your visit to the museum such as ticket stub, identification card, postcard... **(somewhat challenging)**

Summer Reading Verification Form

Upon completion of each of the books, a parent/guardian is asked to sign this verification form. Summer reading projects are due Wednesday, September 6th, along with this signed verification form.

Required read THE DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC

My child _____ has completed the reading.

Parent signature _____ Date _____

2nd read

My child _____ has completed the reading.

Parent signature _____ Date _____