



# POLO PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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May 2024

Dear Incoming Stallions:

As the summer break rapidly approaches, the faculty and staff at Polo Park want to welcome you to your next academic pursuit, middle school. Your hard work and efforts in elementary school will be an asset as you transition here to Polo Park. Middle school brings new challenges and responsibilities, as well as new independence. It is an exciting three years.

Literacy research tells us that students' reading achievement can fall significantly over summer break. In an effort to ensure that the learning gains you have made this year are not lost, we are encouraging all students to make independent reading a priority over the summer break. In order to achieve that goal, Polo Park Middle has created a summer reading program.

Attached is an annotated list of the **Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA)** books to choose from for your summer reading. You will choose one of the books and complete an assignment. The book list, questions, and rubric will be found attached to this letter. This assignment is due on **August 19<sup>th</sup>**, to your language arts teacher. Presentations will begin on that day as well. This will be your first assignment at Polo Park, your first chance to show that sense of responsibility, so do your best.

I appreciate your assistance in making sure that this program has a positive impact on your literacy and our school's literacy instruction as well.

For more summer reading fun, participate in our optional summer reading challenge and activities. Attached is our Summer Reading Challenge which is optional. Students completing Mrs. Bernstein's **OPTIONAL** Summer Reading Challenge will be invited to our phenomenal pancake party.

Have a safe, enjoyable, and reading-filled summer!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Galindo

Principal



# Novel Analysis One-Pager Project

A One-Pager is a single-page response to your reading that connects the ideas in the book to your thoughts in a creative way. The purpose of the One-Pager is so that your audience will understand the big ideas, themes, and connections within the book.

**You must use approximately ½ of a poster board (about 21" x14")  
All drawings may be done by hand or may be computer generated)**

## What to DRAW on your poster board:

- The **TITLE** of the book and **AUTHOR's** name on the page -- must be noticeable & creative!
- A **BORDER** that goes **ALL** of the **WAY** around the **Poster board** that reflects the **symbols** or **important concepts** in the book.
  - This should include a variety of **words, pictures, symbols, and/or ideas** from the text.
- **3 EXTRA LARGE, COLORFUL IMAGES** that represent themes, characters, conflict, and/or setting of the novel.
  - There must be an appropriate caption for each
  - These must be *strongly connected* to the book and stand out in **size** and in **color**.
- **3 QUOTES or passages AND** their significance to the story.
  - Include **quotation marks, character** who said it **OR author**, and **page number**.
  - You must include an **explanation of how/why the quote is significant to the story**.
- **3 personal statements OR connections** reflecting about what you've read.
  - NOT simple opinions or book review/summary type statements.
  - Good example: "I could relate to the main character feeling lost in the book because it reminded me of when my parents got divorced, I had to change schools, and I felt alone and confused."
  - Bad example: "I could relate to the main character because I was sad too."
- **1 SONG** that represents a theme of the novel (make sure it is school appropriate).
  - Include the **song title, singer/band name, a few lines of lyrics that best illustrates the theme**.
  - Identify the theme, and include an **explanation** as to **how the lyrics connect** to the theme of the book.
- **BE NEAT, COLORFUL, and CREATIVE!!!**
  - Your **ENTIRE PAGE** should be filled with the above elements.
  - **There should be no WHITE SPACE or gaps between images**.
  - If you end up having extra room, fill in with more of the above steps/elements.

Your full name and class period must be on the BACK of the project.

## One-Pager Novel Grading Rubric

Requirements	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic	Total Points
<b>TITLE</b> of the book and the <b>AUTHOR's</b> name are noticeable on the page	<b>5 pts:</b> Both elements are included creatively AND spelled correctly.	<b>4 pts:</b> Both elements are included AND spelled correctly.	<b>3 pts:</b> Both elements are included but may be spelled incorrectly.	<b>0-2 pts:</b> The project is missing one or more of the elements.	
<b>BORDER</b> that reflects the unit of learning or theme (words, pictures, symbols, quotes)	<b>13-15 pts:</b> Border accurately includes a variety of themes, symbols, and ideas from the novel.	<b>10-12 pts:</b> Border accurately includes two of the following: themes, symbols, ideas from the novel.	<b>5-9 pts:</b> Border accurately includes only one theme, symbol, or idea from the novel.	<b>0 pts:</b> Border is included without theme or idea; irrelevant or absent.	
<b>3 IMAGES</b> that represent themes, characters, conflicts, or settings found in the novel	<b>16-20 pts:</b> All images are present, neat, colorful, relevant, and enhance the project.	<b>10-15 pts:</b> All images are present, colorful, and relevant.	<b>5-9 pts:</b> Two of the images are present, colorful, and relevant.	<b>0-4 pts:</b> One or none of the images are present.	
<b>3 important QUOTES</b> or passages from the novel - character name is present if dialogue is included	<b>12-15 pts:</b> All quotes are present, relevant to the story, cited properly, and the significance is explained.	<b>8-11 pts:</b> All quotes are present, are relevant to the story, but are improperly cited.	<b>4-7 pts:</b> Two quotes are present, are relevant to the story, but are improperly cited.	<b>0-3 pts:</b> One or none quotes are present, not relevant or cited at all.	
<b>3 PERSONAL statements</b> or connections about what you've read in the novel	<b>8-10 pts:</b> THREE deep, meaningful, personal connections that demonstrate a deep understanding of the novel.	<b>5-7 pts:</b> THREE meaningful, personal connections made but are shallow/lacking depth.	<b>3-4 pts:</b> TWO statements are present and show a shallow understanding of the novel.	<b>0-2 pts:</b> One or none of the statements are present and not relevant at all.	
<b>Creativity/ Neatness</b>	<b>18-20 pts:</b> Exceptionally clever and unique, design & presentation are original and enhance the project.	<b>15-17 pts:</b> Clever at times, thoughtfully and uniquely presented.	<b>10-14 pts:</b> A few clever or original touches enhance the project.	<b>5 pts:</b> Little to no evidence of creativity, project is not very unique.	
<b>Grammar, Spelling, Mechanics</b>	<b>13-15 pts:</b> Little to no problems with grammar, spelling, mechanics. The project was clearly proofread.	<b>10-12 pts:</b> A few problems with spelling, grammar, and mechanics. Minor errors.	<b>5-9 pts:</b> Several errors are present, some of which are distracting.	<b>0 pts:</b> Several errors are present, all are distracting. This was clearly NOT proofread.	

**I have read this Project Rubric and will use it as a guideline for my project. I also understand the importance of discussing book choices and following the timeline, due date, and impact on my overall grade!**

**STUDENT signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/100

## Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2024-2025 for Grades 6-8



### ***Adrift* by Tanya Guerrero**

Cousins Coral and Isa are so close that they're practically siblings; their mothers are sisters, and the two girls grew up on the same small island. When Coral and her parents leave on a months-long sea voyage amid the islands of Indonesia, Isa is devastated that they'll be kept apart, and the two vow to write to each other no matter what. Then the unthinkable happens, and Coral's boat capsizes at sea, where her parents vanish. Washed up on a deserted island, alone and wracked by grief, she must find the strength within to survive, and find her way back home. Meanwhile, Isa is still on Pebble Island, the only one holding out hope that her beloved cousin is still alive.



### ***Fake* by Ele Fountain**

In a digital world it's hard to know what's real. Imagine a world where your only friends are virtual, and big tech companies control access to food, healthcare and leisure. This is Jess's world. But when she turns fourteen, Jess can go to school with other children for the first time. Most of them hate the 'real' world, but Jess begins to question whether the digital world is 'perfect' after all. Back home, her sister Chloe's life-saving medication is getting ever more expensive. Determined to help, Jess risks everything by using skills forbidden in the cyber-world, only to stumble on something explosive. Something that will turn her whole world upside down. It's up to Jess to figure out exactly what is real, and what is fake – Chloe's survival depends on it.



### ***Falling Short* by Ernesto Cisneros**

Isaac and Marco already know sixth grade is going to change their lives. But it won't change things at home—not without each other's help. This year, star basketball player Isaac plans on finally keeping up with his schoolwork. Better grades will surely stop Isaac's parents from arguing all the time. Meanwhile, straight-A Marco vows on finally winning his father's approval by earning a spot on the school's basketball team.

But will their friendship and support for each other be enough to keep the two boys from falling short?



### ***The Girl in White* by Lindsay Currie**

Mallory hasn't quite adapted to life in her new town of Eastport yet. Maybe it's because everyone is obsessed with keeping the town's reputation as the most cursed town in the US. And thanks to the nightmares she's had since arriving, Mallory hardly sleeps. Combined with the unsettling sensation of being watched, she's quickly becoming convinced there's more to her town. Something darker. When Mallory has a terrifying encounter with the same old woman from her dreams, she knows she has to do something—but what? With Eastport gearing up to celebrate the anniversary of their first recorded legend Mallory is forced to investigate the one legend she's always secretly been afraid of - Sweet Molly.



### ***Hear Me* by Kerry O'Malley Cerra**

A year after being diagnosed with hearing loss, twelve-year-old Rayne is doing her best to live a "normal" life and act like nothing has changed. But her hearing keeps failing her. Even with hearing aids, she has trouble following conversations and hanging out with her friends the way she used to. Rayne's parents are pushing for her to get cochlear implants, which could restore her hearing—though she would hear sounds differently than she did before her hearing loss. Rayne isn't convinced the surgery for CIs is worth the risks and challenges. She begs her parents to consider other options, but they're not budging. With the surgery looming, Rayne sets off on a search for alternatives.



### ***How to Stay Invisible* by Maggie C. Rudd**

Being alone is something Raymond is used to. Twelve-year-old Raymond Hurley has never had a place to call home. His free-wheeling parents move their family from town to town, but one day they just up and abandon him. All alone with nothing but a duffle bag full of clothes and his reliable pup, Rosie, he is forced to live in the woods behind his middle school. With a fishing pole in hand and survival guide checked out from the library, Raymond, he learns that his fate will depend not just on his wilderness skills, but on the people and animals he chooses to trust



### ***Kelcie Murphy and the Academy for the Unbreakable Arts* by Erika Lewis**

The Otherworld is at war. The Academy for the Unbreakable Arts trains warriors. And Kelcie Murphy—a foster child raised in the human world—is dying to attend. A place at AUA means meeting Scáthach, the legendary trainer of Celtic heroes. It means learning to fight with a sword. It means harnessing her hidden powers and—most importantly—finding out who her parents are, and why they abandoned her in Boston Harbor eight years ago.



### **Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle by Taryn Souders**

When Grady and his dad learn that the town oddball, Eudora "Kooky" Klinch left something for them in her will, they can only imagine what it might be. When it turns out it's an old scrap of 300-year-old tapestry, they are bitterly disappointed. But the cloth comes with a note saying, "This is no ordinary piece of needlework. It's a treasure map. Riddles and Clues. To the victor go the riches." Grady's dad dismisses it, but Grady thinks this could be the chance of a lifetime. With the help of his friends Thad, Clemmie, and the town dog Ophelia, Grady is determined to crack the clues and find the treasure. However, more at risk than he bargained for, and after a house break in, solving this mystery just got a lot more dangerous.



### **New Dragon City by Mari Mancusi**

No one predicted the dragon apocalypse. The dragons came suddenly and decimated the world as we knew it, including New York City. Three years later, Noah, his hardcore survivalist father, and a ragtag group of survivors are barely scraping by in this new reality. Noah has seen the damage these creatures can do firsthand. When it comes to dragons: It's kill or be killed. But a chance encounter between Noah and a young dragon forces him to question everything he thought he knew. With rumors spreading that there's a group of survivors living in harmony with dragons instead of hiding underground, Noah teams up with his fire-breathing ally to find out if peace between humans and dragons is really possible.



### **Over and Out by Jenni L. Walsh**

Sophie has spent her entire life behind the Berlin Wall, guarded by land mines, towers, and attack dogs. Though she tries to avoid the secret police (Stasi) noticing her, when her beloved neighbor is arrested, Sophie is called to her principal's office. There, a young Stasi officer asks Sophie if she'll spy on her neighbor after she is released. Sophie doesn't want to agree, but in reality has no choice: The Stasi threaten to bring her mother, who has a disability from post-polio syndrome, to an institution if Sophie does not comply. Sophie is stuck, until she learns about family in the West. This could be what she needs to attempt an escape with her mother to freedom -- if she can invent her way out.



### **Ride On by Faith Erin Hicks**

Victoria has always loved horses. But riding in competitions is high stakes, high stress, and shockingly expensive. And even though Victoria's best friend Taylor loves competing, Victoria has lost her taste for it. After a heartbreaking fight with Taylor, Victoria needs a new start—at a new stables. A place where she doesn't have to worry about anything other than riding. No competition, no drama, no friends. Just horses. Edgewood Stables seems ideal. There are plenty of horses to ride, and Victoria is perfectly happy giving the other riders the cold shoulder. But can she truly be happy with no friends?



### **Roll for Initiative by Jaime Formato**

Riley Henderson has never taken a bus to school in her entire life. Or made an afterschool snack, or finished her homework on her own, or—ewww—done her own laundry. That's what her older brother Devin was for. But now Devin's gone and Riley is stuck alone in Florida with her mom. That is, until a cool nerd named Lucy gives Riley no choice but to get over her shyness and fear of rejection and become friends. The best part is . . . both girls are into Dungeons & Dragons. Soon, their party grows and with the help of her new D&D friends, Riley discovers that not only can she function without Devin, she kind of likes it. Now she has to help prove to her family she can take care of herself.



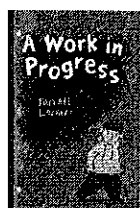
### **The Ruby Code by Jessica Khoury**

Ash finds respite from his unhappy life in virtual reality games. One night, he spends his meager savings to help a homeless man, who thanks him with a copy of an old fantasy RPG called The Glass Realm. While exploring inside the game, Ash meets a seemingly humble NPC named Ruby. From the start, she seems different than most game characters, especially when they stumble across an in-game quest designed not for the player, but for Ruby to solve. But when Ruby develops powerful abilities that rewrite the very game code, they realize she is far more than a pre-programmed side character.



### **The Superteacher Project by Gordon Korman**

Oliver Zahn, spitball champion and self-declared rule-wrecker of Brightling Middle School, is not a fan of his new homeroom teacher, Mr. Aidact. The guy is sort of stiff, never cracks a smile, and refers to them as "pupils." The worst part is he catches Oliver before he can pull any of his signature pranks! It's time for Oliver and his best friend, Nathan, to show the new teacher who's boss. Against all odds, Mr. Aidact starts to become the most popular teacher at Brightling. Still, Oliver and Nathan know that something is fishy. They're determined to get to the bottom of the mystery: What's the deal with Mr. Aidact?



### **A Work in Progress by Jarrett Lerner**

Will is the only round kid in a school full of thin ones. So he hides...in baggy jeans and oversized hoodies, in the back row during class, and anywhere but the cafeteria during lunch. He's also got a crush on a girl named Jules who he knows he doesn't have a chance with but he can't help wondering *what if?* Will's best shot at attracting Jules's attention is by slaying the Will Monster inside him by changing his eating habits and getting more exercise. But the results are either frustratingly slow or infuriatingly unsuccessful. As he resorts to increasingly drastic measures to transform his appearance, Will meets skateboarder Markus, who helps him see his body and all it contains as an ever-evolving work in progress.

# Mrs. Bernstein's OPTIONAL Summer Reading Challenge

This is an **optional** summer reading challenge; just read the instructions and begin. It's just like playing bingo. Read over the selections and choose a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line that you like best. Read those 5 books and complete the summary and opinion activity for each book. If you'd like, just read some more and as you go along, mark your "card" as if you were playing bingo. Bring this "card" along with your summer reading challenge documentation sheet(s) to Mrs. Bernstein, our library media specialist, by August 19th,. We will celebrate with a phenomenal pancake party for those who complete this optional summer reading challenge. You can earn more prizes based on the number of books you read. All books must be middle grades or higher and must not be a book you've read before. You may not use a book for more than one spot, although you may use the book you choose for your required assignment as an entry in the optional challenge. Have fun reading and we'll see you in August!

<b>R</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>!</b>
A Mystery Book (fiction)	A Book That Takes Place In or Explores Another Country (fiction or nonfiction, must be at least 100 pages)	A Fantasy Book (fiction)	A Book Where the Author's Last Name Starts With the Letter B (fiction)	A Nonfiction Book (must be at least 100 pages)
A Book Where the Author's Last Name Starts With the Letter H (fiction)	One of Mrs. Bernstein's Favorite Books (list on back)	A Biography (non-fiction, must be at least 100 pages)	An Adventure Book (fiction)	A Book That Features One of the Following: a pirate, a selkie, a sea monster, mermaid, or undersea treasure (fiction)
A Book About the Holocaust (fiction)	A Book That is Part of a Series	A 2024 - 2025 SSYRA Book (fiction)	One of Mrs. Bernstein's Favorite Books (list on back)	A Science Fiction Book (fiction)
A Spooky/Horror Book (fiction)	A Book About A War (fiction)	A Book Where the Author's Last Name Starts With the Letter M (fiction)	A Realistic Fiction Book (fiction)	A Historical Book (fiction)
One of Mrs. Bernstein's Favorite Books (list on back)	A Book Where the Author's Last Name Starts With the Letter S (fiction)	A Book About Animals (fiction or nonfiction, must be at least 100 pages)	A Sports Book (fiction)	A Book Where the Author's Last Name Starts With the Letter L (fiction)

First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Some of Mrs. Bernstein's Favorite Books

- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** by E.L. Konigsburg
- The Westing Game** by Ellen Raskin
- City Spies** (any book in the series) **Dead City**, or **Framed** by James Ponti
- Coop Knows the Scoop**, or **How to Almost Ruin Your Summer** by Taryn Souders
- Schooled**, or **Restart**, or **Linked**, or **The Unteachables**, by Gordon Korman
- Any of the Harry Potter Books (1-7) by J. K. Rowling
- Turtle Boy** by M. Evan Wolkenstein
- The Sacrifice** by Kathleen Benner Duble
- Incantation** by Alice Hoffman
- Scratch Scratch** by Lindsay Currie
- A Long Way from Chicago** or **A Year Down Yonder** by Richard Peck
- Miscalculations of Lightning Girl** by Stacy McAnulty
- Captain Superlative** by J. S. Puller
- This is What Happy Looks Like** by Jennifer E. Smith
- Slider** by Pete Hautman
- Broken Strings** by Eric Walters and Kathy Kacer
- Catherine, Called Birdy** by Karen Cushman
- Starfish** by Lisa Fipps

### Summer Reading Challenge Documentation

- ★ Please complete the following documentation for all 5 books, print neatly or type.
- ★ A synopsis is a summary. In your own words, summarize the book in 6-8 sentences.
- ★ Your opinion should be stated in 4-5 sentences.
- ★ You may attach additional pages for additional documentation if you choose to read more..

Title 1:  Number of Pages	Author:
Brief synopsis of this book:	Briefly share your opinion of this book:



First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title 2:  Number of Pages	Author:
Brief synopsis of this book:	Briefly share your opinion of this book:
Title 3:  Number of Pages:	Author:
Brief synopsis of this book:	Briefly share your opinion of this book:

First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title 4: Number of Pages	Author:
Brief synopsis of this book:	Briefly share your opinion of this book:

Title 5: Number of Pages	Author:
Brief synopsis of this book:	Briefly share your opinion of this book:

Remember:

- ★ **This is optional and just for fun.**
- ★ You can add additional pages if needed.

Mrs. Bernstein, library media specialist Polo Park Middle School  
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