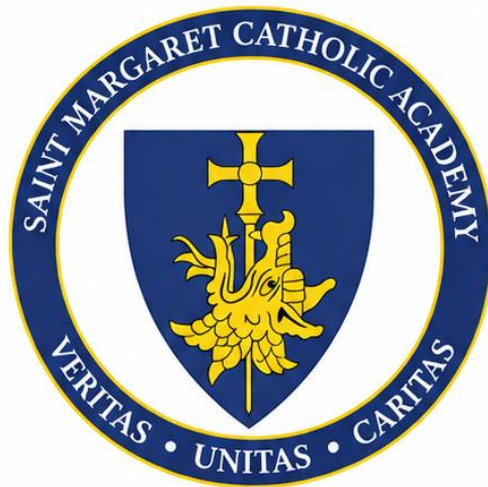


**SAINT MARGARET
CATHOLIC ACADEMY**



8TH GRADE

ELA/WRITING

SUMMER PACKET



Rising Eighth Grade ELA & Writing Summer Reading Program

Power, Survival, and the Human Spirit

Summer 2026

Student Name: _____

Date Submitted: _____

“May the odds be ever in your favor.” — Suzanne Collins

Welcome to Eighth Grade!

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to eighth grade!

As you prepare for your final year at St. Margaret Catholic Academy, summer is the perfect opportunity to continue growing as readers, writers, and thinkers. Great books challenge us, inspire us, and encourage us to see the world from different perspectives.

This summer, students will read:

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Through this novel, students will explore themes of survival, sacrifice, power, hope, and justice while strengthening their reading, writing, and analytical skills.

Students will examine:

- Character development
- Theme
- Symbolism
- Conflict
- Author’s craft
- Point of view
- Social commentary
- Dystopian literature

They will also complete creative projects, literary analysis activities, and an argument essay designed to prepare them for the expectations of high school English.

Most importantly, I hope students enjoy the journey. Summer should include sunshine, time with family and friends, and, of course, a great book.

I look forward to hearing about your reading adventures in September!

Program Expectations

Students are expected to:

- ✓ Read the required novel.
 - ✓ Complete all workbook activities.
 - ✓ Choose and complete one creative project.
 - ✓ Support ideas with evidence from the text.
 - ✓ Complete the final argument essay.
 - ✓ Bring the completed packet to school in September.
-

Required Text

The Hunger Games

by Suzanne Collins

(Book One Only)

New York State Next Generation ELA Standards

This program aligns with the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards for Grade 8 English Language Arts.

Reading Literature

8R1

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis.

8R2

Determine themes and analyze their development.

8R3

Analyze how dialogue and events reveal character and advance the plot.

8R5

Analyze structure and pacing.

8R6

Analyze point of view and its effect.

8R9

Analyze how themes and topics are developed across texts.

Writing

8W1

Write arguments to support claims with evidence.

8W2

Write informative and explanatory texts.

8W4

Develop clear and coherent writing.

8W5

Strengthen writing through planning and revision.

8W7

Conduct short research projects using multiple sources.

Language

8L4–8L6

Students will:

- Expand vocabulary.
 - Analyze figurative language.
 - Use grade-level language conventions.
-

Themes Explored in The Hunger Games

- Survival
- Sacrifice
- Hope
- Identity
- Loyalty

- Power
 - Justice
 - Oppression
 - Freedom
-

Summer Reading Due Date

Students should bring this completed packet to school during the first week of September.

Remember:

Readers become leaders, and stories have the power to change the world.

I hope this summer's reading experience encourages curiosity, empathy, and thoughtful reflection.

SECTION II

Reading Calendar, Reflection Pages, and Reading Logs

Successful readers develop strong habits by reading consistently and thinking deeply about what they read. Throughout the summer, students should aim to read regularly, annotate important passages, and reflect on how the events and characters contribute to the themes of the novel.

Suggested Reading Schedule

Week 1

Read Chapters 1–6

Questions to Consider

- What do we learn about Katniss and her world?
 - How does District 12 shape the lives of its citizens?
 - What early conflicts are introduced?
 - What sacrifices has Katniss already made for her family?
-

Week 2

Read Chapters 7–12

Questions to Consider

- How are relationships developing?
 - What role does trust play in the story?
 - How does the Capitol maintain power?
 - Which characters seem trustworthy? Why?
-

Week 3

Read Chapters 13–18

Questions to Consider

- How does Katniss adapt to challenges?
 - What examples of courage and survival appear?
 - How are alliances important?
 - What symbols are beginning to emerge?
-

Week 4

Read Chapters 19–24

Questions to Consider

- How is Katniss changing?
 - What motivates her decisions?
 - Which moments reveal her compassion?
 - How does the setting influence events?
-

Week 5

Finish the Novel

Questions to Consider

- Which theme is most important?
 - How does Suzanne Collins critique society?
 - What message does the novel communicate about power and humanity?
 - How has Katniss changed from the beginning of the story?
-

Daily Reading Log

Students should read at least 20–30 minutes per day.

Date Chapters Read Minutes Read Parent Initial

Reader Reflection

Chapter(s): _____

Summarize what happened.

Something that surprised me:

A question I have:

A prediction I have:

Something I noticed about Katniss:

A theme that seems important:

Quote Journal

Choose important quotations as you read.

Quote

“ _____ ”

Page Number _____

Who said it?

Why is this quotation important?

What does it reveal about?

- Character
- Theme
- Conflict
- Symbolism

Society

Explain:

Vocabulary Journal

As you read, record unfamiliar words and determine their meanings.

Word Page Number Definition Use the Word in a Sentence

(Complete additional pages as needed.)

Theme Reflection

As you read, think about the following themes.

Survival

How do characters overcome challenges?

Sacrifice

Which characters put others before themselves?

Power

Who has power? How do they use it?

Hope

How do characters maintain hope?

Justice

Is society in Panem fair? Why or why not?

Reader's Notebook

My Favorite Character

Why?

My Favorite Scene

Why?

The Most Important Lesson I've Learned So Far

Independent Reading Challenge

Can you read for at least 20 minutes each day?

Goal Tracker

- 10 Days
 - 20 Days
 - 30 Days
 - 40 Days
 - 50 Days
 - 60 Days
-

Remember

Strong readers think deeply.

Great readers question what they read.

Exceptional readers use literature to better understand themselves and the world around them.

SECTION III

Literary Elements Mini-Lessons

Great readers do more than simply understand what happened in a story. They analyze how authors develop ideas, reveal character, and communicate important messages about the world.

As you read *The Hunger Games*, use these mini-lessons to deepen your understanding of the novel and strengthen your analytical skills.

Theme and Central Idea

What is Theme?

A theme is the message or lesson an author communicates through characters, conflicts, and events.

Themes are not single words.

Instead of writing:

Theme = Hope

Try writing:

Even in difficult circumstances, hope gives people the strength to persevere.

Major Themes in *The Hunger Games*

- Survival
 - Sacrifice
 - Hope
 - Loyalty
 - Identity
 - Justice
 - Freedom
 - Oppression
 - Power
-

Questions Good Readers Ask

- What lesson do the characters learn?
 - What message is the author communicating?
 - How does the theme develop throughout the story?
-

Characterization

What is Characterization?

Characterization is how an author reveals a character's personality and growth.

Authors reveal character through:

S.T.E.A.L.

Speech

What does the character say?

Thoughts

What does the character think and feel?

Effect on Others

How do other characters respond?

Actions

What choices does the character make?

Looks

How does the author describe the character?

Questions Good Readers Ask

- How has the character changed?
 - What motivates the character?
 - What experiences influence the character?
-

Symbolism

What is Symbolism?

A symbol is an object, event, or image that represents a deeper meaning.

Examples from *The Hunger Games*

Mockingjay

Represents hope and rebellion.

Bread

Represents kindness and survival.

Fire

Represents transformation and strength.

Questions Good Readers Ask

- Does an object appear repeatedly?
 - What larger idea might it represent?
-

Foreshadowing

What is Foreshadowing?

Foreshadowing occurs when authors provide clues about future events.

It creates suspense and encourages readers to make predictions.

Questions Good Readers Ask

- What clues has the author provided?
 - What might happen next?
-

Irony

What is Irony?

Irony occurs when events turn out differently than expected.

Situational Irony

Something unexpected happens.

Dramatic Irony

Readers know something characters do not.

Verbal Irony

A character says one thing but means another.

Questions Good Readers Ask

- Was the outcome surprising?
 - Why might the author have chosen to include irony?
-

Point of View

First-Person Point of View

Katniss tells the story using:

I

Me

My

Readers only know what Katniss knows.

Questions Good Readers Ask

- How does Katniss's perspective influence the story?
 - What information might readers be missing?
-

Conflict

What is Conflict?

Conflict is the struggle faced by characters.

Person vs. Person

Character against another character.

Person vs. Self

Internal struggles.

Person vs. Society

Conflict with rules, traditions, or governments.

Person vs. Nature

Conflict involving the environment.

Questions Good Readers Ask

- Which conflict is most important?
 - How does conflict shape character development?
-

Dystopian Literature

What is a Dystopian Society?

A dystopia is an imagined society characterized by injustice, oppression, and lack of freedom.

Characteristics of Dystopian Literature

- Government control
 - Social inequality
 - Loss of individual freedoms
 - Fear and surveillance
 - Propaganda
-

Examples in *The Hunger Games*

The Capitol

The District System

The Hunger Games themselves

Questions Good Readers Ask

- What is wrong with this society?
 - What message might the author be communicating?
-

Author's Purpose

Why Do Authors Write?

Authors generally write to:

Inform

Entertain

Persuade

In *The Hunger Games*

Suzanne Collins entertains readers with an exciting story while also encouraging readers to think critically about society, inequality, and power.

Social Commentary

What is Social Commentary?

Social commentary is when an author uses literature to criticize or examine problems within society.

Topics Explored in *The Hunger Games*

- Poverty
 - Wealth inequality
 - Government control
 - Media influence
 - Violence as entertainment
-

Questions Good Readers Ask

- What problem is the author highlighting?
 - What message is the author communicating about society?
-

Setting and World-Building

What is World-Building?

World-building refers to how an author creates a believable setting.

Components of World-Building

- Geography
- Government
- Culture

- Traditions
 - Economy
-

Questions Good Readers Ask

- How does the setting influence the story?
 - Would the story change in another setting?
-

Allegory

What is Allegory?

An allegory is a story that contains a deeper meaning about society, morality, or politics.

Authors use allegories to teach lessons and explore important issues.

Questions Good Readers Ask

- Could this story represent something larger?
 - What lessons might readers learn?
-

Satire

What is Satire?

Satire uses humor, exaggeration, or irony to criticize society.

Examples in *The Hunger Games*

- Capitol fashions
 - Reality television
 - Excessive wealth
-

Questions Good Readers Ask

- What behaviors or ideas are being criticized?
 - Why might the author exaggerate certain aspects of society?
-

Why Literary Elements Matter

Authors make deliberate choices when creating stories.

Understanding literary elements helps readers:

- ✓ Analyze themes.
 - ✓ Support ideas with evidence.
 - ✓ Understand characters.
 - ✓ Think critically about society.
 - ✓ Become stronger writers.
-

Remember

Good readers understand stories.

Great readers analyze stories.

Exceptional readers use stories to question, challenge, and better understand the world around them.

SECTION IV

Interactive Novel Study Workbook

As you read *The Hunger Games*, complete the following pages to deepen your understanding of the novel. Strong readers actively analyze characters, themes, symbols, and author's craft. They think critically about the messages authors communicate and how literature reflects society.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Beginning • Middle • End

Character Name: _____

Beginning of the Story	Middle of the Story	End of the Story
Character Traits	Character Traits	Character Traits
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Reflection Questions

How does this character change throughout the story?

Which events contribute to this change?

Which trait best describes the character by the end of the novel?

S.T.E.A.L. CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Character Name: _____

Speech

What does the character say?

Thoughts

What thoughts and feelings are revealed?

Effect on Others

How do other characters react?

Actions

What choices reveal personality?

Looks

How does the author describe the character?

CONFLICT ANALYSIS

Character Name: _____

Type of Conflict	Example from the Novel
------------------	------------------------

Person vs. Person

Person vs. Self

Person vs. Society

Person vs. Nature

Which conflict is most important?

How does this conflict contribute to character growth?

THEME TRACKER

Theme Statement

The author communicates the message that

Evidence #1

Page Number _____

Evidence #2

Page Number _____

Evidence #3

Page Number _____

Explain how the evidence supports the theme.

SYMBOLISM LOG

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Evidence from the Text</u>
---------------	----------------	-------------------------------

Mockingjay		
------------	--	--

Bread		
-------	--	--

Fire		
------	--	--

Why are symbols important?

QUOTE ANALYSIS

Important Quote

“ _____ ”

Page Number _____

Who said it?

Why is this quote important?

What does this quote reveal about?

- Character
- Theme
- Conflict
- Symbolism
- Society

Explain:

AUTHOR'S CRAFT ANALYSIS

What literary device is being used?

- Symbolism
 - Foreshadowing
 - Irony
 - Imagery
 - Simile
 - Metaphor
-

Example from the Novel

Why did Suzanne Collins use this technique?

How does it strengthen the story?

SOCIAL COMMENTARY

What issue in society is Suzanne Collins criticizing?

- Poverty
- Wealth Inequality
- Government Power
- Media Influence
- Violence as Entertainment

Other:

Evidence from the Text

Why do you think the author included this issue?

Do similar issues exist in our world today? Explain.

DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY ORGANIZER

Characteristics of Panem

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Evidence</u>
Government Control	
Social Inequality	
Propaganda	
Fear	
Lack of Freedom	

Would you want to live in Panem? Why or why not?

WORLD-BUILDING ANALYSIS

Setting

Government

Economy

Traditions

How does the setting influence the plot?

CLAIM-EVIDENCE-REASONING (CER)

Question

Claim

I believe that

Evidence

According to the text,

“ _____ ”

(Page _____)

Reasoning

This evidence demonstrates that

because

VOCABULARY JOURNAL

Word Page Number Definition Use the Word in a Sentence

(Complete additional pages as needed.)

FAVORITE QUOTE PAGE

My Favorite Quote:

“ _____ ”

Page Number _____

Why did I choose this quote?

What lesson does this quote teach?

REFLECTION

What is the most important lesson readers can learn from *The Hunger Games*?

How does this novel encourage readers to think critically about society?

How has this novel changed the way you think about power, sacrifice, and hope?

Remember

Literature is more than entertainment.

Stories challenge us to think deeply about ourselves, our communities, and the world we live in.

Great readers don't just ask what happened, they ask why it matters.

SECTION V

Creative Projects Handbook

Reading allows us to experience different worlds, question ideas, and better understand ourselves and society. These projects are designed to help you demonstrate your understanding of *The Hunger Games* in creative and meaningful ways.

Students will choose **ONE** project to complete.

Project Option #1

Capitol News Broadcast

Become a Capitol Correspondent

Imagine you are a reporter covering the 74th Hunger Games.

Create a news broadcast reporting on important events and developments.

Include

- ✓ Introduction
 - ✓ Major events
 - ✓ Interviews with tributes
 - ✓ Analysis of audience reactions
 - ✓ A conclusion
 - ✓ Images or visuals
-

Format

- Video
 - PowerPoint
 - Google Slides
 - Canva Presentation
-

Length

2–4 minutes

Standards Addressed

8W2, 8R6

Project Option #2

Character Journal

Step Into Katniss's Shoes

Write journal entries from Katniss Everdeen's perspective.

Include

- ✓ Five journal entries
- ✓ Thoughts and emotions

- ✓ Major events
 - ✓ Character growth
 - ✓ Reflections about survival and sacrifice
-

Length

At least one page per entry

Standards Addressed

8W3, 8R3

Project Option #3

Theme Poster

Choose one major theme from the novel.

Possible Themes

- Survival
 - Sacrifice
 - Hope
 - Power
 - Loyalty
 - Identity
 - Justice
-

Include

- ✓ Theme statement
 - ✓ Three quotations from the text
 - ✓ Images and symbols
 - ✓ One explanatory paragraph
-

Standards Addressed

8R1, 8R2

Project Option #4

Book Trailer

Imagine *The Hunger Games* is becoming a movie.

Create a trailer introducing the story without revealing the ending.

Include

✓ Main characters

✓ Setting

✓ Conflict

✓ Theme

✓ Music or narration

✓ Images

✓ Suspense

Length

1–3 minutes

Standards Addressed

8R5, 8R7

Project Option #5

District 12 Scrapbook

Create a scrapbook that captures life in District 12.

Include

- ✓ Photographs or illustrations
- ✓ Journal entries
- ✓ Newspaper clippings
- ✓ Family memories
- ✓ Descriptions of important places
- ✓ Reflections from Katniss or Prim

Format

Poster board

Canva

Google Slides

Scrapbook

Standards Addressed

8R3, 8R6

Project Option #6

Hero Comparison Project

Compare Katniss Everdeen to a real-world historical figure or leader.

Possible Figures

- Harriet Tubman
- Malala Yousafzai
- Rosa Parks
- Joan of Arc

- Martin Luther King Jr.
-

Include

- ✓ Biography
 - ✓ Similarities and differences
 - ✓ Quotations
 - ✓ Images
 - ✓ Written explanation
-

Standards Addressed

8W7, 8R9

Project Option #7

Design Your Own District

Create a new district in Panem.

Include

- ✓ District number
 - ✓ Industry
 - ✓ Flag or symbol
 - ✓ Geography
 - ✓ Traditions
 - ✓ Population
 - ✓ Description of daily life
 - ✓ Explanation of how the Capitol controls your district
-

Standards Addressed

8R5, 8R6

Project Option #8

Mockingjay Symbolism Project

Analyze the Mockingjay as a symbol.

Include

- ✓ Images
 - ✓ Quotations
 - ✓ Explanation of symbolism
 - ✓ Connections to hope and rebellion
 - ✓ One-page reflection
-

Standards Addressed

8R1, 8R2

Project Checklist

Before submitting your project, make sure you have:

- Followed all directions.
 - Included evidence from the novel.
 - Demonstrated creativity.
 - Used complete sentences.
 - Checked spelling and grammar.
 - Presented your work neatly.
-

Four-Point Project Rubric

Category	4 - Advanced	3 - Proficient	2 - Developing	1 - Beginning
Understanding of the Novel	Exceptional understanding	Strong understanding	Basic understanding	Limited understanding
Accuracy	Detailed and accurate	Mostly accurate	Some inaccuracies	Significant inaccuracies
Creativity	Highly original and engaging	Creative and thoughtful	Some creativity shown	Limited creativity
Organization	Excellent organization	Logical organization	Some organization	Difficult to follow
Effort	Exceptional effort	Good effort	Minimal effort	Incomplete

Due Date

Projects should be submitted during the first week of school in September.

Stories have the power to entertain us, but they also have the power to challenge us.

As you work on your project, think beyond the plot and ask yourself:

- What message is Suzanne Collins communicating?
- What can readers learn from Katniss's journey?
- How does this story reflect our own world?

Remember:

Creativity allows us to bring literature to life.

Analysis helps us understand why stories matter.

The best projects combine both.

SECTION VI

Argument Essay Workshop

Final Writing Assignment

One of the most important skills eighth graders develop is the ability to write an argument supported by evidence. Writers must make a claim, support it with evidence, and explain their reasoning.

As you read *The Hunger Games*, consider what motivates Katniss Everdeen and how her experiences shape her decisions.

Writing Prompt

Respond to the following question:

Is Katniss Everdeen primarily motivated by survival, or by her desire to protect others?

Use evidence from the novel to support your claim.

Understanding Argument Writing

Strong argument writing includes:

- ✓ A clear claim
 - ✓ Evidence from the text
 - ✓ Explanation of the evidence
 - ✓ Counterclaims
 - ✓ Logical organization
 - ✓ Strong conclusions
-

STEP 1: Brainstorming

Side #1

Katniss is primarily motivated by SURVIVAL.

Evidence:

Evidence:

Evidence:

Side #2

Katniss is primarily motivated by PROTECTING OTHERS.

Evidence:

Evidence:

Evidence:

STEP 2: Make Your Claim

After considering both sides, I believe that:

- Katniss is primarily motivated by survival.
 - Katniss is primarily motivated by protecting others.
-

STEP 3: Text Evidence

Quote #1

“ _____ ”

Page Number _____

Why is this quote important?

Quote #2

“ _____ ”

Page Number _____

Why is this quote important?

Quote #3

“ _____ ”

Page Number _____

Why is this quote important?

STEP 4: Claim-Evidence-Reasoning (CER)

Claim

I believe that Katniss Everdeen is primarily motivated by

because

Evidence

According to the text,

“ _____ ”

(Page _____)

Reasoning

This evidence demonstrates that

because

STEP 5: Counterclaim

Some readers may argue that

However,

STEP 6: Introduction Paragraph

Hook

Background Information

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins follows sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen as she struggles to survive in the dystopian nation of Panem.

Thesis Statement

Although some readers may believe that Katniss is motivated by _____, Suzanne Collins ultimately demonstrates that Katniss is primarily motivated by _____.

STEP 7: Body Paragraph One

Topic Sentence

One reason Katniss is motivated by _____ is

Evidence

Explanation

STEP 8: Body Paragraph Two

Topic Sentence

Another example occurs when

Evidence

Explanation

STEP 9: Counterclaim Paragraph

Opposing View

Some readers believe that

Evidence Supporting the Counterclaim

Rebuttal

However,

STEP 10: Conclusion Paragraph

Restate Your Claim

Final Thought

What lesson does Katniss's journey teach readers?

Transition Words

To Add Information

Furthermore

Additionally

Moreover

In addition

To Explain

Therefore

Because of this

As a result

This demonstrates

This reveals

To Introduce Counterclaims

Some readers may argue

Although

While it is true

Others believe

To Refute Counterclaims

However

Nevertheless

Despite this

On the other hand

To Conclude

Ultimately

Overall

In conclusion

Finally

Sentence Starters

Introducing Evidence

According to the text,

Suzanne Collins writes,

One example of this occurs when

The author states,

Explaining Evidence

This demonstrates that

This reveals that

This is important because

Readers can infer that

Argument Essay Checklist

Before submitting, make sure you have:

- Answered the prompt.
 - Written an introduction.
 - Included a thesis statement.
 - Supported your ideas with evidence.
 - Explained your evidence.
 - Addressed a counterclaim.
 - Used transition words.
 - Written a conclusion.
 - Checked spelling and punctuation.
-

Four-Point Writing Rubric

Category	4 - Advanced	3 - Proficient	2 - Developing	1 - Beginning
Claim	Clear, insightful, and well-developed	Clear and focused	Basic claim	Weak or unclear claim
Evidence	Strong and thorough evidence	Appropriate evidence	Limited evidence	Little or no evidence
Reasoning	Sophisticated analysis	Clear explanation	Basic explanation	Limited explanation
Organization	Excellent structure and transitions	Logical organization	Some organization	Difficult to follow
Conventions	Few or no errors	Minor errors	Several errors	Frequent errors

Reflection

Which side of the argument was easier to defend? Why?

How did writing an argument help you think more deeply about Katniss's character?

What lesson can readers learn from Katniss's choices?

As you prepare to enter high school, remember that great writers do more than summarize stories. They make claims, support ideas with evidence, and respectfully consider different perspectives.

Argument writing teaches us how to think critically, communicate effectively, and defend our beliefs with integrity.

Remember:

Readers ask questions.

Writers defend ideas.

Leaders use their voices to make a difference.

SECTION VII

Mini Research Project

Literature Reflects Life

One of the goals of eighth grade English is to explore how literature connects to history, society, and the human experience.

Throughout *The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins raises important questions about power, inequality, entertainment, and human nature. In this project, you will investigate one of these real-world topics and discover how it connects to the novel.

Research Prompt

Choose ONE topic and write a one-to-two-page informative report.

Your report should explain the topic clearly and include information from at least TWO reliable sources.

Research Topics

Ancient Roman Gladiators

How were gladiators similar to the tributes in the Hunger Games?

Reality Television

How does modern entertainment compare to the Hunger Games?

Government Propaganda

How do governments influence public opinion?

Economic Inequality

How does wealth affect opportunities and quality of life?

Dystopian Literature

What makes a novel dystopian?

Survival Psychology

How do people react in life-threatening situations?

Media and Society

How does media shape people's beliefs and behaviors?

Leadership and Power

What qualities make a good leader?

Social Class and Poverty

How do social classes impact individuals and communities?

Research Requirements

Students must:

- ✓ Use at least TWO reliable sources.
 - ✓ Take notes in their own words.
 - ✓ Include important facts and examples.
 - ✓ Write a one-to-two-page report.
 - ✓ Include a Works Cited page.
 - ✓ Use complete sentences.
-

Reliable Sources

Students are encouraged to use:

- ✓ Britannica School
 - ✓ Smithsonian
 - ✓ National Geographic
 - ✓ Newsela
 - ✓ History.com
 - ✓ Library Books
 - ✓ Government Websites
 - ✓ Educational Databases
-

STEP 1

Choose a Topic

My Topic:

STEP 2

Develop Research Questions

Question #1

Question #2

Question #3

STEP 3

Source Information

Source #1

Title:

Author:

Website or Publication:

Date Published:

Source #2

Title:

Author:

Website or Publication:

Date Published:

STEP 4

Note-Taking Organizer

Important Fact #1

Important Fact #2

Important Fact #3

Important Fact #4

Important Fact #5

STEP 5

Vocabulary

List important vocabulary words related to your topic.

Word Definition

STEP 6

Connections to *The Hunger Games*

How does your topic connect to Katniss and the events of the novel?

What similarities exist between the real world and Panem?

Why do you think Suzanne Collins chose to include these ideas in the novel?

STEP 7

Organize Your Report

Introduction

Introduce your topic and explain why it is important.

Body Paragraph One

Present important facts and examples.

Body Paragraph Two

Provide additional information and explanations.

Conclusion

Summarize what you learned.

STEP 8

Works Cited

MLA Format Example

Book

Author Last Name, First Name.

Title of Book.

Publisher, Year.

Website

Author Last Name, First Name.

“Title of Article.”

Website Name, Date Published, URL.

Example

Collins, Suzanne.

The Hunger Games.

Scholastic Press, 2008.

Research Report Checklist

Before submitting, make sure you have:

- Chosen a topic.
- Used two reliable sources.
- Taken notes in your own words.
- Written an introduction.
- Included facts and examples.
- Written a conclusion.
- Included a Works Cited page.

Checked spelling and punctuation.

Four-Point Research Rubric

Category	4 - Advanced	3 - Proficient	2 - Developing	1 - Beginning
Research	Thorough and detailed	Sufficient information	Limited information	Minimal research
Sources	Strong and reliable sources	Reliable sources used	Weak sources used	Few or no sources
Organization	Excellent structure	Logical organization	Some organization	Difficult to follow
Conventions	Few or no errors	Minor errors	Several errors	Frequent errors

Reflection

What was the most interesting thing you learned?

What surprised you most?

Which topic from the novel would you like to explore further?

Why is it important to examine the relationship between literature and society?

Books do more than tell stories.

They challenge us to ask questions.

They encourage us to think critically.

They help us understand ourselves and the world around us.

As you prepare for high school, remember that learning does not end when you close a book. Curiosity, compassion, and a willingness to seek truth are qualities that will serve you throughout your life.

Remember:

Readers ask questions.

Researchers seek answers.

Leaders use knowledge wisely.

And great stories inspire us to imagine a better world.

SECTION VIII

Bonus Pages

Congratulations!

You have completed the major sections of the Rising Eighth Grade ELA & Writing Summer Reading Program. These final pages are designed to encourage lifelong reading habits and help you reflect on everything you have learned this summer.

Summer Reading Bingo

Can you complete five squares in a row?

B	I	N	G	O
Read outside	Read for 30 minutes	Read a nonfiction article	Read before bed	Read with a family member
Read while traveling	Learn a new vocabulary word	FREE SPACE	Visit the library	Recommend a book to a friend
Write down a favorite quote	Read in a different location	Learn about a historical event	Read for one hour	Read with no distractions
Read a biography	Read a newspaper article	Read something inspirational	Read to a younger sibling	Read a magazine article
Finish a chapter book	Write a book review	Read a classic novel	Read on a rainy day	Complete your summer packet

Favorite Quotes

Quote #1

“ _____ ”

Book:

Why is this quote meaningful?

Quote #2

“ _____ ”

Book:

Why is this quote meaningful?

Quote #3

“ _____ ”

Book:

Why is this quote meaningful?

Reading Challenge Tracker

Can you reach your goal?

- Read for 10 days
 - Read for 20 days
 - Read for 30 days
 - Read for 40 days
 - Read for 50 days
 - Read for 60 days
-

Total Books Read This Summer

Total Minutes Read

Independent Reading Log

Title Author Genre Rating (1–5 Stars)

What I Learned This Summer

The most important lesson I learned was:

The most interesting thing I read about was:

A character I admired and why:

A quotation I will remember:

Something I would like to learn more about:

Student Self-Assessment

Please circle the answer that best describes your effort.

I completed all required reading.

Always

Usually

Sometimes

Not Yet

I used evidence from the text.

Always

Usually

Sometimes

Not Yet

I completed assignments carefully.

Always

Usually

Sometimes

Not Yet

I challenged myself as a reader and writer.

Always

Usually

Sometimes

Not Yet

I am prepared for eighth grade.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Unsure

Disagree

Preparing for High School

As you enter your final year at St. Margaret Catholic Academy, begin thinking about the qualities that will help you succeed in high school and beyond.

The qualities I hope to strengthen are:

- Responsibility
 - Organization
 - Leadership
 - Kindness
 - Perseverance
 - Time Management
 - Confidence
 - Integrity
-

One goal I have for this year is:

One thing I hope to accomplish before graduation is:

Parent Signature Page

I certify that my child has completed the required summer reading and writing assignments to the best of his or her ability.

Student Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Final Reflection

How has *The Hunger Games* changed the way you think about power, sacrifice, and hope?

What message do you think Suzanne Collins most wanted readers to understand?

Why do stories matter?

A Final Note:

Dear Students,

As you prepare to begin eighth grade, I hope this summer has been filled with moments of joy, relaxation, and meaningful learning.

The Hunger Games reminds us that courage often appears in ordinary people, that hope can exist even in difficult circumstances, and that kindness and sacrifice have the power to change lives.

As you enter your final year at St. Margaret Catholic Academy, I encourage you to continue asking questions, thinking critically, and treating others with compassion and respect.

Remember that education is not simply about earning grades. It is about becoming the kind of person who uses knowledge, wisdom, and faith to make the world better.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Spend time with family and friends, seek out new adventures, and never underestimate the power of a good book.

I look forward to hearing about your reading journey in September.

Happy Reading!

“There are much worse games to play.” — Suzanne Collins

Congratulations!

You have completed the

ST. MARGARET CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Rising Eighth Grade ELA & Writing Summer Reading Program

“Power, Survival, and the Human Spirit”

Summer 2026

Continue to read.

Continue to question.

Continue to grow.

See you in September!

****Please note: the use of AI for writing will result in an immediate zero earned for this packet****