Name _____   **Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School, New Haven**

2014-2015 Summer Reading Assignment – 7th and 8th Grade

DUE THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2014 (first day of school)

Directions:

1) Read this entire page carefully!

2) Read **5 books**. Complete the following chart about the five books you read (there is space for more than 5 books for our most avid readers!)

Book Title	Author	Number of pages

3) For **2** of the books, write **an informative/explanatory essay** (you should have two essays.) An example essay is attached. Use it to guide your own essays. Remember that the best writers:

- brainstorm (make a list of ideas of what to include)

- draft (write a rough draft of the complete essay)

- revise and edit (use a different colored pen to improve and make changes on the rough draft)

- publish final draft (typed, or in blue or black pen)

4) Obtain a parent/guardian signature: _____

5) **Turn in this sheet and your two essays on the first day of school (Thursday, August 28, 2014.) These assignments will be graded!**

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? CONFUSIONS?

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Again, over the summer, you are expected to:

1) Read 5 books

2) Fill out the front of this sheet

3) Read the sample informative/explanatory essay

4) Write two essays for two different books

INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY ESSAY RUBRIC

Criteria	Exemplary (5)	Effective (4)	Needs Improvement (3)
Theme	• discusses how theme is revealed in the piece	• mentions theme in the piece, but does not fully explain how the theme is revealed	• mentions what the story is about
Details from Text	• uses specific text evidence (in quotes) • fully analyzes the lines in the text	• points out significant lines from the text and provides some explanation of why they are important	• uses some information from the text, but does not directly quote the text
Organization/ Structure	• essay is well organized • there is a clear introduction, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion • uses model essay as a guide	• essay has some organization, but transitions can be clearer • attempts to use model essay as a guide	• essay is not organized, but shows some effort to include most important ideas
Mechanics (grammar, spelling, formatting)	0-2 errors that do not prevent full understanding of essay	2-4 errors that distract reader from the piece	more than 5 errors that distract reader from the piece

Total score: _____ / 20 = _____ %