

8th Grade Summer Reading List

Required:

Kon Tiki by Thor Heyerdahl

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

In addition, any of the following books will help prepare you for the material you'll encounter in 8th grade literature and writing. You **must** read at least one.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

The Little Prince by Antoine De Saint-Exupery

Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne

The Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder

For: *Kon-Tiki*

1. **ESSAY OPTION** In a page or two, describe what effect the publication of *Kon Tiki* had on the 20th Century's view of the settlement of Polynesia. Feel free to write your ideas in the form of a short story that is a continuation of Heyerdahl's narrative.

Or

2. **ACTIVITY OPTION B.** On Heyerdahl's re-telling of the journey, he gives reasonably clear descriptions of what happens, when, and where.

Turn these descriptions into a map, looking down at the Pacific from a bird's eye view. Indicate on the map the most significant events of the adventure.

AND

For: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

COMPARISON OF CHARACTERS

Many small, weak, young, or innocent characters like Alice encounter characters who frighten or overpower them. Write a further adventure for Alice, in which she encounters a character from another literary work. Your episode should incorporate Carroll's stylistic devices and philosophic beliefs: distortion, humor, and the triumph of the weak over the strong.