

**B. Garza Middle School**  
**Summer 2018 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Lists**

**Instructions for 8th Grade Students:**

Students are **required** to choose 1 of 8 books from the list provided for the completion of their summer reading assignment. These books are available at your local library, via e-book, online as a pdf, or you may purchase your own copy; however, this is not required.

We look forward to meeting you!

**NOTE: STUDENTS TAKING ENGLISH I MUST COMPLETE A DIFFERENT SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT. THIS ASSIGNMENT IS FOR ALL STUDENTS TAKING 8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS ONLY.**

	<b>LEXILE</b>		<b>LEXILE</b>
The Ender's Game Orson Scott Card	780	Estrella's Quinceañera Malin Alegria	690
Game Walter Dean Myers	800	Scribbler of Dreams Mary E. Pearson	640
Hole in my Life Jack Gantos	840	The Jumping Tree Rene Saldana	770
Everlost Neal Shusterman E-Book Available	860	The Tequila Worm Viola Canales	830

**B. Garza Middle School**  
**Summer 2018 Reading Assignment**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts**

All students are required to read 1 book from the Summer Reading list provided and complete the Plot Diagram and Journal Entries that follow. **Both assignments are due the first day of school.**

**PURPOSE:**

- Improve students' reading and writing ability
- Develop curiosity about the world through novels/short stories
- Create artists and scholars that are citizens of the world

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title and Author of Book/Short Story: \_\_\_\_\_

**ELEMENTS OF PLOT (Notes)**

**Characters** are the people or animals who take part in a story's action. Characters are directed by **motivation**—the reason or reasons that explain why characters act as they do.

**Characterization** is the way a writer reveals a character's personality and qualities.

**Theme** is the central message expressed in the story. A universal theme, or a recurring theme, is a message about life that is expressed in different cultures and time periods. Some common universal themes are:

\*Hard work always pays off in the end.

\*Youth can often see what adults cannot.

**Plot** is the sequence of events in a short story. It is usually divided into five parts:

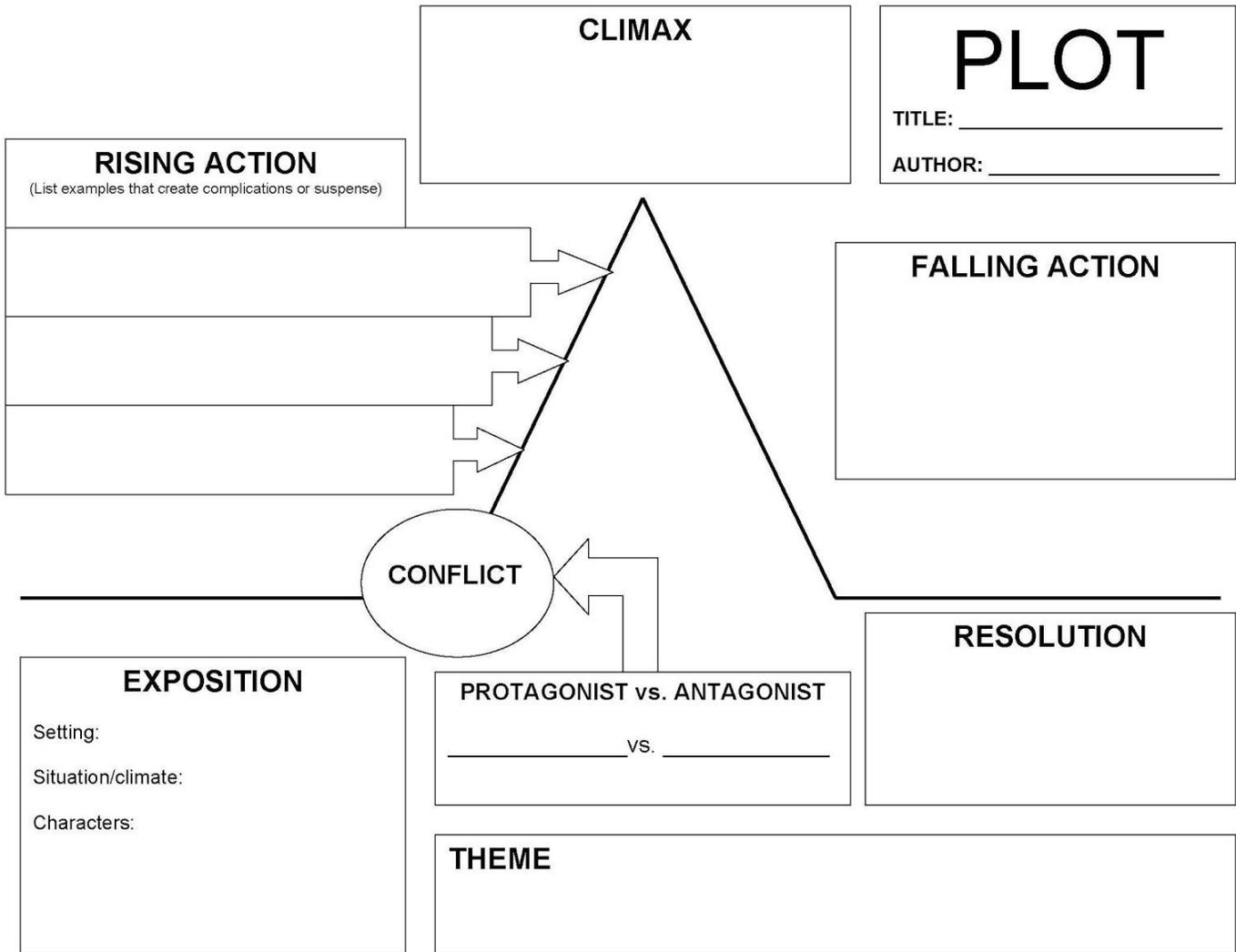
**Exposition** introduces the setting—the time and place of the story, the characters, and the basic situation. The setting is an important element of fiction. It often influences plot development.

**Rising action** introduces the conflict, or problem.

**Climax** is the turning point of a story (or the most exciting part).

**Falling action** is the part of the story when the conflict lessens.

**Resolution** is the story's conclusion.



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## Journal Entry Instructions

Students are required to choose six journal prompts/questions to answer from the following list for the book selected. Answers must be **hand-written** on notebook paper, must be at least six sentences in length, and must be titled with the following organizational format:

Name/Date:

Book Title/Author:

Pages Referenced:

Journal Prompt/Questions:

### Response (Six Sentence Minimum)

#### Journal Entry Choices

1. Describe a conflict (external or internal) in the book. The conflict could be between characters, between characters and nature, or between a character and him/herself. How would you respond if this happened to you? Who would you go to for advice? **Explain** your response.
2. What does the book teach you about human behavior, or what is the life lesson expressed in this book? What lesson did you learn from this book? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? Provide text examples/specific details from the book to support your responses. Be sure to **explain**.
3. If you could become one character in the book, who would it be and why? What personality traits and/or physical features attract you to this character? What does this character have that you admire? If you could select one actor to play one of the characters in the book, who would it be and why? Consider physical characteristics and personality traits in your response. Be sure to **explain**.
4. Choose one chapter or one section from the book that you liked. **Explain** why this chapter or section appealed to you. Illustrate a scene from this section. Your illustration may be a realistic sketch or symbolic. **Explain** how your illustration represents what you liked about this section.
5. Summarize and **explain** the ending of the book. Create a new ending.
6. Compare and contrast this book to another book you have read. How are the plots similar and different? How are the main characters alike or different (both physically and emotionally)? How are the endings alike and different? Be sure to **explain**.
7. Write a letter to one of the characters that you liked in the book. What would you say to this character? Include several questions for the character to answer. If you could give advice to one character in the book, who would it be and why? Be sure to reference a particular conflict.
8. Choose a character, event, or conflict, and write a poem, song, or other creative piece that symbolically represents your choice. Be sure to **explain** how your choice symbolically represents your character, event, or conflict.
9. Select one socially relevant topic discussed in the book. State and defend your position on the topic. Provide facts to support the way you feel. What values and ethics support your position? Be sure to **explain**.
10. What is the setting of the book? List twenty examples from the book that reveal or support the setting, such as music, language, clothing, food, recreation, and geographical features. Be sure to **explain**.