

8th Grade ELA Summer Reading

For your summer reading project, you'll create a two-pager in your writer's notebook that you will use in 8th grade. Two-pagers invite students to think deeply about a text and produce pages that represent its most important aspects. They usually include some images, doodles, or other graphic elements. Two-pagers are often full of color and may include more images than words, depending on the student. They're most commonly used in ELA classrooms but can be helpful in other subjects too.

Here are some guidelines for your two pager:

- The information and images fill whole pages.
- They're colorful and full of illustrations.
- The illustrations don't need to be expert, they just help emphasize a connection.
- Words are carefully chosen to highlight key concepts.
- Include the title and author on the pages.

Things to think about your reading before getting started:

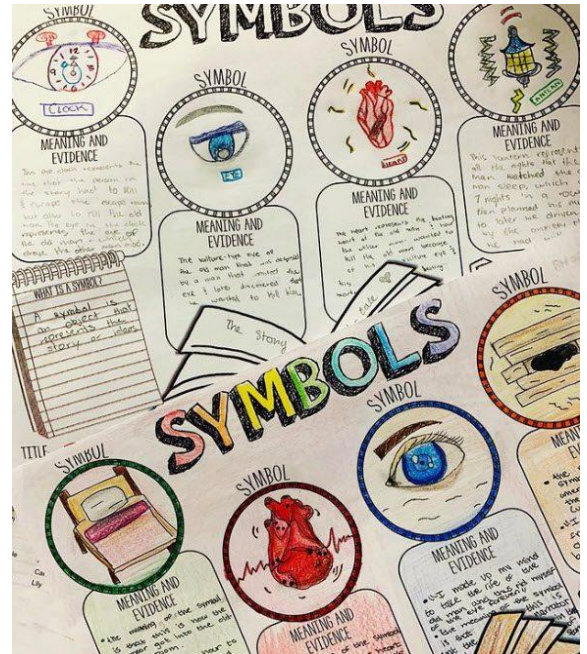
- What do you notice?
- What do you wonder?
- What words, lines or details jump out at you? Why?
- What emotions are you feeling as you explore the text?
- How does this text connect to you or your world, or to something else you've read/seen?
- What, if anything, is missing from this book? Why?
- What is your overall reaction to it? Why?

Here are a few questions to help you plan:

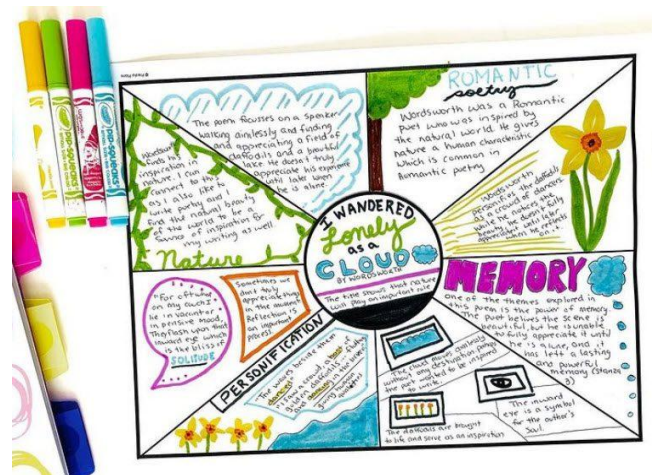
- How can you divide up your pages to fit everything you want to say?
- How can you use elements of design like color, shape and line to emphasize your ideas?
- Will you have one central illustration, or several smaller ones?
- How can you make the most of space like the borders of the page, but use it in such a way that your work is still legible?
- How does this two-pager trace your thinking about the topic and show highlights from it? How does it show connections between those ideas?

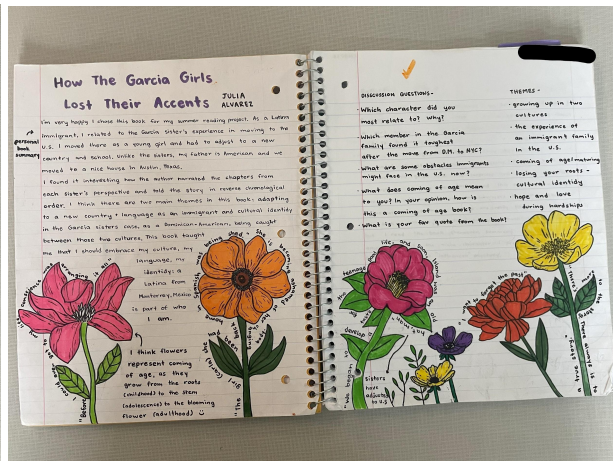
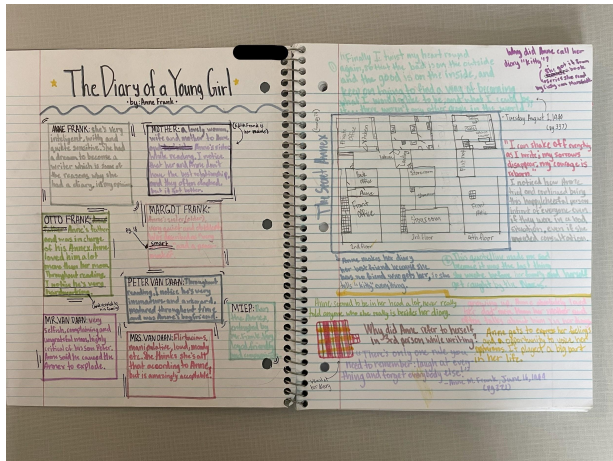
Some ideas to help you get started:





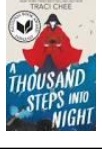
- Sketch one visual symbol that represents the text's **main theme**.
- Write out quotations that show the **author's style**.
- Include a sketch and a sentence representing the **setting**.
- Make **connections between the text and current events** using sketches and text.
- Examine one or two main **characters and their development**.
- Identify **symbols** through sketches or text.
- **Quote a phrase or line** from the book and explain what you believe it means.
- Draw images from the book and caption the **imagery** that inspired each image.
- Create a border using a **key phrase**.
- Build a **word or image cloud** that shows the main idea(s).
- Explain if you **recommend** this book to a friend.
- Write a short **poem** inspired by the reading.
- Illustrate something this book showed you about yourself as a **reader, listener or learner**.



More examples below 😊





<p>Choose your summer reading book from the list. You can find books at APL, Half Price Books, Bookshop, Pango, your local bookstore, or come talk to Mrs. Rodriguez about getting a copy!</p>			
<p>King and the Dragonflies</p>	<p>Kacen Callender</p>		<p>We first meet 12-year-old King as he walks to the bayou in his small Louisiana town after school to sit among the dragonflies. King believes his 16-year-old older brother, Khalid, who recently died, came back as a dragonfly, and he goes to seek him out at the bayou.</p>
<p>Iveliz Explains It All</p>	<p>Andrea Beatriz Arango</p>		<p>To navigate her school and home lives through depression and PTSD, a 12-year-old Latina retreats into her poetry and journal. Seventh grader Iveliz plans to make this a great year despite recent trauma. (Written in verse)</p>
<p>Haven Jacobs Saves the Planet</p>	<p>Barbara Dee</p>		<p>Twelve-year-old Haven Jacobs can't stop thinking about the climate crisis. In fact, her anxiety about the state of the planet is starting to interfere with her schoolwork, her friendships, even her sleep. She can't stop wondering why grownups aren't even trying to solve the earth's problem—and if there's anything meaningful that she, as a seventh grader, can contribute.</p>
<p>As Long As the Lemon Trees Grow</p>	<p>Zoulfa Katouh</p>		<p>A love letter to Syria and its people, "As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow" is a speculative novel set amid the Syrian Revolution, burning with the fires of hope, love, and possibility. Perfect for fans of The Book Thief and Salt to the Sea. Salama Kassab was a pharmacy student when the cries for freedom broke out in Syria.</p>
<p>A Thousand Steps Into the Night</p>	<p>Traci Chee</p>		<p>Female main character Miuko is cursed by a demon and travels the thousand-step highway to reach a temple where she can be cured of the curse before it turns her into a demon forever. (Read this if you like Studio Ghibli or Japanese Mythology).</p>

