

## Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Language Arts

#### Summer Work for 2025

This summer you will be reading the novel *Shades of Gray* by Carolyn Reeder. This novel takes place after the Civil War.

“The Civil War may be over, but for 12 year old Will Page, the pain and bitterness haven’t ended. He will have to leave his home in the Shenandoah Valley and live with relatives he has never met, people struggling to eke out a living on their farm in war-torn Virginia. Will’s uncle refused to fight for the Confederacy. Will first sees his uncle as a traitor and a coward, but as they work side by side he begins to respect him. He begins to see that his uncle stands up for what he believes in and rethinks his definition of honor and courage.” (partial Amazon review)

Link on Amazon:

<https://a.co/d/1e5xavp>

**The second page will have charts for taking notes on conflict and theme as you read the novel. Be mindful that these notes will be used to help you write an in class essay when you return to school. This essay will be used as a benchmark showing your writing skills and abilities. The notes will also be helpful as we discuss as a class and prepare our ideas for writing.**

1. **Describe what you believe to be the main conflict of the story. Give plot examples to support why this is the main conflict.**

Conflict (main problem in the story)

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Evidence/Support from plot/character's actions: (examples from the story- provide page numbers for easy recall in class)

**2. Select a theme that you think fits the novel: (Some possible choices- Duty, Hard Work, The Effects of War, Virtue- Behavior showing high morals)**

**Why is the theme you selected a good choice for the novel? Provide plot and character evidence/support from the book.**

Theme:

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Textual Evidence/Support from plot/character's actions: (examples from the story- provide page numbers as you jot notes)