

May 2015

Dear Eighth Grade Students,

The end of the school year has arrived! It's time to start thinking about summer. I hope that you include leisure reading as part of your daily activities. **Research shows that students who read more have better learning outcomes in all subjects.** Thus, we expect our middle school students to read 30 minutes a day throughout the summer. While you are encouraged to read books, newspapers, periodicals, and online text of their own choosing during vacation, you are required to read The Scorch Trials by James Dashner. You may read or listen to the audio book version (but, if you listen to the audio, you should also have a copy of the book to reference and have the first day of school – I recommend you follow along while you are listening, if possible).

On the first day of school, the attached assignment is due. These assignment will be graded as your first quiz grade. In addition, we will discuss the books at the beginning of the year and you will need to complete an in-class writing assignment within the first two weeks of school. For this writing assignment, you will need to have a copy of The Scorch Trials with you (or on your mobile device). If you are borrowing from the public library, please be sure to renew the book at the beginning of the school year. The writing assignment will be your first test grade. Please be sure to review the assignment before you begin to read because there are activities to be completed while reading.

Have a great summer and happy reading!

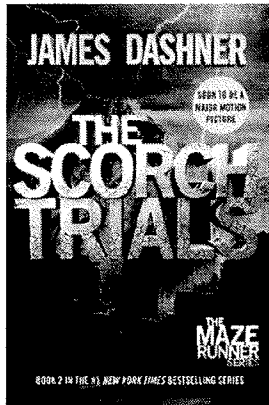
Sincerely,

Mrs. Jill Willhoite

P.S. We will go see The Scorch Trials in the theater when it comes out in September in order to do an assignment comparing and contrasting the book to the movie!.)

Required Reading for 8th grade “book club”:

The Scorch Trials by James Dashner (sequel to The Maze Runner)



School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—Thomas and his fellow Gladers thought they were safe at the end of *The Maze Runner* (2009). They had solved the Maze and were overjoyed to leave the glade. Their joy and relief are short-lived. The Earth is a wasteland and more dangerous trials await them. The boys are instructed to travel 100 miles and cross a vast wasteland that has been ravaged by solar flares. When they reach their destination, each survivor will be given immunity to a virus called the Flare that has infected the population. Along the way, the Gladers battle extreme heat, Cranks (bloodthirsty humans who have an advanced case of the Flare), and more. *Narrator Mark Deakins turns James Dashner's thrilling and suspenseful novel (2010, both Delacorte) into a nail-biting audiobook. He masterfully portrays the bewilderment and sheer exhaustion of the Gladers as they try to find meaning in the latest bizarre and cruel experiment. Tension mounts as Deakins plays with the story's pacing. Fans of the first title will not be disappointed and will eagerly await the conclusion to the trilogy.*

Assignment:

For this book, I am only asking that you keep track of the characters and their character traits while reading. You will turn in the character chart. Use the sample character traits, if needed.

I would suggest using sticky notes to keep track of the text evidence to prove your character traits.

For The Search Trials by James Dashner

5. **Character Descriptions** – For **4** major characters, provide traits and textual evidence (quotation) to support the trait. Also provide the page number for the textual evidence (quotation).

Name of Character	Character Trait	Textual Evidence to Support Trait & pg. #
Example: Ponyboy Curtis	Sensitive and loyal	“Like the way you dig sunsets, Pony. That’s gold. Keep that way, it’s a good way to be” (178). “... we were just buddies who stuck together” (138). “we all just wanted to stay together” (177).
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Sample Character Traits

able	demanding	hopeless	restless
active	dependable	humorous	rich
adventurous	depressed	ignorant	rough
affectionate	determined	imaginative	rowdy
afraid	discouraged	impatient	rude
alert	dishonest	impolite	sad
ambitious	disrespectful	inconsiderate	safe
angry	doubtful	independent	satisfied
annoyed	dull	industrious	scared
anxious	dutiful	innocent	secretive
apologetic	eager	intelligent	selfish
arrogant	easygoing	jealous	serious
attentive	efficient	kindly	sharp
average	embarrassed	lazy	short
bad	encouraging	leader	shy
blue	energetic	lively	silly
bold	evil	lonely	skillful
bored	excited	loving	sly
bossy	expert	loyal	smart
brainy	fair	lucky	sneaky
brave	faithful	mature	sorry
bright	fearless	mean	spoiled
brilliant	fierce	messy	stingy
busy	foolish	miserable	strange
calm	fortunate	mysterious	strict
careful	foul	naughty	stubborn
careless	fresh	nervous	sweet
cautious	friendly	nice	talented
charming	frustrated	noisy	tall
cheerful	funny	obedient	thankful
childish	gentle	obnoxious	thoughtful
clever	giving	old	thoughtless
clumsy	glamorous	peaceful	tired
coarse	gloomy	picky	tolerant
concerned	good	pleasant	touchy
confident	graceful	polite	trusting
confused	grateful	poor	trustworthy
considerate	greedy	popular	unfriendly
cooperative	grouchy	positive	unhappy
courageous	grumpy	precise	upset
cowardly	guilty	proper	useful
cross	happy	proud	warm
cruel	harsh	quick	weak
curious	hateful	quiet	wicked
dangerous	healthy	rational	wise
daring	helpful	reliable	worried
dark	honest	religious	wrong
decisive	hopeful	responsible	young