

# EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING PROJECT

**Book I: THE WIZARD OF EARTHSEA by Ursula Le Guin (A.R. 6.7)**

Write an essay (three to five pages) that analyzes how the author developed the protagonist and the antagonist in the novel.

Use the following to guide your essay:

1. Examine the characters based upon the information given in their physical descriptions.
2. Notice the characters' actions, and reactions with other characters in the novel.
3. How do the characters react to situations and events that occur in the novel?
4. What kinds of conflicts do the characters have?
5. What are their character traits—his or her personality traits?
6. What values do you associate with these characters?

This essay is an analysis NOT a summary of the characters or the plot.

You must support your ideas with quotes from the novel. Give examples from the novel.

## **Rubric for Grading:**

Introduction—20 points

Body (at least 3 paragraphs)—20 points

Conclusion—20 points

Correct punctuation—10 points

Correct Grammar—20 points

**THIS ESSAY MUST BE TYPED (12 font)!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

This project will be posted on my web page. If you have any questions that should arise during the summer, you can e-mail me at [dgrimes3@satx.rr.com](mailto:dgrimes3@satx.rr.com)

Rest, Relax, and Read during your summer in the sun. HAPPY READING!

## **Book II: Posterity: Letters of Great Americans to Their Children** By Dorie McCullough Lawson (A.R. Reading level: High School/Adult)

Posterity: All future generations (Webster's Dictionary)

As we study history in this your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, I want to focus on the idea that history is not just a list of dates and facts and people, but is a living, breathing, changing creature. As we study the past, we will reflect on what implications the events of the day and actions of the people have for us in 2009.

You are a part of a crucial turning point in your lives and in the history of our nation. You are adding to history. What will your children and grandchildren learn about what is going on in today's world?

- You will read the following sections of Posterity for the summer project and we will use the rest of the book during the school year.

The Forward and Introduction  
Continuity  
The Developing Mind  
Good Work  
The Pleasures of Life

- After reading all the letters in each of the above sections, choose one letter and craft a response back to the parent as if you were the child who received the letter.
- Create a personal example of posterity in your own family. What have past generations in your family left to you? Is there a story about someone that gets told over and over? Did something special happen to someone? Does your family have an heirloom piece of furniture or jewelry that holds special meaning? Of the categories of the letters you read, which category would your letter fit into.
- The story you choose to tell must be visually displayed with pictures and/or documents that help tell the story. You will present these to the class the first week of school.

Here is my personal example:

My family is not a famous one. We won't go down in the history books as a family with lots of money, or power, or great accomplishments, but we are a

family that is close knit and we love to tell stories about each other and we are proud of our heritage.

My Granddaddy Joe owned a little hardware store in downtown San Marcos for 60 years and a small lumberyard in Wimberley for 50 and he went to work almost every single day each of those years. I always remember that he wore button-down shirts with a western bolo tie to work. He knew everyone in town and had lots of friends. If there was anyone who didn't like him, I sure didn't know about it.

The hardware store was one of my favorite places to go! I would swing on a big metal gate that locked over the back door and get a soda out of the old-fashioned coke machine. The ceiling of the store was pressed tin and the floor was hardwood so that made the whole store echo. The bell over the big, plate glass front door would sing as people came in the store and the huge windows would shake as it slammed shut.

The store closed when Wal-Mart came to town. It might have closed anyway. Granddaddy was in his late 80's by then. My uncle and cousin run their dental practice in the space that was the store. But the same bell over the same door still slams and makes the windows shake.

For the visual product, I would make a poster with old pictures of my grandfather, the newspaper write up for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the store and some pictures of store.

Enjoy digging into the past. I look forward to hearing your stories!

**Rubric for Grading:**

Letter	30 points
*Adequately responding to the parent letter	
Personal Story details/clarity	30 points
Visual Display	30 points
Cover Sheet	5 points
Mechanics (spelling, grammar)	5 points