Beautiful Words - Summer Reading Assignment
Adapted from pennykittle.net

Overview of Assignment:
As you read your chosen summer reading book, first and foremost, enjoy this time to read for pleasure, relaxation, and opportunity. While you are only asked to read one book, you are encouraged to devour more!

During your reading, gather a collection of sentences, lines, and/or short excerpts that show the power of beautiful writing. Beautiful doesn't necessarily mean positive (as many of you are thinking).

Beautiful is anything meaningful or powerful. Anything that resonates with you. Phrases that make you think deeply or reveal hidden layers of the conflict or characters.

You are not looking for the typical definition of "beauty" or "beautiful."

You are collecting beautiful, powerful, **meaningful writing...**line by line.

For Example: The character in your book could be struggling with a conflict that is internal, external, or both. Throughout the book, look for how the author is describing thoughts, images, reactions, etc. that make you take pause and think deeply. These are words that resonate and create **BEAUTY**.

This is the power of beautiful writing.

Additional Examples: if your book is about a natural disaster, you can find the power in those lines...describing the fear; if your book is about war, you can find the power in those lines…describing the intensity of the situation.

The point is…author's weave words that create beauty, no matter what they are writing about.

Once you have collected beautiful words, phrases, and excerpts, you are ready to complete the activity.

**The assignment is due the first week of school. It will count as a Supportive Assessment grade.
You will have the opportunity to conference with your English teacher prior to turning in your work.**

Summer Reading Assignment Directions:

1. Read and collect a minimum of 10 lines that represent ***beautiful words***. As a suggestion, start your collection from the very moment you begin the book. Keep a journal or stack of post-it notes close by.
2. Create a one-page handwritten visual representation **OR** a PowerPoint slideshow.
3. Review the scoring criteria before turning in your assignment. Should you have questions, please confer with your English teacher during the first week of school prior to turning in your work.

Option 1 – Handwritten Visual Representation Guidelines:

- Title and author
- Quote 10 lines from your book that demonstrate beautiful writing.
- Briefly explain one central theme of the book.
- Briefly reflect on how you feel about that theme.
- Include a hand drawn image or artistic design that represents some aspect of the book.
- Note: All parts MUST be HANDWRITTEN.

Option 1 Scoring Criteria:

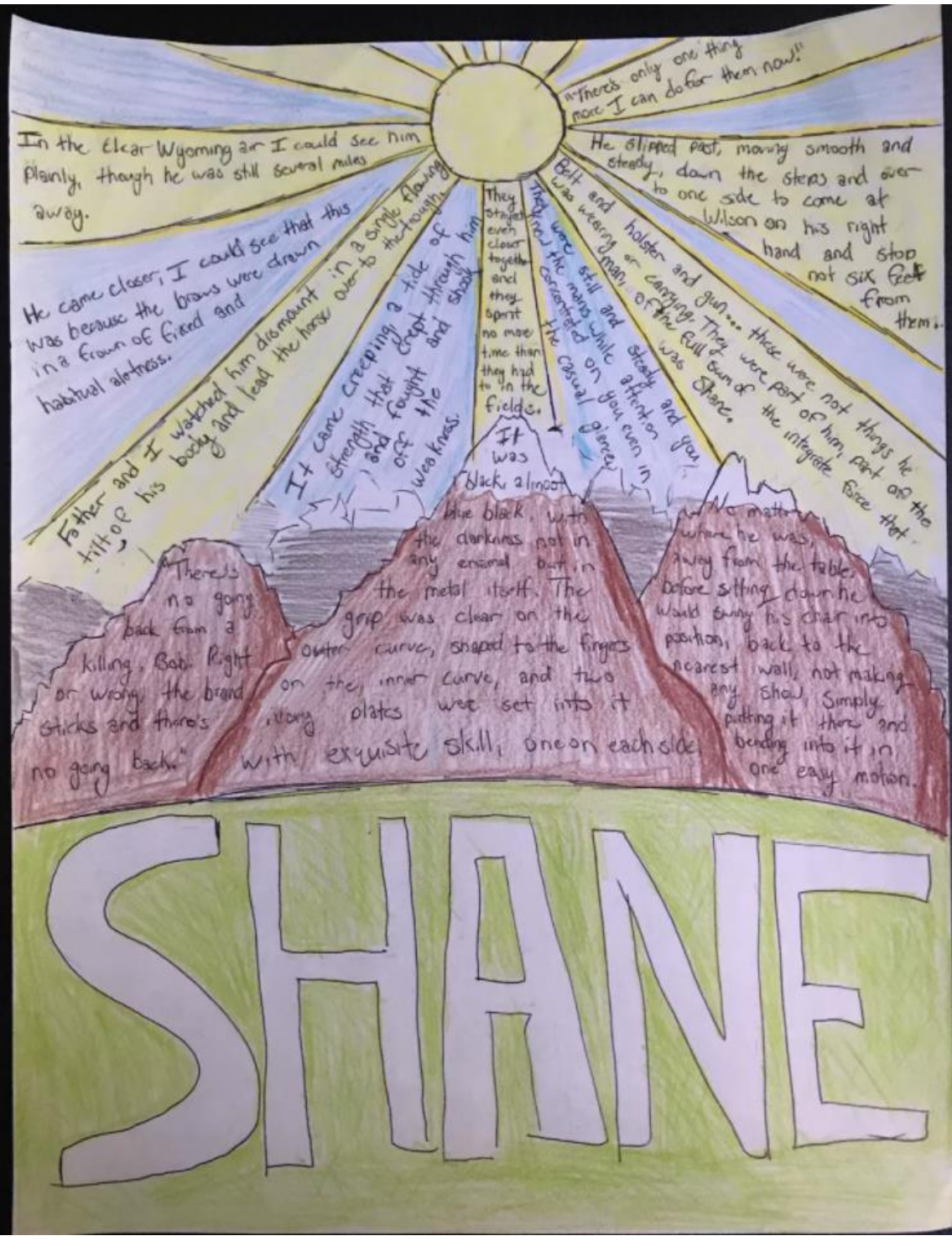| Full Credit	Partial Credit	No Credit
Title and Author	Title and Author	Assignment was not turned in and/or completed.
10 lines of beautiful writing	***Less than*** 10 lines of beautiful writing	
Brief explanation of one theme or central idea	Explanation of one theme or central idea ***missing or incomplete***	
Brief reflection of personal thoughts and feelings regarding the theme	***Missing or incomplete*** brief reflection of personal thoughts and feelings regarding the theme	
Hand-drawn image or graphic design that represents the book	Hand-drawn image/graphic design ***missing***	
Few, if any, grammar or mechanics errors	***Several*** grammar or mechanics errors	

See sample student projects below.

Option 2 – PowerPoint Slideshow Guidelines:

Slide #	What to Include on Each Slide
1	• Book Title • Author • Your Name • Your English Teacher's Name • Your Grade Level
2	• Write 2-3 sentences to explain one of the themes or central ideas found in your summer reading book. *(Remember, theme is the overall message the author is trying to convey to the reader. It is a big picture takeaway about life and the world around you.)*
3	• Write 2-3 sentences to explain your personal thoughts and feelings about the theme or central idea.
4	• Copy and paste 3-5 images that represents the theme you explained on Slide #2.
5	• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. *(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)*
6	• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. *(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)*
7	• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. *(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)*
8	• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. *(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)*
9	• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. *(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)*
10	• Write 2-3 sentences to explain your thoughts about the book, if you would recommend it to a friend, and why.

Option 2 PowerPoint Slideshow Scoring Criteria:

Full Credit	Partial Credit	No Credit
Title, Author, Your Name, Your Teacher's Name, Your Grade Level	Title, Author, Your Name, Your Grade Level	Assignment was not turned in and/or completed.
10 lines of beautiful writing	*Less than* 10 lines of beautiful writing	
Brief explanation of one theme or central idea	Explanation of one theme or central idea *missing or incomplete*	
Brief explanation of personal thoughts or feelings about the theme or central idea	*Incomplete or missing* brief explanation of personal thoughts or feelings about the theme or central idea	
3-5 images that represents the theme/central idea	*Less than* 3 images or images not included	
2-3 Sentences to explain your thoughts about the book and recommendation	*Incomplete or missing* explanation of thoughts and recommendation	
Few, if any, grammar or mechanics errors	*Several* grammar or mechanics errors	

Good writing is built on craft and heart
~ Cheryl Strayed

the ASTONISHING COLOR of AFTER

Emily X.R. Pan

a Novel

THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN OCTOPUS
~ ANN BRADEN

WHY did I think I'd be any different?

...he's the whole package — like an all-expenses-paid trip to Disney World package... maybe I'm the stub of an already used bus ticket — specifically the bus that my dad took to get away from us.

And even then I'm the ticket stub at the back of the bus with muddy boot marks all over it.

Like they never run out of gas in the car and can't fill it up.

Ms. Rochambeau's Raised Eyebrow of Disappointment.

I keep running my tentacle along the window, making the cloud bigger and bigger until there isn't any condensation left to draw in.

That's one of the things about the people on that beautiful tropical island: they can't see who's floating about in the ocean around them. Or maybe the canoes and they just choose not to look.

Sometimes you just need something solid that it's entirely in your hand. I have another rock that I need you to hold. And he takes it in his other hand, the lost bit of frenzy seems to leave him.

She pretends to believe me. I pretend I don't want to squirt octopus ink all over this class room.

Matt gets on the bus, holds his trumpet case in front of him so it can't poke anyone, and makes his way to the back... I've seen one of the things on their beautiful tropical island: they can't see who's floating about in the ocean around them. Or maybe they can and they choose not to look. I don't know. I've never been there.

Maybe I'm the stub of an already used bus ticket — specifically the bus that my dad took to get away from us — and even then I'm the ticket stub there at the back of the bus with muddy boot marks all over it.

If I were an octopus, things would be so much easier. I'd have one arm to... an another to... and one to...

Some people can do their homework. Some people get to have crashes on top. Some people have other things they've got to do.

He keeps shouting and it's like watching an ancient, wrinkled mountain explode.

To my mom, who raised me by herself and taught me how much strength can be below the surface of a person.

She is the steady bow that sent my arrow flying.

SHANE

In the clear Wyoming air I could see him plainly, though he was still several miles away.

He came closer, I could see that this was because the brows were drawn in a frown of fixed and habitual alertness.

Father and I watched him dismount in a single flowing tilt of his body and lead the horse over to the trough.

It came creeping a tide of strength that crept through him and fought and shook off the weakness.

They stayed even closer together and they spirit no more time than they had to in the fields.

It was black, almost blue black, with the darkness not in any enamel but in the metal itself. The grip was clear on the outer curve, shaped to the fingers on the inner curve, and two ivory plates were set into it with exquisite skill, one on each side.

"There's only one thing more I can do for them now!"

He slipped past, moving smooth and steady, down the steps and over to one side to come at Wilson on his right hand and stop not six feet from them.

...holster and gun... these were not things he was wearing or carrying. They were part of him, part of the man, of the full sum of the integrate force that was Shane.

They were still and steady and you concentrated on you even in the casual glance.

No matter where he was, away from the table, before sitting down he would swing his chair into position, back to the nearest wall, not making any show, simply putting it there and bending into it in one easy motion.

"There's no going back from a killing, Bob. Right or wrong, the brand sticks and there's no going back."

Option 2 PowerPoint Slideshow Sample Template

Feel free to create your own slideshow template as you follow the assignment guidelines and scoring criteria.

Here is a [template design](#).