8th Grade Diversity Essay

Throughout the school year we will read several novels that explore the topic of diversity. Therefore, you will choose two class novels and one independent novel to write about. For your choice book, feel free to ask me for suggestions; I have books you can borrow in my closet. Essay will be due **Friday May 17.**  It is important that you keep excellent notes on novels we read throughout the year!

Directions:

* Choose two class novels and one novel on your own that explore the topic of diversity.
* Write a short summary for each book.
* Discuss the problems/difficulties characters face in each book.
* Discuss the lesson/moral/message author wants the reader to learn in each book.
* In what ways does the author explore the topic of diversity? Examples: race, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, mental disabilities, physical disabilities, etc. (Discuss for each book.)
* Compare and contrast the books:
	+ In what ways are characters similar? Different?
	+ What themes are similar? Examples: Acceptance, tolerance, individuality, prejudice, racism, stereotypes, discrimination, loneliness, belonging, etc. Be sure to discuss in detail.
	+ Which book was your favorite? Why?
	+ Which book taught the most important lesson? Why?