



MILLER SCHOOL  
of ALBEMARLE

## Summer Reading Assignment

**Course:** English 8 – Introduction to Literature  
**Grade:** 8th  
**Teacher:** Mrs. Julia Hixson  
**Email:** [jhixson@millerschool.org](mailto:jhixson@millerschool.org)

**Required Book:** *The House of the Scorpion*, by Nancy Farmer (ISBN: 978-0689852237)

Your summer assignment is to read *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer. You should read the book in its entirety. As you read, please complete the activities that follow. All work should be your own, and all work should be ready to turn in on the first day of school. Work may be handwritten or typed out.

If you have questions, please email Mrs. Hixson ([jhixson@millerschool.org](mailto:jhixson@millerschool.org)).

Happy reading!

Date you began reading: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /2017

Date you finished reading: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /2017

### Part One

In your own words, write a four- to six-sentence summary of each section. Please be sure to use proper spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

Youth: 0 to 6 (Chapters 1-5)

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Middle Age: 7 to 11 (Chapters 6-14)

Old Age: 12 to 14 (Chapters 15-22)

Age 14 (Chapters 23-25)

La Vida Nueva (Chapters 26-38)

**Part Two**

Complete the following chart. Space has been left for you to add two additional characters.

<b>Character</b>	<b>Quotation from the book that reveals something about the character</b>	<b>Page # of quotation</b>	<b>Brief description of the character</b>
Matt			
El Patrón			
Celia			
Tam Lin			
María			

### **Part Three**

Respond to each of the following questions thoughtfully and thoroughly. Please be sure to use proper spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

What is the setting of the story? In what way is the setting important to understanding the story?

What are El Patrón's goals? What are Matt's goals?

Matt is eager to befriend the other children, even though he knows that he is not supposed to. Why do you think he makes an attempt to communicate and to play with them?

Matt is imprisoned in a stall for six months. How might prison be considered a metaphor for his entire life? Who is the warden of his prison? How does he ultimately escape his prison?

How does the story conclude? Explain how El Patrón achieves (or does not achieve) his goals. Explain how Matt achieves (or does not achieve) his goals.

Do you think Nancy Farmer had a purpose in writing this book? Explain.