



GRADE 7 REQUIRED READING

Forge Laurie Halse Anderson

Isabel rescues her friend Curzon from Bridewell Prison and rows away from Manhattan in their escape from slavery. Isabel goes her own way, and 15-year-old Curzon, passing as free, joins the Continental Army at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. Against the most desperate of circumstances, he forges a friendship with fellow soldiers. When he is enslaved again and meets up with Isabel, he and she must once again take liberty into their own hands and find a way to escape. Weaving a huge amount of historical detail seamlessly into the story, Anderson creates a vivid setting, believable characters, both good and despicable, and a clear portrayal of the moral ambiguity associated with the Revolutionary War.

Please note: We will be working with this text in class. You will need to purchase a copy of the book and annotate while reading.

Writing Assignment:

Analyze the character of Curzon, Isabel, Eben, Bellingham, or Burns. Be sure to include a thesis statement in your writing and to use specific examples from the text for support. Parenthetical citations are required. Your double-spaced typed response in a size 12 font should be one and a half to two pages in length.

ADDITIONAL READING

You will also read two (2) additional books as part of your summer reading. You should choose one of the books from the following list. For your second book, you are free to choose any other book, although you may choose a second book from this list. There are links at the end of this list that may help as well. There are some links at the end of the list that may help as well.

FICTION

Okay For Now Gary D. Schmidt

Doug Swietek struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam. Schmidt expertly weaves multiple themes of loss and recovery in a story teeming with distinctive, unusual characters and invaluable lessons about love, creativity, and survival.



The Running Dream Wendelin Van Draanen

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope with crutches and a first cyborg-like prosthetic, Jessica feels oddly both in the spotlight and invisible.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children Ransom Riggs

A family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive. Also consider reading *Hollow City: The Second Novel of Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children* and/or *Library of Souls: The Third Novel of Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children*.

The Hobbit J. R. R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit that enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

Mindblind Jennifer Roy

Fourteen-year-old Nathaniel is a genius. Or so he's been told. He could read at age three, has a memory like a computer, has already graduated from high school and college, and is ready to enter graduate school. However, Nathaniel has Asperger's Syndrome and has problems interacting with others socially, even with his good friends Jessa and Cooper. At most times, Nathaniel would rather stay in his own world and not have to worry about anyone or anything except himself.

Nevertheless, Nathaniel has to learn how to make it in reality. Nathaniel once read a book stating that a true genius will make a contribution to the whole world, and he struggles to find a way to make a real difference. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* Douglas Adams

Everyone has bad mornings. You wake up late, you stub your toe, you burn the toast...but for a man named Arthur Dent, this goes far beyond a bad day. When he learns that a friend of his is actually an alien with advanced knowledge of Earth's impending destruction, he is transported off the Earth seconds before it is exploded to make way for a new hyperspace motorway.

And as if that's not enough, throw in being wanted by the police, Earth II, an insane electronic encyclopedia, no tea whatsoever, a chronically depressed robot and the search for the meaning of life, and you've got the greatest adventure off Earth.



When We Wake Karen Healey

Tegan is just 16 when she dies - well, sort of. After being shot at a protest in Sydney in 2027, she awakens in the future in a government facility where she's been preserved and frozen for 100 years. Being the first successfully revived human in Australia means that Tegan is an instant celebrity in a world that is much different from the one that she knows. As she struggles to build a life for herself with some sense of normalcy, she learns that not all citizens are excited about the scientific advancement that brought her back to life, and that the government that saved her might not have the best intentions.

Guitar Notes Mary Amato

On odd days, Tripp Broody uses a school practice room to let loose on a borrowed guitar. Eyes closed, strumming that beat-up instrument, Tripp escapes to a world where only the music matters. On even days, Lyla Marks uses the same practice room. To Tripp, she's trying to become even more perfect—she's already a straight-A student and an award-winning cellist. But when Lyla begins leaving notes for him in between the strings of the guitar, his life intersects with hers in a way he never expected. What starts as a series of snippy notes quickly blossoms into the sharing of interests and secrets and dreams, and the forging of a very unlikely friendship.

Code Name Verity Elizabeth Wein

Two young women from totally different backgrounds are thrown together during World War II: one a working-class girl from Manchester, the other a Scottish aristocrat, one a pilot, the other a wireless operator. Yet whenever their paths cross, they complement each other perfectly and before long become devoted friends.

But then a vital mission goes wrong, and one of the friends has to bail out of a faulty plane over France. She is captured by the Gestapo and becomes a prisoner of war. The story begins in Verity's own words, as she writes her account for her captors.

The Book Thief Markus Zusak

It is 1939 in Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still, particularly as he narrates the story of Liesel Meminger. She is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Midnight at the Electric Jody Lynn Anderson

Jody Lynn Anderson's epic tale—told through three unforgettable points of view—is a masterful exploration of how love, determination, and hope can change a person's fate. Though a portion of this book is set in the near future, it's more a work of historical fiction as it focuses a great deal on England just after WWI, and Kansas during the Dust Bowl.



2065: Adri has been handpicked to live on Mars, but weeks before launch, she discovers the journal of a girl who lived in her house more than a hundred years ago and is immediately drawn into the mystery surrounding her fate.

1934: Amid the fear and uncertainty of the Dust Bowl, Catherine's family's situation is growing dire. She must find the courage to sacrifice everything she loves in order to save the one person she loves most.

1919: In the recovery following World War I, Lenore tries to come to terms with her grief for her brother, a fallen British soldier, and plans to sail from England to America. But can she make it that far?

While their stories span thousands of miles and multiple generations, Lenore, Catherine, and Adri's fates are entwined in ways both heartbreaking and hopeful. In haunting, lyrical prose, human connections spark spellbindingly to life, and a bright light shines on the small but crucial moments that determine one's fate.

Solo Kwame Alexander and Mary Rand Ness

Blade never asked for a life of the rich and famous. In fact, he'd give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star with delusions of a comeback. Or to no longer be part of a family known most for lost potential, failure, and tragedy, including the loss of his mother. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship, assuming Blade will become just like his father. In addition, consider ***Swing***, also by Alexander and Hess.

Bruiser Neal Shusterman

Tennyson is not surprised, really, when his family begins to fall apart, or when his twin sister, Brontë, starts dating the misunderstood bully, Brewster (or The Bruiser, as the entire high school calls him). Tennyson is determined to get to the bottom of The Bruiser's reputation, even if it means gearing up for a fight. Brontë, on the other hand, thinks there's something special underneath that tough exterior. And she's right...but neither she nor Tennyson is prepared for the truth of what lies below the surface.

NONFICTION

Vincent and Theo; The Van Gogh Brothers Deborah Heiligman

The deep and enduring friendship between Vincent and Theo Van Gogh shaped both brothers' lives. Confidant, champion, sympathizer, friend—Theo supported Vincent as he struggled to find his path in life. They shared everything, swapping stories of lovers and friends, successes and disappointments, dreams and ambitions. Meticulously researched, drawing on the 658 letters Vincent wrote to Theo during his lifetime, Deborah Heiligman weaves a tale of two lives



intertwined and the extraordinary love of the Van Gogh brothers.

Food Justice Robert Gottlieb

From seed to supermarket, every facet of food production is a potential target for abuse and exploitation. Meticulously chronicling the genesis of the deteriorating state of food production, distribution, and consumption, Gottlieb and Joshi also highlight inspiring and innovative success stories at both grassroots and high-profile levels. Unfortunately injustices in the way food is produced and consumed won't go away over night. But if, as Food Justice advocates, we work together and focus on community-based initiatives, then we are on the right track.

Isaac the Alchemist Mary Losure

A Surprising true story of Isaac Newton's boyhood suggests an intellectual development owing as much to magic as science. Before Isaac Newton became the father of physics, an accomplished mathematician, or a leader of the scientific revolution, he was a boy living in an apothecary's house, observing and experimenting, recording his observations of the world in a tiny notebook.

As a young genius living in a time before science as we know it existed, Isaac studied the few books he could get his hands on, built handmade machines, and experimented with alchemy—a process of chemical reactions that seemed, at the time, to be magical. Mary Losure's riveting narrative nonfiction account of Isaac's early life traces his development as a thinker and includes source notes, a bibliography, and an index.

I Am Malala Malala Yousafzai

This book offers a glimpse into the lives of an extraordinary Pakistani teenager and her family and the difficulties of living in a country that is in the clutches of extremists. Malala's actions demonstrate what can happen when one voice speaks up to inspire change in our world.

Far From the Tree: Young Adult Edition Calkhoven and Solomon

A stunning, poignant, and affecting young adult edition of Solomon's award-winning masterpiece, ***Far From the Tree***, which explores the impact of extreme differences between parents and children.

The old adage says that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, meaning that children usually resemble their parents. But what happens when the apples fall somewhere else—sometimes a couple of orchards away, sometimes on the other side of the world?

Hope Nation: YA Authors Share Personal Moments of Inspiration

Hope is a decision, but it is a hard one to recognize in the face of oppression, belittlement, alienation, and defeat. To help embolden hope, here is a powerhouse collection of essays and personal stories that speak directly to teens and all YA readers. Featuring Angie Thomas, Marie Lu, Nicola Yoon, David Levithan, Libba Bray, Jason Reynolds, Renée Ahdieh, and many more!



Please read one (1) book of your own choosing. If you are looking for ideas, the sites below include many possibilities.

<http://library.booksite.com/6334/nl/?list=ALAYA&group=current>

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