Summer Reading Packet for Students Starting English 8
2020 - 2021

This packet includes the book lists for English summer reading and the related assignments. Students should read *Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi and at least one book from the Reading Choice List. Each student should have access to a paper copy of each book so that they can refer to them in English class. Happy reading!

Summer Reading Checklist to Complete for the First Day of School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Complete</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read <em>Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card</em> by Sara Saedi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Assignment #1: Prepare for Book Club Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read a Book from The Choice List</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Assignment #2:</td>
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“Reading brings us unknown friends.”
-Honore de Balzac
Read *Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* and complete Assignment #1 (Prepare for a Book Club Meeting) before the first day of school. Bring your paper copy of the book with you to English Class!

*Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi (1030L)
Sara has lived in the United States since she was two years old and, now 13, she’s *basically* an American “girl next door....” Except she’s Iranian, boyfriendless, unibrowed, and undocumented. This humorous--but appropriately serious--memoir recounts Sara and her family’s 20-year saga through the naturalization process.
Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment #1 - Prepare for a Book Club Meeting

1. What is a part of the book that you would like to share with your group because you made a connection to it? (Please note the page number.) Explain your connection and why you picked this part to share.

2. What is a part of the book that extended your thinking or made you think of something in a new way? (Please note the page number.) Perhaps this part of the book shed light on a conflict that you thought of in a new way. Maybe you learned something new from this book. Explain it here.

3. What is something that you are still challenged by or confused about with this book? Write some questions to ask your group members.
English 8 Summer Reading Choice List:

Read ONE of these books and complete Assignment #2. Bring your paper copy of the book with you to English Class!

Adventure

The False Prince by Jennifer A. Neilsen (710L)
Choose to lie...or choose to die? In a discontent kingdom, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. Sage knows that Conner's motives are more than questionable, yet his life balances on a sword's point -- he must be chosen to play the prince or he will certainly be killed. But Sage's rivals have their own agendas as well.

Bamboo People by Matali Perkins (680L)
Narrated by Chiko and Tu Reh, teenage boys on opposing sides of the conflict between the Burmese government and the Karenni, one of Burma's many ethnic minorities, this coming-of-age novel takes place against the political and military backdrop of modern-day Burma.

Dystopian Fiction

Railsea by China Mieville (730L)
On board the moletrain Medes, Sham Soorap watches in awe as he witnesses his first moldywarpe hunt: the giant mole bursting from the earth, the harpoonists targeting their prey, the battle resulting in one's death & the other's glory. But no matter how spectacular it is, Sham can't shake the sense that there is more to life than traveling the endless rails of the railsea--even if his captain can think only of the hunt for the ivory-colored mole she's been chasing since it took her arm all those years ago. When they come across a wrecked train, at first it's a welcome distraction. But what Sham finds in the derelict--a kind of treasure map indicating a mythical place untouched by iron rails--leads to considerably more than he'd bargained for.

Scythe by Neal Shusterman (830L)
In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly “gleaned” by professional reapers (‘scythes’). Two teens must compete with each other to become a scythe--a position neither of them wants. Subjected to killcraft training, exposed to numerous executions, and discouraged from becoming allies, the two find themselves helpless in a fatal competition; The one who becomes a scythe must kill the one who doesn't.

Pacifica by Kristen Simmons (720L)
Blue skies. Green grass. Clear ocean water. An island paradise like the ones that existed before the Melt. A lucky five hundred lottery winners will be the first to go, the first to leave their polluted, dilapidated homes behind and start a new life. It sounds perfect. Like a dream. The only problem? Marin Carey spent her childhood on those seas and knows there's no island paradise out there. She's corsario royalty, a pirate like her father and his father before him, and she knows a con when she sees one. So where are the First Five Hundred really going?

Fantasy/Magical Realism

The Cruel Prince by Holly Black (760L)
Jude was seven years old when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King.
Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor (590L)
Twelve-year-old Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has latent magical powers which she and three similarly gifted friends use to catch a serial killer.

Historical Fiction

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation: The Pox Party by M.T. Anderson (1090L)
At the dawn of the Revolutionary War, young Octavian is raised in highly unusual circumstances at the Novlangian College of Lucidity. Though the scholars give him a first-rate education, they also monitor him closely…too closely. As he grows older, Octavian learns the horrifying truth of his situation, and that truth leads him to question his understanding of himself and the Revolution: if the Patriots can fight for their freedom, why can't he fight for his?

My Lady Jane by Cynthia Hand (760L)
On the eve of her marriage to a stranger, sixteen-year-old Lady Jane Grey is swept in a conspiracy to usurp the throne from her cousin. An irreverent version of the true story of Lady Jane Gray and King Edward VI.

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusack (730L)
Death is the narrator of this acclaimed novel about a foster girl named Liesel Meminger who is living outside Nazi-occupied Munich in 1939. She begins stealing books and learns to read with the help of her foster father. She then shares the stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Realistic Fiction

La Linea by Ann Jaramillo (650L)
When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.

Jellicoe Road by Melina Marchetta (820L)
Taylor Markham isn't just one of the new student leaders of her boarding school, she's also the heir to the Underground Community, one of three battling school factions in her small Australian community. For a generation, these three camps have fought "the territory wars," a deadly serious negotiation of land and property rife with surprise attacks, diplomatic immunities, and violence. Only this year, it's complicated: a rival faction leader might be the only person who can help find Taylor's wayward mother.

Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds (760L)
Matt wears a black suit every day. No, not because his mom died—although she did—but for his gig at the local funeral home, which pays way better than the Cluck Bucket. He needs the income since his dad can't handle the bills (or anything, really) on his own. So while Dad's up to no good, Matt's snagging fifteen bucks an hour. Not bad. But everything else? Not good. Then Matt meets Lovey and she's been through more crazy stuff than he can imagine. Yet Lovey is tough. Really tough. Which is maybe why he's drawn to her, and definitely why he can't seem to shake her.

Memoirs and Nonfiction

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates (1090L)
A bold and honest look at what it means to live within a black body and how to navigate through the falsehoods of race. From the slavery and segregation of America's past, to the incarceration and murder of black women and men today, Coates gives a voice to black American history and shares a vision for a better tomorrow.

Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea by Sungju Lee (880L)
Lee, an only child, grew up comfortably in the nation's capital of Pyongyang because his father was a well-respected member of the military. Yet with no warning, the boy and his parents were deported to the countryside. Mass hunger, public executions, and unemployment were rampant—a stark contrast to the
propaganda Lee had been taught his whole life. Forced by starvation, Lee's parents left him in search of commerce or emigration, leaving Lee to fend for himself in an unpredictable and dangerous environment.

**Science Fiction**

*Genius: The Game* by Leopoldo Bout (690L)
Three underprivileged, teen technology and engineering prodigies from across the world team up to solve the universe's most dangerous game.

*Exo* by Fonda Lee (810L)
For a century now, Earth has been a peaceful colony of an alien race. Donovan Reyes' father is the Prime Liaison of the colony and they are both extreme loyalists to the alien race. In an ambush, Donovan is kidnapped by intergalactic terrorists who hold him for ransom. Donovan soon realizes he and the coveted exocel attached to his body, are his only chance for freedom.

*Orleans* by Sherri Smith (750L)
A deadly virus has turned the Mississippi Delta into a new, primitive society where tribes based on blood types fight to remain alive. When fifteen year old Fen de la Guerre's tribe is ambushed, she is sent on a harrowing journey to bring her tribe leader's baby to the Outer States, potentially exposing the baby and herself to the virus.
Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment #2

Which book did you read and why did you choose this book?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literary Elements:</th>
<th>Evidence: (Record page numbers that have significant passages about each literary element.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characters:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Setting(s):</td>
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<td>Conflict(s):</td>
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<td>Theme(s):</td>
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Summary of Passage (see assignment description below.)

Page number and paragraph number of passage.
Assignment #2

**Paragraph 1**: Choose a significant passage to analyze in a P.E.E. paragraph.
- Your **point** must show the importance of this passage.
- Your **evidence** must be quotes from the text and use correct MLA citation.
- Your **explanation** must analyze and explain why these quotes prove that this passage is significant.

**Paragraph 2**: Write a P.E.E. paragraph that identifies and supports your opinion about why we should or should not read this book. Your paragraph must be structured as follows:
- Your **point** sentence must state why a specific literary element (character, setting, conflict, or theme) makes this book worthy of reading or not.
- Your **evidence** must be quotes from the text that shows how the author uses this literary element effectively or not.
- Your **explanation** must analyze and explain why the quotes you have chosen prove your point and consider the author’s intention.

**Assignment #2 should be typed, revised, edited, and ready for publication in a Google Document on day 1 of school.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>RUBRIC</th>
<th>Does Not Meet</th>
<th>Meets</th>
<th>Exceeds</th>
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| **Paragraph 1 Content** | - Paragraph does not have a sufficiently clear point.  
- Paragraph is missing quotes or quotes are not relevant to point.  
- Explanation does not sufficiently analyze the significance of this passage. | - Paragraph makes a clear point about passage.  
- Paragraph uses quotes from the passage to prove point.  
- Explanation and analysis discusses significance behind this passage. | - Paragraph makes a clear and compelling point about passage.  
- Paragraph uses thoughtfully selected quotes from the passage to prove point.  
- Explanation and analysis considers the author’s intention. |
| **Paragraph 2 Content** | - Paragraph does not have a sufficiently clear point.  
- Paragraph is missing quotes or quotes are not relevant to point.  
- Explanation does not sufficiently analyze the author’s intent. | - Paragraph makes a clear point about why/why not a literary element makes this book a worthy read.  
- Paragraph uses quotes from the book to prove point.  
- Explanation and analysis considers author’s intent behind the literary element. | - Paragraph makes a clear and compelling point about why/why not a literary element makes this book a worthy read.  
- Paragraph uses thoughtfully selected quotes from the book to prove point.  
- Explanation and analysis skillfully considers author’s intent behind the literary element. |
| **Organization** | - Paragraphs do not demonstrate adequate understanding of P.E.E. structure. | - Paragraphs demonstrate a solid understanding of P.E.E. structure. | - Paragraphs demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of P.E.E. structure. |
| **Style and Language** | - Paragraphs have many errors in sentence structure, grammar, and spelling. | - Paragraphs use mostly complete, accurate sentences.  
- Paragraphs are mostly free from grammatical and spelling errors. | - Paragraphs use complete, accurate sentences.  
- Paragraphs are free from grammatical and spelling errors. |