

Seventh Grade
Summer Reading 2021

“When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.”
— Maya Angelou

REQUIRED:
CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Mass, Wendy. **EVERY SOUL A STAR.** At Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, thousands have gathered to catch a glimpse of a rare and extraordinary total eclipse of the sun. Three lives are about to be changed forever. Told from three distinct teen-age voices and perspectives, Wendy Mass weaves an intricate and compelling story about strangers coming together, unlikely friendships, and finding one's place in the universe.

Smith, Roland. **PEAK.** After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with a choice: wither away in juvenile detention or fly to Kathmandu with his long-lost father. Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (for project):

Alexander, Kwame. **THE CROSSOVER.** Twins, Josh and Jordan, are junior high basketball stars thanks in part to the coaching of their dad, a former professional basketball player, who is forced to quit playing for health reasons. The family faces a family health crisis and they learn what is really important. This exciting novel in verse will be a powerful reminder of the value of family.

Benjamin, Ali. **THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH.** After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting because things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory-- even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.

Bruchac, Joseph. **CODE TALKER.** Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. With their code, they saved countless American lives, yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker.

Card, Orson Scott. **ENDER'S GAME.** Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

Cochrane, Mick. **THE GIRL WHO THREW BUTTERFLIES.** Dealing with her father's death in a car accident six months prior and her mother's subsequent zombie-like disinterest in life, Molly hopes that playing on the eighth-grade boys' baseball team will keep her connected to her dad.

Creech, Sharon. **WALK TWO MOONS.** By drawing strength from her Native American ancestry, thirteen-year-old Salamanca is able to face the truth about the disappearance of her mother.

Draper, Sharon. **STELLA BY STARLIGHT.** Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late

night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.

Elliott, Laura. **UNDER A WAR TORN SKY**. In 1944, nineteen-year-old Hank is an American pilot flying his 15th bombing mission when his plane is shot down over Alsace, near the Swiss border. Locals assist him in getting to neutral territory. At this location, a Red Cross doctor advises him to attempt an escape from Europe across France with the help of the French Resistance.

Gratz, Alan. **PROJEKT 1065**. It is 1943, and thirteen-year-old Michael O'Shaunessey, son of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany in Berlin, is also a spy for the British Secret Service, so he has joined the Hitler Youth. Pretending that he agrees with their violence and book-burning is hard enough—but when he is asked to find out more about "Projekt 1065" both his and his parents' lives get a lot more dangerous.

Hughes, Dean. **SOLDIER BOYS**. Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II. Will their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge?

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. **FISH IN A TREE**. "Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid." Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

Kadohata, Cynthia. **KIRA-KIRA**. The Japanese-American Takeshima family moves from Iowa to Georgia in the 1950s when Katie is just in kindergarten. Though her parents endure grueling conditions and impossible hours in the non-unionized poultry plant and hatchery where they work, they somehow manage to create a loving, stable home for their three children: Lynn, Katie, and Sammy. Katie's trust in, and admiration for, her older sister Lynn never falters, even when her sisterly advice doesn't seem to make sense.

Lane, Andrew. **REBEL FIRE: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LEGEND BEGINS**. Fourteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes knows that Amyus Crowe, his mysterious American tutor, has some dark secrets. But he didn't expect to find John Wilkes Booth, the notorious assassin, apparently alive and well in England—and Crowe somehow mixed up in it. When no one will tell you the truth, sometimes you have to risk all to discover it for yourself. And so, begins an adventure that will take Sherlock across the Atlantic, to the center of a deadly web—where a friend is in peril and a defeated army threatens to rise again.

London, Jack. **WHITE FANG**. First published in 1906, this novel tells the story of a wolf who becomes tame and sacrifices himself to save his master.

Messner, Kate. **BREAKOUT**. Nora Tucker is looking forward to summer vacation in Wolf Creek—two months of swimming, popsicles, and brushing up on her journalism skills for the school paper. But when two inmates break out of the town's maximum-security prison, everything changes...doors are locked, helicopters fly over the woods, and police patrol the school grounds. Worst of all, everyone is on edge, and fear brings out the worse in some people Nora has known her entire life. Even if the inmates are caught, she worries that home might never feel the same. Inspired by the true event of a prison break in upstate NY in 2015.

Mikaelsen, Ben. **TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR**. After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen-year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

Nielsen, Jennifer. **A NIGHT DIVIDED.** A stunning thriller about a girl who must escape to freedom after the Berlin wall divides her family between east and west. Gerta, her mother, and brother, Fritz, live on the eastern side controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother have gone west in search of work and cannot return home. One day on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side. Gerta then receives a mysterious message with an escape plan. If caught, the consequences might be deadly.

Sandler, Martin. **THE IMPOSSIBLE RESCUE: THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMAZING ARCTIC ADVENTURE.** In 1897 in the Arctic waters off Alaska's coast, winter blasted early, bringing storms and ice packs that caught eight American whale ships and three hundred sailors off guard. Here is the incredible story of three men sent by President McKinley to rescue them. The mission? A perilous trek over 1,500 miles of nearly impassable Alaskan terrain, in the bone-chilling months of winter, to secure two herds of reindeer (for food) and find a way to guide them to the whalers before they starve.

Smith, Sherri. **FLYGIRL.** Ida Mae Jones is an eighteen-year-old Louisiana girl who longs to be a pilot in December 1941, on the eve of America's entrance into World War II. She is pretty and smart, but she has two huge strikes against her. Will she be denied her pilot's license because she is an African-American woman?

Tolkien, J. R. R. **THE HOBBIT: OR, THERE AND BACK AGAIN.** In this fantasy, a prelude to THE LORD OF THE RINGS, Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, lives in a land filled with dwarves, elves, goblins, and dragons.

Townsend, Jessica. **NEVERMOOR: THE TRIALS OF MORRIGAN CROW.** This is part of a breathtaking, enchanting series about a cursed girl who escapes death and finds herself in a magical world but is then tested beyond her wildest imagination.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **HARBOR ME.** For an hour each week, six kids with learning differences share their stories. It all starts when they meet for a weekly chat and discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them. They discuss everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Hayley's father's incarceration to Aman's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express their feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world.

REQUIRED PROJECT: POSTER IS DUE ON THE SECOND DAY OF SCHOOL.

For the OPTIONAL book (not EVERY SOUL A STAR/PEAK), you will need to create a movie poster that includes the title and the author's name on the front of the poster.

- Create an original movie poster, poster size, which reflects the content of the book.
- Use blurbs, significant words, and images that will generate excitement about the book and reveal some of the storyline.
- You can draw, paint, collage, or use multi-media technology as long as the design and wording are original-no works cited needed.
- Don't forget to list the famous actors (at least three) that you would have in your film and the role each actor would play.
- Rating - Give your movie an official rating of G, PG, or PG-13. You will also need to include your own rating system. (stars, thumbs-up)
- Include an original critic's response to your film. The response needs to be at least one sentence long.

Projects will be graded on:

- The way in which the poster reflects significant content and themes within the book
- Thoughtful inclusion of each of the poster elements listed above
- Originality
- Neatness, effort, and attention to detail (spelling, capitalization, punctuation)
- Your oral presentation which will be the first week of school should include a brief synopsis of the book,

justification of actors/characters, and an explanation of how the elements of your poster relate to the book.