

# MSA Upper School, CommArts, & PreUpper Summer Reading 2021

## 1. WHICH BOOK(s) should I read?

Please look closely at the pages that follow. You will see that certain books are for certain grades.

Rising 7th and 8th Grade are upcoming 7th and 8th graders; Rising Freshmen are upcoming 9th graders; Rising Sophomores 10th; Rising Juniors 11th; and Rising Seniors are 12th.

Bear in mind, the edition covers provided are important. The teacher will want you to purchase that particular cover so you can all examine the same book with the same page numbers together in class!

## 2. WHEN should I read my book( s)? Choose a plan from the list below

Whenever you read, once you start - KEEP GOING!

- Some successful students read their selections early in summer, and then use online **review** services in August to help recall the details. This plan works well, but not without the review piece.
- Other students **buy their books and/or audiobooks early** to be sure that they have them. They keep track of their purchases, then do their reading at the end of the summer to be fresh with details. This plan works well for them.
- Some students read a chapter – then read a summary of it online – to be sure they understand fully. This plan works well and it is not cheating (*unless you skip reading the actual book!*)
- Some students wait until the last minute to locate the book, rush to buy it, pay extra shipping, and try to read the book in two days. Some look for book summaries online and try to ‘fake it.’ They all feel stressed, and start out the year feeling like they are already ‘messing up.’ This strategy does not work well.

## 3. Should I write A REPORT OF SOME KIND?

Maybe. Please look at the instructions that apply to your grade level.

If it doesn't say to write a report, what then? How will we use SUMMER READING? **IN CLASS**

Your teacher will organize activities around the book when we return to school. The assigned grade (s) are usually worth 5-10% of the fall semester average.

1. Perhaps he/she will require that students write a report together, in which students provide their own details from the book.
2. There may be a comprehension quiz.
3. Sometimes lively discussions lead to teams proving a thesis by using specific examples from the book.

We monitor email during summer months, should you have a question.

Sometimes, expect 24-48 hours before you may get a response if we are beach-bound!

We hope you enjoy your book (s). :)

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and for any students requiring an audio book

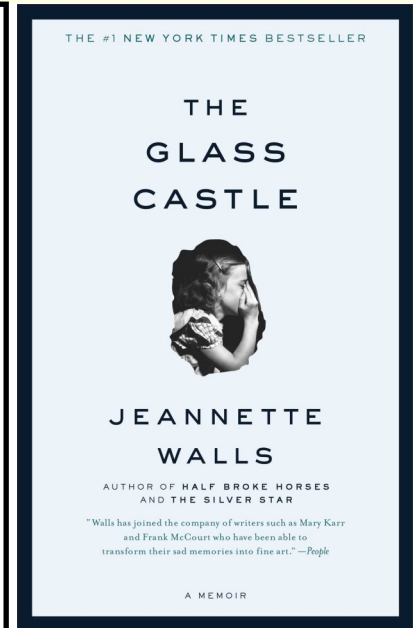
**\*Learning Ally and Bookshare are both available for most if not all selections.\***

## Rising Seniors On-Level & Honors

### What to do with the Summer Reading? Choose your option!

1. Look for email messages for a Study Guide to complete on *The Glass Castle* (sent out via email in early June) during the summer **OR**
2. You may choose to take an Objective Test (multiple-choice) **when we return.**
3. After which, we will discuss the book and will write an essay in groups, so that you may learn what I expect from you when writing essays.
4. **Read the book in mid-July to August,** so you remember details.
5. Choose your comprehension strategy (**Study Guide OR Objective Test**) wisely based on your strengths!

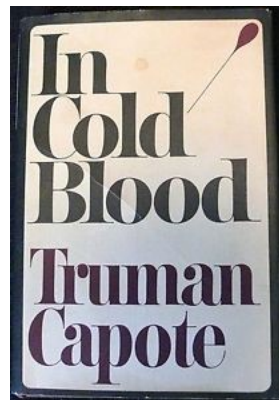
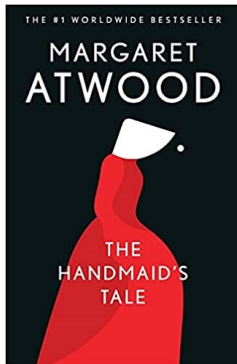
**Some books may have mature content or themes meant for a college-level classroom.**



*The Glass Castle*  
Jeannette Walls  
Memoir

## Rising Seniors Honors- Choose Second Book

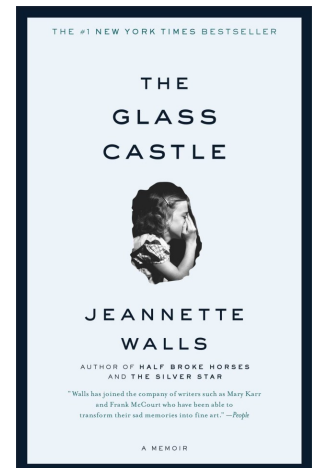
### Choose one of these Classics



Combine the following elements into a cohesive essay:

1. Conduct a little research on your author's biographical background and compile some facts of note and interest into a paragraph. (Intro)
2. Write a one-page summary of the novel. (Summary)
3. Write a one-page discussion of why this book is considered a classic that is necessary for a high school senior to read. What themes does your book explore ? (Analysis)

Do a little research and use your judgement as to which book you might enjoy the most. Also, please contact me for approval if you have another classic novel (that you have not read) in mind- the same writing assignment above applies! We will share our essays by the second week of school.



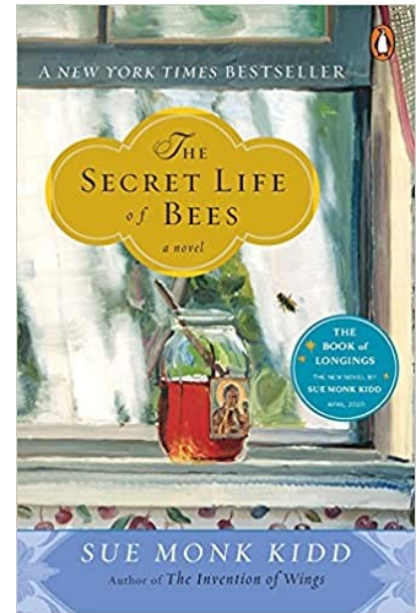
*The Glass Castle*  
Jeannette Walls  
Memoir

**Please see notes above on what to do for the reading assignment.**

## Rising Seniors **Academic**

1. Please complete the reading of the novel by the **first week of school**.
2. We will read aloud important excerpts together by the **second week of school**, and discuss your favorite parts.
3. We will do a group Quizlet as a study guide and a Kahoot! Quiz by the **third week of school**.
4. By the **fourth week of school**, all students will design discussion questions to pose to the class: each student will write a short essay based on the question of their choice.

**Some books may have mature content or themes meant for a college-level classroom.**



*The Secret Life of Bees*  
Sue Monk Kidd

## Rising Seniors **ALL**

### *Senior Research*

Start thinking about at least three viable Senior Project Topics over the summer: this will be area of study for a Research Paper in the Fall, and a Presentation in the Spring.

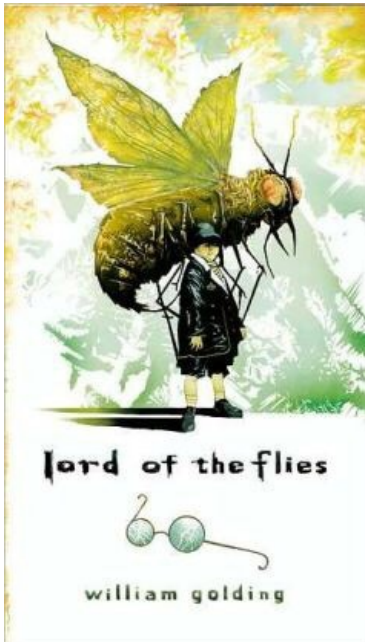
You will need to have solid, college-level topics that will be supported with high-quality sources: focus on interests, passions, investigations, etc. This is a topic you have to research and develop from October to March!

Also, be prepared to do research on each of these topics in the form of a Mini Annotated Bibliography soon after school starts.

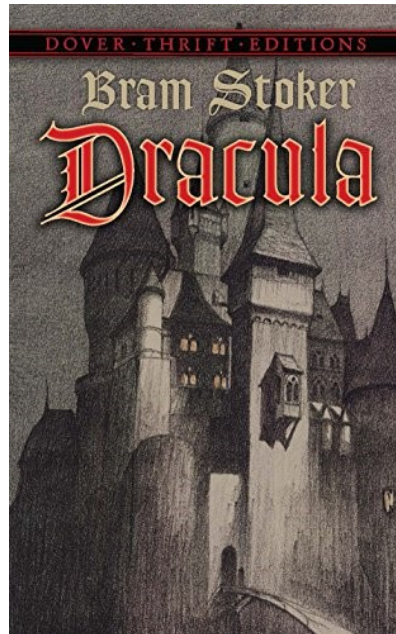
Please email me with any questions, or if you want to talk through a topic idea.

Rising Juniors **On-Level**

Rising Juniors **Honors**



On-Level Juniors will read the William Golding classic *Lord of the Flies*, and Honors Juniors will read the Bram Stoker Gothic masterpiece, *Dracula*.



In addition to reading *Dracula*, Honors students will choose a second selection of a Modern Brit Lit Classic, using a list provided via email in early June.

## Summer Reading Assignment

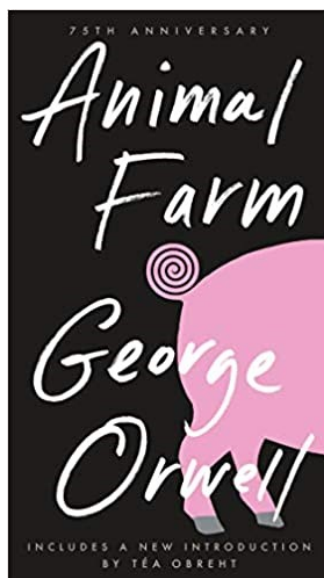
### On-level & Honors: *Lord of the Flies* & *Dracula*

Create a living dictionary that will focus on author word choice, vocabulary, and etymology. You can flex your creative side in the design of your dictionary– have fun!

**More specific details and discussion questions will be in your email by early June.**

**NOTE: Bring your books and living dictionaries to class on the very first day.**

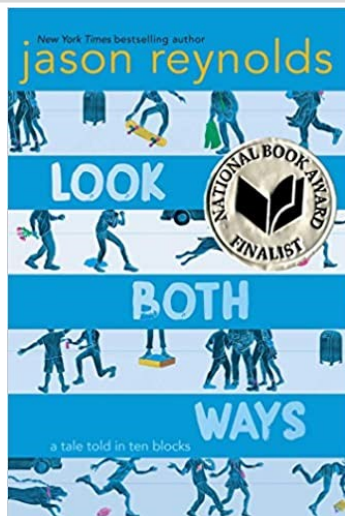
Rising  
Juniors  
**Academic**



Academic students will please complete reading of the George Orwell classic *Animal Farm* by the first week of school. We will discuss its social themes and historical implications in great detail through discussion, read-alouds, and short writing assignments at the beginning of the school year.



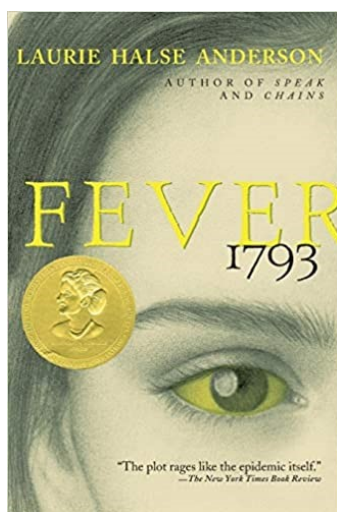
## Rising Sophomores On-Level



On-Level Rising Sophomores will keep a running composition notebook as they read *Look Both Ways*. They will complete 10 entries, one for each short story. Each entry includes a listening activity, an independent section, and one discussion question.

**More details/ instructions will be emailed in early June.**

## Rising Sophomores Academic

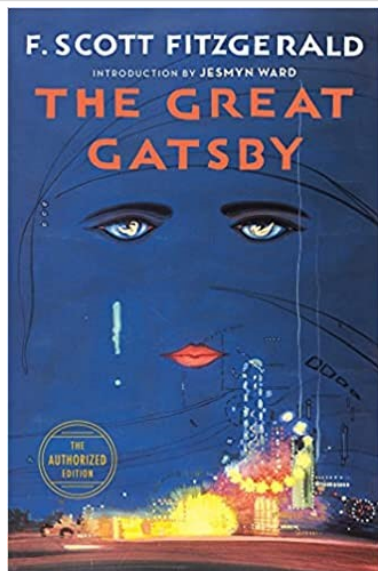


Academic Rising Sophomores will create a Quizlet for the terms that they don't know as they read and keep a journal as they work through *Fever 1793*.

Each journal entry will have a comprehension question and personal response section.

**More details/ instructions will be emailed in early June.**

## Rising Sophomores Honors

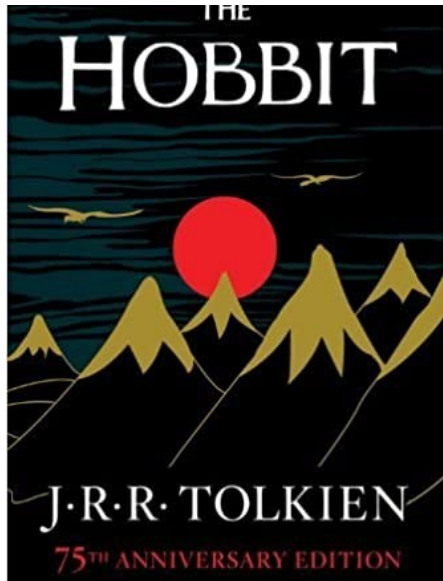


Honors Rising Sophomores will be completing annotative work for each chapter in a format provided via email early June, as well as using Course Hero resources as preemptive work to set up the cultural and thematic background for *The Great Gatsby*.

**More details/ instructions will be emailed in early June.**

**In addition, Honors American Literature students will also read a second book from an American Classics list sent via email in early June.**

# Rising Freshmen On-Level & Academic



On-Level and Academic students will read the J.R.R. Tolkien fantasy classic *The Hobbit* and complete a Character Development Journal. Please see directions below!

Students will choose a character to follow in *The Hobbit* to develop a chronological Character Development Journal using Google Docs or Slides. The student will highlight mentions/passages in their books with their chosen character and discuss each of these mentions or passages. Since some characters only appear in certain sections of the book, it is perfectly acceptable to make separate journal entries for different scenes within the same chapter or even pivotal moments of action and development within the same scene, so long as each entry corresponds to a distinct action beat where something meaningful happens.

**Directions: Each journal entry should include:**

1. Page Number of the mention/ passage
2. The following questions typed:
  - What is the character doing?
  - How is the character described or illuminated?
  - How is this scene important to the story?
3. Answers to the questions in complete sentences.

**Which character will you choose?**

- Bilbo Baggins, the winning hero?
- Gandalf, the wise wizard?
- Thorin Oakenshield, a dwarf leader?
- Gollum, an obsessive “creature”? OR
- Smaug, the fearsome dragon?

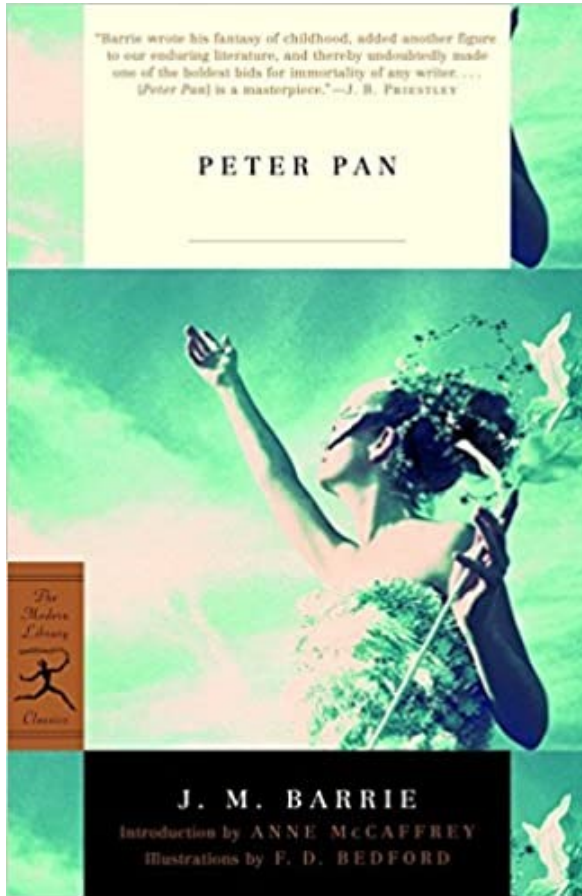
Also, as long as the journal is in a readable font, **please, please, please feel free to add a cover, graphics or images– and have fun with it!** Your teacher will collect these journals at the beginning of the school year.

**The journal should be double-spaced, 12 point font with a minimum of 15 entries and 5 pages.**

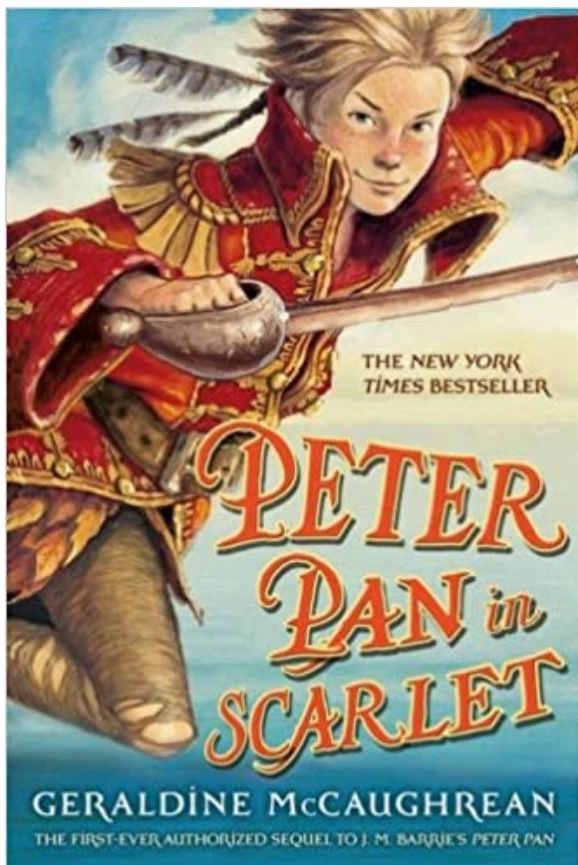
**\*\*On-Level Students Please Note\*\***

Images do not count against this page minimum, and are an addition to it as a way to earn some bonus points. You must still have at least 5 pages of actual text to have completed the assignment satisfactorily.

## Rising Freshmen Honors



Rising 9th Grade Honors students are required to read both *Peter Pan* and *Peter Pan in Scarlet* this summer. They are two short novels but PACKED with literary goodness! I have loved “Peter Pan” since the first time I saw the Disney movie and reading the book only enhanced my love. I highly recommend listening to both on audiobook this summer.



Honors students will also be required to put together and turn in a virtual “Mood Board” and a Character Journal BEFORE the first day of school in August.

More detailed instructions will be emailed for the Mood Board and Character Journal in early June.

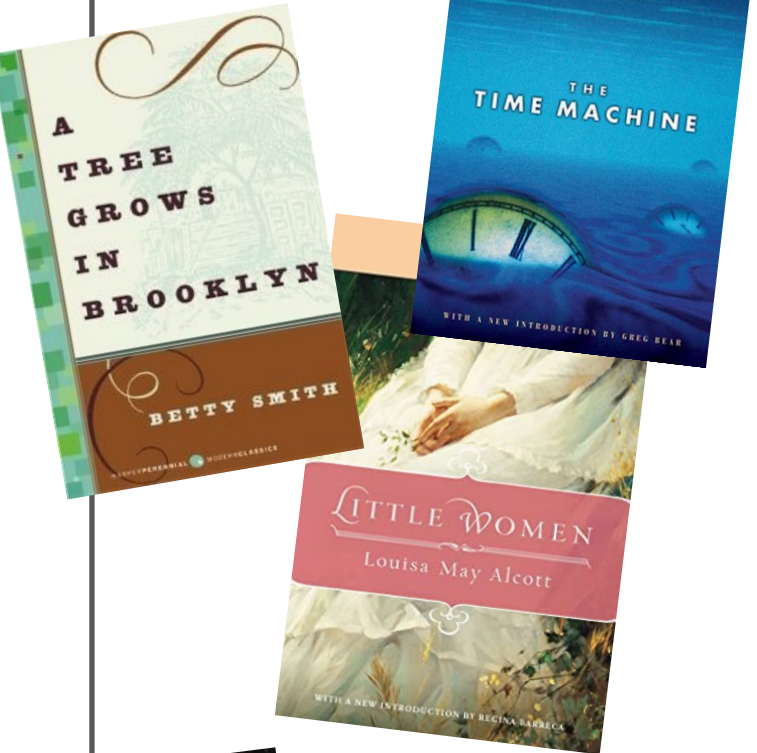
Happy Reading!



# Rising 7th and 8th Grade **All**

**MG recommends some novels for those of you who enjoy reading...**

**For 7th Graders...**



**For 8th Graders...**



Dear Students,

The 7th and 8th grade PreUpper Summer Reading program is designed to encourage and inspire reading, as well as promote a consistent sense of scholastic engagement over the summer break. For this year's summer reading requirement, you will only need to choose ONE age-appropriate book to read and complete. **Links have been provided to an extensive list of book titles that are acceptable summer reading books for rising 7th/8th graders.** You also have the option to choose a book that is not included on this list, provided that your parents approve of it.

**7th: Possible Summer Reading Options**

**<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/7th-grade-reading-list>**

**8th: Possible Summer Reading Options**

**<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/8th-grade-summer-reading>**

As you approach summer reading, the important thing for you to remember is that reading is fun. The most significant advantage of reading is that the more one reads, the more one can enjoy one of the enduring pleasures of civilized men and women. I hope that you will take summer reading seriously, not because reading is work, but because the habit of reading good books will enrich your life experience and open up new possibilities for enjoyment throughout your life. **Please choose your book carefully! Find a title that sounds interesting and possibly inspiring to you.**

**More details and instructions will be sent with an accompanying Reading Log assignment in early June.**



# Rising 7th and 8th Grade All

MG recommends some books you might like, even if reading is not your favorite thing to do or if you struggle with it. Be sure to talk to Ms. Brittany about getting an audio book if you need to. Her email is on the first page!

## For 7th Graders:

*I Will Always Write Back; Miles Morales Spider-Man; An Elephant in the Garden; The Babysitter's Guide to Monster Hunting*

## For 8th Graders:

*Stargirl; Eragon; Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children; The Outsiders*

