

**Frederica Academy Middle School
Summer Reading 8th Grade
Common Read**

Summer reading is an important part of the curriculum in the Frederica Academy Middle School. Not only does it provide us with a common ground on which to stand at the beginning of the school year, it also keeps young minds active and engaged during the summer. This year, students and faculty will be immersed in the incarceration of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast in 1942. Firsthand witnesses to these events, like author George Takei, serve as a reminder of the necessity of preserving the lessons learned from this incarceration and the importance of speaking out against injustice.

From Amazon.com:

A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon -- and America itself -- in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in Star Trek, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's -- and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future.

In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard.

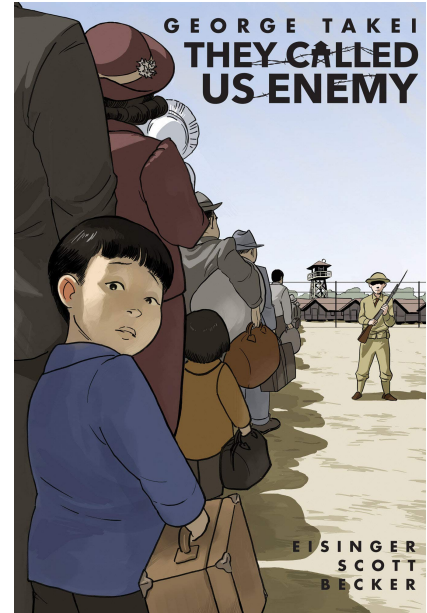
They Called Us Enemy is Takei's firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

What does it mean to be American? Who gets to decide? When the world is against you, what can one person do? To answer these questions, George Takei joins co-writers Justin Eisinger & Steven Scott and artist Harmony Becker for the journey of a lifetime.

Winner of the Eisner Award • Winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature

Book: *They Called Us Enemy* (ISBN 978-1-60309-450-4)

Rationale: What does it mean to be a U.S. citizen? Citizenship, the rights associated with citizenship, and the having or not having of citizenship are all important issues in *They Called Us Enemy*. In the wake of WWII and the Pearl Harbor bombing, many Americans feared Japanese immigrants; their American citizenship did not matter. As children mature into adolescence and then into adulthood, questions of identity, community, and citizenship grow more and more complicated as students learn about and engage with more of the culture in which they are raised as well as the world around them. Through George Takei's account of his time as an imprisoned Japanese-American, students will explore the concept of citizenship as it relates to the rights people have in the United States, both as citizens and non-citizens.



Students will discuss *They Called Us Enemy* at the start of the school year. These questions guide your reading and understanding of the text. Assignments and assessments will be given at the discretion of the instructor.

- How do the authors and illustrators convey the intense emotions of forced relocation? Give an example. Why do you think the authors chose to include so many flash forwards and flashbacks?
- In several scenes, George is depicted speaking to a crowd about his experiences. Do you think it is important to hear first-hand accounts of historical events? Why or why not?
- How does the narration of the adult George Takei compare to George's experiences as a child? How do you think the book would change if the authors just focused on George at one age instead of flashing back and forth in time?
- As a child, how does George view the train ride to Rohwer? How does George's outlook contrast with that of his parents? How does George describe his memory of the train ride? What does he remember most clearly? What is difficult for him to remember? Looking back as an adult, George is aware of the tragic circumstances of the journey. How do memories change as we grow and learn?
- When the family sees their barrack room, George's father tells his mother "Shikata ga nai: or "It can't be helped." Do you agree with this concept? How do you think this attitude might have been helpful to Japanese Americans during incarceration? Do you think it could be harmful? Explain.
- Define "community" in your own words. Why do you think it is so important for Japanese Americans at Rohwer to form a community?
- Consider the following questions from the loyalty questionnaire:
 - Question 27: Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty wherever ordered?
 - Question 28: Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?

How would you answer these questions and why? What consequences might you face for your answer?

- George describes interment as an assault not just against Japanese Americans, but against the Constitution. What does this mean? George's father insists that American democracy is the best in the world, even after Japanese American incarceration. Why do you think he feels this way? How does his faith in democracy affect George?
- What do you think was the main theme or themes of the book? How was this theme conveyed? Explain.
- Many Japanese Americans, such as George Takei, see parallels between the experiences of their being stereotyped and the experiences of other groups of people throughout history.
 - Give an example of an occurrence that you have witnessed, experienced, or heard about when an idea was formed about someone based on a stereotype.

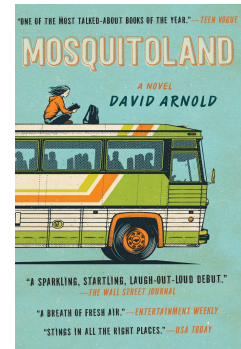
8th Grade Summer Reading 2022

Mandatory 2nd Book

Choose one of the following books that you have *not* previously read to read this summer in addition to *They Called Us Enemy*. Read the novel and be prepared to discuss it during the first weeks of school.

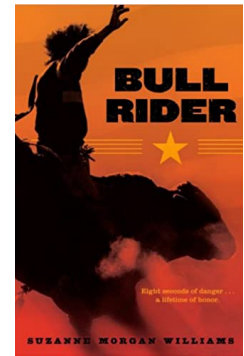
***Mosquitoland* by David Arnold**

After the sudden collapse of her family, Mim Malone is dragged from her home in northern Ohio to the “wastelands” of Mississippi, where she lives in a medicated milieu with her dad and new stepmom. Before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back in Cleveland. So she ditches her new life and hops aboard a northbound Greyhound bus to her real home and her real mother, meeting a quirky cast of fellow travelers along the way. But when her thousand-mile journey takes a few turns she could never see coming, Mim must confront her own demons, redefining her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane. - Taken From Amazon.com



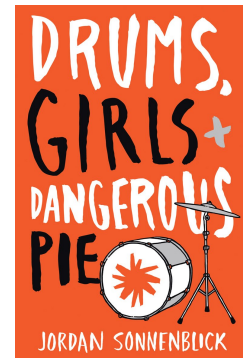
***Bull Rider* by Suzanne Morgan Williams**

All it takes is eight seconds . . . Cam O'Mara, grandson and younger brother of bull-riding champions, is not interested in partaking in the family sport. Cam is a skateboarder, and perfecting his tricks—frontside flips, 360s—means everything until his older brother, Ben, comes home from Iraq, paralyzed from a brain injury. What would make a skateboarder take a different kind of ride? And what would get him on a monstrosity of a bull named Ugly? If Cam can stay on for the requisite eight seconds, could the \$15,000 prize bring hope and a future for his big brother? - Taken From Amazon.com



***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick**

A brave and beautiful story that will make readers laugh, and break their hearts at the same time. Now with a special note from the author! Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost). He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band (whose members call him the Peasant), has a crush on the hottest girl in school (who doesn't even know he's alive), and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey (who is cuter than cute - which is also pretty annoying). But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie (yes, you'll have to read the book to find out what that is!). - Taken From Amazon.com



***The Inheritance Games, Book 1* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes**

Avery Grambs has a plan for a better future: survive high school, win a scholarship, and get out. But her fortunes change in an instant when billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves Avery virtually his entire fortune. The catch? Avery has no idea why--or even who Tobias Hawthorne is. To receive her inheritance, Avery must move into sprawling, secret passage-filled Hawthorne House, where every room bears the old man's touch--and his love of puzzles, riddles, and codes. Unfortunately for Avery, Hawthorne House is also occupied by the family that Tobias Hawthorne just dispossessed. This includes the four Hawthorne grandsons: dangerous, magnetic, brilliant boys who grew up with every expectation that one day, they would inherit billions. Their apparent Grayson Hawthorne is convinced that Avery must be a con-woman, and he's determined to take her down. His brother, Jameson, views her as their grandfather's last hurrah: a twisted riddle, a puzzle to be solved. Caught in a world of wealth and privilege, with danger around every turn, Avery will have to play the game herself just to survive. -Taken From Amazon.com

