

SUMMER READING 2023



Sayreville Middle School

Required Summer Reading for
Incoming 6th, 7th and 8th Graders.



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The goal of the Sayreville Middle School Summer Reading Program is to provide independent practice of reading skills and to foster a lifelong love of reading for our students. It is with this in mind that we present our program for 2023.

Each grade level has a theme or topic that was selected to align to our district curriculum. Students are expected to read one book from the provided list or based on the description of the genre/topic provided by the teachers for the grade your child will be entering next school year. Please work with your child to select a book that meets the expectations and aligns with your child's interests, reading comfort level, and that you feel is a good fit content wise.

As avid readers, we encourage your child to read beyond our expectations and embrace this summer as an opportunity to explore their personal interests while expanding their vocabulary, strengthening their literacy skills, and seeing the world around them from a different perspective, the author's.

Students should develop a reading schedule that works for their summer calendar and results in the reading being completed by September 15, 2023. On that day, students will be discussing and writing about the book they read over the summer.

In supporting your child with summer reading, all of the SMS ELA teachers have reviewed the expectations during class and the SMS librarian met with classes to discuss the assignment and provide book suggestions. Additionally, we have shared these expectations with the librarians at the Sayreville Public Library so they can assist students with book selection.

The English Language Arts Department at SMS thanks you for your support of our program and wishes your child a summer filled with stories and rewarding reading experiences!

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller



INCOMING GRADE 6: Overcoming Challenges

Students are to choose ONE of the books described below. In September, students will be expected to write a literary essay about the reading, so note taking is highly encouraged.

<p><i>Charlie Joe Jackson Guide to Extra Credit:</i> Tommy Greenwald Charlie Joe Jackson, the most reluctant reader ever born, made it his mission in the first book to get through middle school without reading a single book from cover to cover. Now he's back - and trying desperately to get straight A's to avoid going to academic camp for the summer. To do this, he will have to betray his friend, lose the girl of his dreams, and end up acting in a school play about the inventor of paper towels.</p>	<p><i>Finally: A Wish Novel</i> by Wendy Mass (Book 2 of Willow Falls Series) After her twelfth birthday, Rory checks off a list of things she is finally allowed to do, but unexpected consequences interfere with her involvement in the movie being shot at her school, while a weird prediction starts to make sense. (You can substitute book 1 of this series if you have not read it: <i>11 Birthdays</i> by Wendy Mass)</p>
<p><i>Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library:</i> Chris Grabenstein Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games-board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative game maker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of the twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in the library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello and riddled with games. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every puzzle to find the hidden escape route!</p>	<p><i>Soul Surfer:</i> Bethany Hamilton <i>In</i> this moving personal account of faith and fortitude, internationally ranked surfer Bethany Hamilton tells how she survived a shark attack that cost her her arm- but not her spirit. This is the inspirational story of Bethany's life as a young surfer, her recovery after the attack, the adjustments she's made to her unique surfing style, her unprecedented bid for a top showing in the World Surfing Championships, and, most fundamentally, her belief in God. It is a story of girl power and spiritual grit that illustrates that the body is no more essential to surfing- perhaps even less so- than the soul.</p>
<p><i>New Kid</i> by Jerry Craft Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one.</p>	<p><i>Titanic: Voices From The Disaster:</i> Deborah Hopkinson Early morning on April 15, 1912, the RMS Titanic, on her glorious maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, sank after striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic. Recollections from Titanic survivors and witnesses to the disaster bring the horrors of that night to life. Now, the saga of the Titanic is told in a brand-new way as, together with historical photographs and illustrations, the stories of these survivors capture the fateful voyage, from the majestic liner's celebrated launch to her cataclysmic icy end</p>
<p><i>Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation</i> by Stuart Gibbs The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte Charlie Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.</p>	<p><i>The First Rule of Punk</i> by Celia C. Pérez <i>The First Rule of Punk</i> seriously rocks (pun intended)! Twelve-year-old punk-rocker Malú has to navigate her identity at a new school and in a new home in this fun story with themes of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching</p>

Incoming 7th Grade

Focus: Characterization, Conflict & Theme

Introduction: In the 7th grade you will read three different genres of books; **Realistic Fiction, Historical Fiction, and Dystopian Fiction.** In ALL of these genres, the 7th grade will focus on three main literary devices, **characterization, conflict, and theme.**

Directions:

- Select **ONE** of the **THREE** book choices below to read as your summer reading assignment.
- Be prepared to write an **ESSAY** during the first week of school on the book that you selected that focuses on **ONE** of the main literary devices we will be covering in LAL this year; **characterization, conflict, or theme.**
- You may take notes in any way that you normally take notes when you read.

Title	Genre	Overview
<i>Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish</i> by Pablo Cartaya	Realistic Fiction	Marcus is the biggest kid in eighth grade. He's six feet tall, weighs 180 pounds, and has a mustache. Due to his mature appearance, he's often perceived as a bully. Marcus is trying to cope with many personal issues, including the fact that his dad left him and his family when he was a little boy. After an incident at school, his mom decides it's time for a trip to Puerto Rico to regroup and visit family. Marcus sees it as a perfect opportunity to find and confront his estranged father.
<i>White Bird : A Wonder Story</i> by R. J. Palacio	Historical Fiction	Tells the story of Julian Grandmère's childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.
<i>The Maze Runner</i> By James Dashner	Dystopian Fiction	When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's welcomed to his new home, the Glade, by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.

Incoming 8th Grade Assignment

Read a Book With a Character Who Goes Against the Status Quo

In the hit Disney Channel Original Movie, *High School Musical*, an entire song is dedicated to sticking to the status quo. As people express the things that make them different (and go against the stereotypical group they belong to) they are rebuffed and reminded to “not mess” with the flow of things and to keep things as they are. While this song and its movie are a lighthearted example of the struggles that people can face in going against the status quo, the truth is that throughout history there are examples of those who have been unable to find the courage to break against the status quo to do what is right or better their own situation.

In 8th grade, you will read various engaging texts such as George Orwell’s novella *Animal Farm*, *The Giver* by Lowis Lowry, and William Shakespeare’s famous play *Romeo and Juliet*. In these stories, we will witness characters struggle with the decision to either stay the, often miserable and difficult, course and leave things the way they are, or to find the courage to stand up for what they believe in or what is right and strike out against the status quo.

To prepare you to explore what motivates some people to stay in terrible circumstances while others are willing to stand up for themselves and make change, we are asking you to **read a book this summer that features a character who goes against the status quo in some way**. The book should be age appropriate and can be any genre you like.

In September, you will be asked to write about how the character went against the status quo. As you read, think about what prompted or motivated them to go against it and did anything change because of their actions. If you would like to take notes as you read, you will be able to use them in September when writing.

In choosing a book, you may want to consider the following genres or motifs that often feature a character **going against the status quo** or involved in a **conflict against society**:

Historical Fiction Books

Dystopian Novels

Biographies/Autobiographies/Personal Memoirs

Realistic Fiction