

## 2024 Middle School Summer Reading

### **6th Grade Summer Reading**

Students are required to read the following two books over the summer. An essay about one of the books will be written during the first week of school, and a project will be completed on the other book during the second week of school. Students are encouraged to underline and take notes as they read. Important topics are included below that students should pay attention to in each book as they read. Paying attention to these things will help students when they write their essay and do their project.

#### **Book 1: *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls**

Pay special attention to the importance of **determination** and **dedication** in this story.

#### **Book 2: *Zach's Lie* by Roland Smith**

Pay special attention to the importance of **changes** in this story.

### **7th Grade Summer Reading**

Students are required to read the following two books over the summer. An essay about one of the books will be written during the first week of school, and a project will be completed on the other book during the second week of school. Students are encouraged to underline and take notes as they read. Important topics are included below that students should pay attention to in each book as they read. Paying attention to these things will help students when they write their essay and do their project.

#### **Book 1: *Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt**

Pay special attention to the **changes** in the characters and their **relationships**. Also pay attention to how the war affects the characters and their relationships.

#### **Book 2: *Black Duck* by Janet Taylor Lisle**

Pay special attention to the **character changes** in Ruben as the story develops.

## **8th Grade Summer Reading**

**Everyone will read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. As you are reading, pay close attention to and annotate for the following theme topics:**

- Social status
- Economic division
- Loyalty
- Empathy
- Cycle of Violence

**Students should also choose one title from the following list.**

1. *Your Next 24 Hours* - Hal Donaldson  
Genre: Nonfiction

Through powerful true stories of kindness lived out, this book shows readers the enormous difference they can make through small, doable acts of kindness in their families, communities, workplaces, schools, and churches. It shows how every encounter with another person is an opportunity to be kind--and a chance to change our world.

2. *Refugee* - Alan Gratz  
Genre: Narrative historical fiction

Refugee follows the stories of three different children and their families, each attempting to flee their violent homelands, in different regions of the world and during different decades.

3. *The Lightning Thief* - Rick Riordan  
Genre: fantasy

The Lightning Thief follows the story of young Percy Jackson, a troubled 12-year-old boy with a secret unknown even to himself.

5. *The Boys in the Boat* (Young Readers Edition) - Daniel James Brown  
Genre: Narrative nonfiction

The Boys in the Boat is the true story of an American team's epic journey to win gold at the 1936 Olympics.

5. *Counting by Sevens* - Holly Goldberg Sloan (realistic fiction)

Counting By 7s is the story of Willow Chance, a twelve-year-old girl who has been identified at an early age as 'gifted'. Willow lives in Bakersfield, California and comes

home from school one day to the news that her parents have been killed in a traffic accident. What follows is Willow's search to find a place where she belongs.

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