



8th grade Core Summer Reading 2024-2025

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Middle School Core Program! Core is an interdisciplinary study, using primary and secondary historical sources, as well as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. The Core curriculum fosters skills that prepare students for a college prep upper school curriculum by encouraging students to think, question, learn, and make decisions based on Jewish and American values.

In aligning our curriculum with our school's mission and philosophy, Core students participate in independent reading and writing and dynamic small group activities and projects that affirm and support the successes and challenges students face at the Saligman Middle School. Creative projects, cooperative learning, and independence as a learner are encouraged. Emphasis is on the development and improvement of skills that include but are not limited to, research, study skills, independent reading, vocabulary, grammar, note-making, and organization, writing and critical thinking.

Please find instructions below for the summer reading assignment. We hope you and your family have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing our middle schoolers after summer break!

Sincerely,

The Core Department

Summer Reading Instructions for 8th grade

The phrase "The American Dream" can be defined as follows:

The American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of where they were born or what class they were born into, can attain their own version of success in a society where upward mobility is possible for everyone. The American Dream is achieved through sacrifice, risk-taking, and hard work, rather than by chance.

(www.investopedia.com/terms/a/american-dream.asp)

American Dream Novel Choice

For this assignment, you can choose a non-fiction book (memoir, autobiography, or biography) or a work of fiction.

As you read your chosen book, annotate by highlighting or using sticky note for:

1. Character traits (yellow).
2. Elements of setting (blue).
3. Passages about the American Dream (pink).

After you read the book, answer the following questions by creating bullet point lists:

1. Describe the protagonist using the following questions:
 - a. Who are they? (name, title, etc)
 - b. What did they accomplish?
 - c. What are the important dates or events in the person's life?
 - d. What are the important places in the person's life?
2. How would your book's protagonist define the American Dream?
3. Does the main character of your book achieve the American Dream? What obstacles stood in his or her way?
4. Why did you choose to read this book?

[Here are some options for your Novel Choice](#)

Happy reading! We are looking forward to discussing your thoughtful responses in September. Enjoy your summer vacation!