



“Summertime Stories” Summer Reading Program

Are you looking to relax, develop focus and concentration, improve your abilities and knowledge, have fun, and reduce boredom this summer?

Pick up a book!

<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/10-benefits-reading-why-you-should-read-everyday.html>

This summer, we’re encouraging you to read as much as possible! YOU have the choice. YOU have the power. This is your opportunity to explore your own interests by choosing your own book to read.

****Exceptions- you may not choose something that you have already read for an English class in middle school or high school!****

*****Notes for Honors and AP courses*****

Honors courses require two summer reading books. Students **will choose their own book and complete the assignment detailed in this packet, and they will ALSO read an assigned book and complete an assignment in September**, according to their enrolled course.

AP courses have an entirely different assignment and will not be choosing their own book; see below

9th grade honors: Read *Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card. Prepare for a book test on this material with limited guidance on this novel. Do not create a project based on *Ender’s Game*.

10th grade honors: Read *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Read actively by asking thoughtful questions and taking notes. Be prepared for a Socratic seminar and a test on the novel.

11th grade honors: *1984* by George Orwell

12th grade honors: *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah

AP Literature: Different assignment; [click here](#)

AP Language: Different assignment; [click here](#)

First, let’s brainstorm a bit.

- What are you interested in?
- What movie/ tv show genres do you like?
- What books have you read and enjoyed in the past?

Create a bulleted list or “mind map” in the space below.

Let's discuss! Share with your classmates anything you've loved in the past.

Now, how can we find a book that aligns with your interests?

- Search on Sora for an ebook
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nwGV0SFvVYbNnrktHf8pVSLF7PcvxDCr/view?usp=sharing>
 - Also available as an app!
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YE0epaucWD_o0loW_Qvnwjb8K5dGI_yL/view?usp=sharing
- Search on Destiny for a print book
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c6ML1VclEblZacHEF4HCx-GGap9s3w2R/view?usp=sharing>
- Visit the MHS Media Learning Commons or Mahwah Public Library
<https://www.mahwah.k12.nj.us/Domain/287>
- Ask a librarian, teacher, or friend for a recommendation
- Check out Goodreads or Amazon for reviews and top picks
- Visit <https://www.whatshouldireadnext.com/> to find books similar to things you've already enjoyed

In this chart, jot down the names of some books that seem interesting.

Name	Author	Subject/ Genre	Fiction/ Non-fiction

Finally, let's develop your reading goals. Which book would you like to choose? Do you hope to read more than one? How are you going to obtain the book?

Before you leave in June, you will fill out a Google form with your intended book selection.

Summertime Stories “Book Fair” Project/Presentation

(to be done over the summer/ first 2 weeks of school)

After reading the book of your choice, you are going to share your experiences!

You **must complete a creative writing project AND present in class in a “book fair” to recommend your book to others (or not!).**

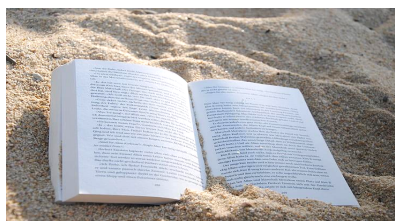
Your **project will count as a test grade**, and your **presentation/discussion contribution will count as a classwork grade!**

Checklists of requirements for the creative writing project choices are attached.

Select **ONE** of the following:

- **Choose 3-4 unfamiliar plot elements or allusions in your book, and explore them to better expand your understanding.** Ask yourself as you’re reading, what are you curious about? What is unfamiliar? Are there settings or references you don’t understand? Perhaps you want to research food, language, airplanes, geographic locations, colleges, etc. Allow yourself to go “down the rabbit hole” and explore whatever you encounter that’s new and interesting! Include the quotes from the book that inspire your research. After you do some investigating, write about what you learned, and how this new information adds meaning and clarity to the book. Total amount of writing 2-3 pages.
- **Do a “Character Autopsy” for one character in your book.** Use the attached template to create a “body” illustration of a character that analyzes what’s in their head, their heart, etc. Total amount of writing 2-3 pages.
- **Design a new and improved cover for the book. Then, write a letter to the author.** Explain why you liked the book, why you designed the new cover this way, and how the book connects personally to your life. Total amount of writing 2-3 pages.
- **Create a personalized, curated newspaper for a character! Locate 4 current events articles that would interest a character in your book.** Explain why the character would find them interesting and how they relate to the book. Total amount of writing 2-3 pages.

The First Weeks of School



We hope that you read your selected book over the summer, because reading for fun is a relaxing summer activity! Bring your book to the beach or lake with you. **Have fun this summer! Enjoy relaxing with a great book!**

You must have your creative written project completed and uploaded to Turnitin, and be prepared to give your in-class presentation by **September 12th**. If you need help setting up Turnitin or submitting your paper, please visit Mrs. Hartigan Miller in the Media Learning Commons.

Presentations will count as a **CLASSWORK GRADE**. Your teacher will give you more information about the structure and grading: formal presentation in front of the room, Socratic discussion, etc.

You will **not** have time in class to work on these projects!

Option 1: Explore the Unfamiliar

- Read a novel or narrative non-fiction book of your choice
- As you're reading, jot down a list of anything that sparks interest or curiosity. Unfamiliar references, an interesting plot point related to something in real life, a historical event, a scientific discovery, etc. Places, foods, cultural elements, etc. Anything that makes you feel curious or interested to learn more!
 - Include this list with your final written work!
- Choose 3- 4 items from your list
- Use books, reliable websites, databases, or videos to explore more about your chosen topics
- Write 2-3 pages explaining why you chose these topics, what you discovered through your exploration, and how it expands your understanding of what occurs in the book.
- Use at least five quotes from the book or your outside sources to help explain.
- Create five in-text parenthetical citations to cite your quotes.
- Create a formal MLA works cited page, with an MLA citation for your selected book and your outside sources.
- Check your spelling, grammar, organization, and tone.
- Be creative and professional – and convince us you read the book!
- Submit completed project to Turnitin
- Be prepared to present in class for a classwork grade! Your teacher will give you more specifics about the format/requirements.

Option 2: Character "Autopsy"

- Read a novel or narrative non-fiction book of your choice
- Create a drawn illustration of the character. [Click here](#) for specific instructions, and see below for an example.
- Label each body part. Analyze your drawing using the attached template/ instructions. Analysis should be 2-3 pages total.
- Use at least five specific book quotes in your analysis
- Create five in-text parenthetical citations to cite your book quotes
- Create a formal MLA works cited page, with an MLA citation for your selected book
- Check your spelling, grammar, organization, and tone.
- Be creative and professional – and convince us you read the book!
- Submit completed project to Turnitin
- Be prepared to present in class! Your teacher will give you more specifics about the format/requirements.

Option 3: Book Cover and Author Letter

- Read a novel or narrative non-fiction book of your choice
- Design a new and improved book cover. Can be hand drawn or digitally created
 - Make the new cover look professional! Look at Amazon or Goodreads book covers for inspiration.
- Then write a letter to the author, explaining why you liked the book, how it connects to your life, and why you designed the new cover this way. Your written letter should be 2-3 pages, summarizing and explaining your new book cover and the connections to the book you read.

- Use at least five specific book quotes to help explain your letter, the personal connections, or the cover design
- Create five in-text parenthetical citations to cite your book quotes
- Create a formal MLA works cited page, with an MLA citation for your selected book
- Check your spelling, grammar, organization, and tone.
- Be creative and professional – and convince us you read the book!
- Submit completed book cover and letter to Turnitin
- Be prepared to present in class! Your teacher will give you more specifics about the format/requirements.

Option 4: Personalized Character Newspaper

- Read a novel or narrative non-fiction book of your choice
- Locate four current events news articles that relate to your book, and that a character would be interested in reading or learning about.
 - Provide all four articles (Printfriendly can be helpful for printing news articles from websites!).
 - Make sure they're from reputable sources!
- Include an analysis for each article to explain why you included it in the character's personalized newspaper. Total writing 2-3 pages.
 - Example analysis questions: How does the article relate to the book you read? Does this explain particular plot points, or shows how a character develops? Why would this character care about learning about this current event? How do the event and the book connect?
- Use at least five specific book or article quotes to help explain why you included these specific articles in your newspaper.
- Create five in-text parenthetical citations to cite your book quotes
- Create a formal MLA works cited page, with an MLA citation for your selected book AND the articles
- Check your spelling, grammar, organization, and tone.
- Be creative and professional – and convince us you read the book!
- Submit completed project to Turnitin
- Be prepared to present in class! Your teacher will give you more specifics about the format/requirements.

Extension Activities

If you liked your book, feel free to **record a recommendation** and submit to the Media Learning Commons Youtube page, so that others can learn more about it! Any student who submits will receive a special prize.

Media Center Advisory Board: Work with Mrs. Hartigan Miller to provide book recommendations, activity ideas, and more! Meetings will be approximately once a month, and this activity will be put on your transcript.

Battle of the Books team: Join our trivia team to read books and compete against other schools! This extracurricular will be put on your transcript.

*Keep an eye out in your email for our Media Learning Commons newsletter each month, where you can hear about lunchtime events and more!

Example- Project Option #2, Character Autopsy

[Click here for specific instructions on how to accomplish this project!](#)

SONIA ZHUO pers3
Bri's Character
Autopsy

On The Come Up

HEAD: Intellectual Side — What are the character's dreams? Bri's dreams are to make a career out of her favorite hobby, rapping. She wants to make a successful name for herself like her father in the hip hop industry. "I can win more battles, and I'll do more battles, I'll make a name for myself" (Thomas 9). She can take her rap skills and make a well known name for herself in the rap industry which can possibly help with her family's troubling financial situation. She can make a living for her and her family while pursuing her favorite hobby at the same time.

MOUTH: Communication — What are your character's beliefs? Bri believes in looking at the bigger picture staying humble. "These Timbs should go to someone who might not have any shoes at all. I don't need them" (Thomas 163). Though Bri and her family are struggling to pay for bills and food, she still considers those struggling even more than them. She also believes that people shouldn't assume how someone is based on their appearance. "I never said it's me! The whole point is playing into the stereotype." "You think these fools in the streets gon' listen for 'deeper meaning'?" (Thomas 183). She puts all of the hate and stereotypes into a rap song based on how society views her as a black female. If Bri had a theme song, it would be her very own one "On the Come Up". The lyrics are how others perceive her based on her racial identity, and it changed her life when it became viral.

HANDS: Practical Side — What conflicts does your character deal with? How? What kinds of challenges or obstacles does your character face? Bri often finds herself being racially profiled because of her race. To being tackled to the floor just for candy contraband and being accused of being a drug dealer, she faces people that don't think she has the ability to thrive in life just because of assumptions made based on her race. To deal with these conflicts, Bri pours out all of the stereotypes and assumptions made about her, with all of the expectations society has on her as a black female. "She's not saying she actually does that stuff. She's saying this is what they expect her to do" (Thomas 150). This quote explains to the reader how Bri is nothing like the song she wrote, it's just how society assumes she would be like. She wants to show the world how absurd and cruel these stereotypes inflicted upon her are through this rap song. This backfires, with people not listening for the deeper meaning behind the songs and jumping to conclusions that Bri is bragging about her gangster life. "Lots of people think I'm somebody I'm not, too. I've been called ghetto, ratchet, a home rat with no home traits rap" (Thomas 217).

HEART: Emotional Side — What is your character's motivation? Bri's motivation is her family and their financial situation after her mom gets let go of her job. "Jay lost her job, he looks horrified that he forgot that we don't have gas," (Thomas 154). Bri knows she has a chance to use the fact that she went viral through rapping and others noticing her talents, which can help her struggling family. Love for her hobby of rapping and determination to help her family in any sort of way helps push her to work hard to produce music and show off her rapping talents in the Ring while competing against others to show the crowd that she has what it takes to become a well known figure as a rapper. Bri fears about how others perceive her. "What if people at school see me?" "Why you so worried about what they think?" "And?" She doesn't get it. "What if people see me?" I chew on my lip. Anybody notices me, I'll suddenly be the piss poor girl in the not-limbs who not only goes pinned to the ground but always has to get food from a give away" (Thomas 159). She is already paranoid at the fact that a large chunk of the school population saw Bri get tackled onto the floor and assumed she was a drug dealer, and to add on she doesn't want others to also see how her and her family are struggling financially.

ARMS: Future — Where is your character going? What are your character's aspirations and goals for the future? What does your character hope to achieve? Bri hopes to become a well known rapper, and so far that's where her future is successfully headed. With her music appearing on the news, and becoming the number one song on DatCloud, Bri's first song she has produced was very successful. If she keeps this up, she'll become more known outside of her town and soon her music can possibly spread throughout the country, and maybe the world. "Props on hitting number one on Dat Cloud," (Thomas 250). If she keeps up with the consistency of her first song and releases more, Bri will be on track to succeed in her rap career and will definitely have the ability to help her family out regarding their troubling financial situation.

FEET: Mobile Side — Where has your character been (literally and figuratively)? How have they been affected? Bri has been to school where she is constantly stereotyped as an "aggressive and rule breaking" black girl. "Aggressive" is used to describe me a lot. It's supposed to mean threatening, but I've never threatened anybody. I just say stuff my teachers don't like" (Thomas 66). In the Ring, she is an upcoming rapper with a one of a kind creative flow while battling others. With her impressive skills, she has a bright future ahead of her in her rapping career. Bri must juggle both her troubles at school and her rap career in the Ring, with personal problems affecting her all at the same time. The Ring marked the very beginning of her rap career, showing off her talents and impressing the crowd very well. This day changed her life because from here on Bri would show her rap skills to everybody, a dream she has had for a while.

LEGS: Strengths and Weaknesses — What are your character's strengths and flaws? What is one of your character's strengths? She is determined to succeed in rapping as a career. She doesn't give up on it no matter the challenges she had to face along the way. She knows that if she continues to persevere, she can make it big as a rapper. "I wanna tell her to stop looking at me like that. That I'm going to fix this one day" (Thomas 163). She acknowledges the fact that if she stays on track and consistent with rapping, it can solve her family's financial problems. As a flaw, Bri seems to run away from her problems. When her grades are falling because she's more focused on rapping, she continues to push schoolwork aside and focus on music. "I'm gonna improve my grades. I swear, I tell her. "I just gotta do this battle first and see what happens" (Thomas 11). She acknowledges the fact that school should come first and that it's more important, but she can't help it but focus on rap while looking at the potential fame and money from it. "If you put this much energy into school, you know how far you'd go?" Not as far as this song could take me. "This is our way out, 'Trey" (Thomas 221).