Summer Assignments

8th Grade English
Episcopal Collegiate School



Required: Choose ONE book from the list below and ONE free read book of your choice to read over the summer.

Finding Your Voice, Understanding Your Story

For your class selection, you will choose from a collection of stories that span time periods, cultures, and genres. While each text is different, they are connected by one essential idea. Identity is shaped by what we experience, what we value, and the choices we make. The characters in these books face challenges that reveal who they are and who they are becoming.

As you read, think about:

- What shapes a person's identity?
- What do we do when our values are tested?
- How do our choices define us over time?

When we return in August, your summer reading will be the starting point for our work. We will use these books to begin thinking about character, theme, and transformation, and we will continue building on these ideas throughout the year. Some of the themes and historical contexts in these books will also connect to your work in U.S. History with Ms. Corker.

Recommended: Read with Purpose

Focus on understanding, not just finishing. Notice moments where a character is forced to make a decision, respond to a challenge, or confront something difficult.

You might consider:

- How does the character change over time?
- What conflicts shape their thinking?
- What patterns do you notice in their choices?
- What message is the author communicating?

You do not need to formally annotate, but engaging with these ideas will prepare you for our work in class.

Book Choices (Choose ONE)

- *African Town* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

Free Read Guidelines

- At least 150 pages
- Age-appropriate
- Not a book you have already read
- Do not choose the following (we will read them this year):
  - *To Kill a Mockingbird*
  - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
  - *Night*

Questions? Contact Mrs. Ghasedi at nghasedi@episcopalcollegiate.org