

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST - GRADE 7

The Altamont School English Department requires every Altamont student to read **four books** during the summer months. For seventh graders, the four includes the two required books. Students should also choose two non-required texts from the list below. If you wish to read a book not found on the list, please email the teacher for permission.

During the school year, every Altamont student is required to complete additional reading outside of class. Assignments will vary. If you are not assigned specific texts, the list below is a good starting point when looking for titles.

Rereading books for English credit is a violation of the Honor Code, excepting the required titles. Likewise, students may not use Spark Notes, Shmoop, the Internet, or any type of condensed source for summer reading or during the school year. Using reading aids in place of reading the text is a violation of the Honor Code. So is using AI on this assignment. Just read the book and share **your** thoughts!

Required texts

Alexander, Kwame The Crossover

Hinton, S.E. The Outsiders

II. Two additional novels are required from the list below or with approval from your teacher.

III. A note from Mr. Carsen

Welcome, new seventh-graders!

I hope you've managed to stay active and healthy physically and mentally, and I hope the written word has helped with that. I've found that my previous English and Creative Writing students have been able to de-stress and "travel" through reading and writing. You will experience that, too. In many ways, my class will be what you make it. Strangely enough, the more you push yourself, the more fun we'll have. I promise. You'll see.

I look forward to reading, writing, editing, talking, questioning, pondering, debating, rhyming, and bongo-playing with you soon. Please look over the summer reading questions and prompts below. The written work below helps you prepare for our in-class discussions. The questions and prompts are designed to give you time, space, and motivation to think deeply and "process" when you've finished each work. **The written work will be due on the Monday of the first full week of school.** I will accept your responses on paper or electronically through OneNote, which I can show you how to use. In other words, you can write out your responses by hand, or you can work in a word-processing program (preferably Microsoft Word) and then either print out your work on paper OR submit your one, numbered Word file through OneNote. Please number the questions the way they're numbered below. Reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns ANY time at dcarsen@altamontschool.org.

See you soon!

Looking forward,
Mr. C.

IV. Summer Reading Modules

The Crossover

Answer each question with a few sentences.

1. How would you describe the main character's (Josh's) family?
2. What are Josh's motivations? In other words, why does he do what he does?
3. By the end of the story, what character traits does he exhibit? In other words, what kind of person is he?
4. Do you think you would thrive in his situation? Why or why not?

The Outsiders

Answer both questions.

5. If you had to be a member of one group, would you be a **Soc** (pronounced "sowsh") or a **Greaser**? Why? (Write at least a few sentences.)
6. Choose either the violent scene at the fountain or the fire later in the book. Now, write up the scene as if you were a newspaper reporter. Include the "Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?" that reporters are expected to include. You may also choose to do this as a radio or television reporter and record audio or video.

The Crossover **and** The Outsiders

Answer the question.

7. In two or three short paragraphs, compare the main character of The Outsiders and the main character of The Crossover. How are they similar (or different)? Include their situations, their motivations, their backgrounds, and anything else you think is important.

Choice Novels

For each of your two choice books, choose one of the questions below and respond in a paragraph. Since these are opinion-based questions about your experience reading the work, "I" statements are fine to use. Again, answer one of the below questions for each choice book. In other words, for the below, you'll write two paragraphs (two responses for choice books, making nine altogether).

- What stands out to you as the single most important image or scene? Why?
- Did this book teach you anything about life, the world, relationships, or anything else important? Explain as thoroughly and honestly as you can. There is no wrong answer.
- If you could change one thing or one character in the story, what/who would it be? Why?
- If you could have a conversation with any character in the book, who would it be, and what would you want to ask or tell that person? And based on your understanding of the story, what might that character say back to you?
- Did you like how it ended? Why or why not?

8. For [Title of Book] by [Author First Name, Author Last Name], _____ [Your response to one of the above questions. Your response should make clear which of the choice questions you're answering].

9. For [title of book] by [author], _____ [Your response to one of the above questions. Your response should make clear which of the choice questions you're answering].

V. Suggested Reading List (Reach out to me for approval if you want to read something that's not on this list; there are many great, appropriate books that are not on this list!)

FICTION

Alcott, L.	Little Women
Alexander	The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio
Anders, Lou	Frostborn
Anderson, L.	Speak; Catalyst, Forge
Arnold, David	Mosquitoland
Asimov, I.	Foundation series; Robotic series
Avi	Crispin
Ayers	Macaroni Boy
Balliett, B.	Chasing Vermeer
Barron, T.	The Fires of Merlin; The Mirror of Merlin; The Wings of Merlin
Beagle, P.	The Last Unicorn
Bechard, M.	Hanging on to Max
Bell, H.	Shield of Stars
Bloor, E.	Taken
Bradley, K.	Halfway to the Sky
Bray, L.	A Great and Terrible Beauty
Brooks, M.	True Confessions of a Heartless Girl
Byars, B.	The Pinballs
Christie, A.	And Then There Were None
Cleaver, V.	Where the Lilies Bloom
Clement-Davies, D.	Fire Bringer
Colfer, E.	The Wish List; The Supernaturalist; Artemis Fowl
Collins, S.	Gregor (series); Hunger Games (any of the trilogy)
Compestine, Y.	Revolution is not a Dinner Party
Cooper, S.	Grey King*; The Boggart and the Monster, Victory
Covington, Dennis	Lizard
Creech, S.	Walk Two Moons*
Curtis, C.	The Watsons go to Birmingham—1963; Elijah of Buxton
Defoe, D.	Robinson Crusoe
DiCamillo, K.	The Tiger Is Rising
Donnelly	A Northern Light
Ellsworth, L.	In Search of Mockingbird

Erdrich, L.
Farmer, N.
Fleischman, Paul
Fox, P.
Frank
Friend, N.
Funke, C.
Gaiman, N.
Gantos, J.
Gavalda, A.
George, J.
Gibbons, Kaye
Green, T.
Haddix, M.
Henkes,
Hesse,
Hiaasen,
Hunter, E.
Ibbotson, E.
Jacques, B.
Kadohata, C.
Kelly, J.
Kipling, R.
Klass, D.
Koertge
Korman,
Lai, T.
Le Fever,
L'Engle, M.
Lester, J.
Lisle, J.
London, J.
Lowry, Lois
Lupica, M.
Marsden, C.
Marshall, C.
McCaughrean, G.
McDonald, J.
McKay, H.
McKinley, R.
Mikaelsen, B.
Morris, G.

The Game of Silence
The House of the Scorpion
Bull Run
One-eyed Cat
Friction
Perfect
Dragon Rider; Inkheart; The Thief Lord
Coraline; The Graveyard Book*
Dead End in Norvelt*
95 Pounds of Hope
Julie of the Wolves*
Ellen Foster
Football Genius
Escape from Memory; Among the Hidden
Olive's Ocean
Aleutian Sparrow
Hoot
Midnight; Fire and ice
Journey to the River Sea
Redwall series
Weedflower: Cracker
The Evolution of Capurnia Tate
Captains Courageous
Home of the Braves
Shakespeare Bats Cleanup
Jake, Reinvented
Inside Out and Back Again
Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos
The Young Unicorns; A Wrinkle in Time*
Day of Tears
The Art of Keeping Cool
Call of the Wild; White Fang
The Giver*; Silent Boy; Messenger; Gossamer
Heat
The Buddha's Diamonds
Christy
The Kite Rider
Spellbound
Indigo's Star; Saffy's Angel
The Hero and the Crown*
Touching Spirit Bear
The Lioness and Her Knight

Mowll, J.
Norton, A.
Paolini, C.
Paterson, K.
Pattou, E.
Paulsen, G.
Peck, Richard
Peck, Robert Newton
Pfeffer, S.
Philbrick, R.
Pullman, P.
Pyle, H.
Raskin, E.
Rawlings, M.
Rawls, W.
Regan, D.
Reid, R.
Richter, Conrad
Rinaldi, A.
Sleator, W.
Smith, S.
Spinelli, J.
Stead, R.
Steinbeck, J.
Stevenson, R.
Stroud, J.
Taylor, Mildred
Taylor, T.
Thesman, Jean
Tolkien, J.R.R.
Vanderpool, C.
Vande Velde, Vivian
Wallace, D.
Wells, H.G.
Weyr
Williams Garcia, R.
Woodson, J.
Wrede

Operation Red Jericho
Time Traders series
Eragon
Jacob Have I Loved
East
Hatchet, The Crossing
Father Figure
A Day No Pigs Would Die
Life As We Knew It
The Mostly True Adventure of Homer P. Figg
Golden Compass series
Men of Iron
The Westing Game*
The Yearling
Where the Red Fern Grows
Princess Nevermore; Cam's Quest
Longleaf
The Light in the Forest
Come Juneteenth
The Boy Who Reversed Himself; The Duplicate
Lucy the Giant
Maniac Magee* ; Crash
When You Reach Me*
The Red Pony
Treasure Island
any books in the Bartimaeus Trilogy
The Road to Memphis - series
The Cay
When the Road Ends
Hobbit series
Moon Over Manifest*
Cloaked in Red
Big Fish
The Time Machine
Kings Are Already Here
One Crazy Summer
After Tupac & D Foster
Dealing with Dragons

WORLD LITERATURE

Alexander, L.
Allende, Isabel

The Illyrian Adventure
City of the Beasts; Kingdom of the Golden Dragon

Berry, James
Bradford, Chris
Buss, Fran
Canales, Viola
Choi, Sook
Couloumbis, A.
Dickinson, Peter
Donwerth-Chikamatsu, Annie
Eaton, J.
Ellis, Deborah
Hautzig, E.
Holm, A.
Holub, J.
Kerr, J.
Lee, Sungju and McClelland, Susan
Li, C
Mowat, F.
Muñoz Ryan, Pam
Park, L.
Paterson, K.
Perkins, M.
Preus, M.
Rankin, L.
Selznick, B.
Shepard, Aaron

Speare, E.
Staples, S.
Thompson, Holly
Turner, M.
Trevino, E.
Weir, R.
Wells, R.
Wiesel, E.
Wilson, D.
Wojciechowska, M.
Yancey, R.
Yelchin, E.

NON-FICTION/BIOGRAPHY

Angelou, M.
Fradin, J.

Ajeemah and His Son
The Young Saumurai Series
Journey of the Sparrows
The Tequila Worm
Year of Impossible Goodbyes
War Games
AK
Somewhere Among
Gandhi: Fighter for Peace
 A Company of Fools
The Endless Steppe
North to Freedom
An Innocent Soldier
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit
 Every Falling Star
Mao's Last Dancer
Lost in the Barrens
 Esperanza Rising
A Long Walk to Water
Of Nightingales That Weep
Bamboo People
Heart of a Samurai
Daughter of the Mountains
The Invention of Hugo Cabret
The Monkey King: a Superhero Tale of China Retold from the
Journey to the West
The Bronze Bow*
Under the Permisson Tree
Falling into the Dragon's Mouth
The Thief: The King of Attolia
I, Juan de Pareja*
The Lion and the Rose
Red Moon at Sharpesburg
any book in the Night Trilogy
Black Storm Comin'
Shadow of a Bull*
The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp
Breaking Stalin's Nose

All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes
5000 Miles to Freedom

Frank, A.	The Diary of Anne Frank
Freedman, Russell	Wright Brothers
Gentry, T.	Jesse Owens
Graham, S.	Dr. George Washington Carver
Halacy, D.	Charles Babbage: Father of the Computer
Hamilton, Virginia	Anthony Burns: Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave
Haskins, J.	The Life and Death of Martin Luther King
Hoose, P.	Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice
Jakoubek, P.	Martin Luther King, Jr.
Kinsella, W.P.	Shoeless Joe
Levinger, E.	Albert Einstein
Murphy, Jim	Boys War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War
Myers, Walter Dean	Now is Your Time: The African American Struggle for Freedom
North, Sterling	Rascal
Paulsen, G.	Woodsong
Reiss, J.	The Upstairs Room
Russell, S.	Frederick Douglass
Stelson, Caren B.	Sachiko: a Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story

*Newbery Medal Winner (awarded annually since 1922 for the most distinguished book for children published in the U.S. in a given year).