7th GRADE SUMMER READING!

June 2026

Dear Incoming 7th Graders,

We hope that you have an enjoyable and relaxing summer! At the same time, we don't want to see you forget all of the skills you have worked on during 6th grade. This summer, to keep your skills sharp, we ask you to read **TWO novels** you have never read before and that are age appropriate; at least one selection must be **FICTION**. **For the Fiction selection, *try not to avoid a book with a film version.***

For one of the books, **FICTION ONLY,** print and fill out pages 2 and 3 of this packet. Bring these pages to class with you in September.

Throughout the course of the year we will explore various characters, conflicts, and themes on top of our exploration of story structure and how authors transform traditional structures. Characters, conflicts, and themes will be a reoccurring topic in both our class discussions and writing for each unit we study.

We encourage students to utilize the school and public libraries as a means of finding great books to read. Anyone looking for book suggestions, can *refer but not limit themselves to the suggestion list* at the end of this packet, seek out the school librarian or their ELA teacher. Check out the free Sora app on Classlink or if you have a library card the Libby app in your app store to borrow free audio and digital versions of the books you want to read from the public library.

Parents, your middle schooler may be bigger, but who would not enjoy spending time reading together? It's great if you can carve out time in the day to read together or alongside each other. If you cannot read together, ask a simple question like "what happened in your book today?" This will spark a lively conversation, as your child will be excited to share what he/she/they read.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the 7th grade ELA teachers. Have a great summer!

Mrs. DeMarco
Ldemarco@eufsdk12.org

Mrs. Cuomo
mcuomo@eufsdk12.org

Ms. DellaMonica
edellamonica@eufsdk12.org

Name _____

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Book Title and Author: (FICTION ONLY)

_____

Who is the protagonist (main character) of the story? *If there are multiple narrators, choose ONE to focus on for this assignment.*

_____

What is the major conflict of the story?

_____

*Directions→ After the major conflict is introduced, list three events/conflicts that the protagonist struggles through and **how** the protagonist acts or reacts to each event/conflict.*

Events	Protagonist's acts/reactions

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What is the turning point of the conflict in the novel?

How is the major conflict of the story resolved?

Describe the protagonist at the end of the story. How do you know? Provide an example from the story.

How would you react to the conflict(s) the protagonist faces? What would you do the same? Differently?

EMS 7th Grade Summer Reading Suggestions*

These suggestions include titles at multiple reading levels and from a variety of genres that Middle School students have enjoyed in the past. Students are welcome and encouraged to choose books that are not on this list, based upon their own interests. Eastchester Middle School values partnership with parents when choosing reading material for students.* ***Please preview your child's choices to be sure that the books are appropriate for your child and your family.* *This list is alphabetized by author's last name.*

Crossover
Alexander, Kwame.
"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . .The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

Red Queen
Aveyard, Victoria
The Reds are commoners, ruled by a Silver elite in possession of god-like superpowers. And to Mare Barrow, a seventeen-year-old Red girl from the poverty-stricken Stilts, it seems like nothing will ever change. That is until she finds herself working in the Silver Palace. Here, surrounded by the people she hates the most, Mare discovers that, despite her red blood, she possesses a deadly power of her own. One that threatens to destroy the balance of power. Fearful of Mare's potential, the Silvers hide her in plain view, declaring her a long-lost Silver princess, now engaged to a Silver prince. Despite knowing that one misstep would mean her death, Mare works silently to help the Red Guard, a militant resistance group, and bring down the Silver regime. But this is a world of betrayal and lies, and Mare has entered a dangerous dance—Reds against Silvers, prince against prince, and Mare against her own heart.

Tangerine
Bloor, Edward.
Though legally blind, Paul Fisher can see what others cannot. He can see that his parents' constant praise of his brother, Erik, the football star, is to cover up something that is terribly wrong. But no one listens to Paul--until his family moves to Tangerine. In this Florida town, weird is normal: Lightning strikes at the same time every day, a sinkhole swallows a local school, and Paul the geek finds himself adopted into the toughest group around: the soccer team.

The Selection
Cass, Kiera
For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth. To be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels. To live in a palace and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her. Leaving her home to enter a fierce competition for a crown she doesn't want. Living in a palace that is constantly threatened by violent rebel attacks. Then America meets Prince Maxon. Gradually, she starts to question all the plans she's made for herself—and realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.

Alone
Freeman, Megan E.
When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone—left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned. With no one to rely on, no power, and no working phone lines or internet access, Maddie slowly learns to survive on her own. Her only companions are a Rottweiler named George and all the books she can read. After a rough start, Maddie learns to trust her own ingenuity and invents clever ways to survive in a place that has been deserted and forgotten. As months pass, she escapes natural disasters, looters, and wild animals. But Maddie's most formidable enemy is the crushing loneliness she faces every day. Can Maddie's stubborn will to survive carry her through the most frightening experience of her life?

The Bad Beginning *(A Series of Unfortunate Events #1)*
Handler, Daniel.
Dear Reader, I'm sorry to say that the book you are holding in your hands is extremely unpleasant. It tells an unhappy tale about three very unlucky children. Even though they are charming and clever, the Baudelaire siblings lead lives filled with misery and woe. From the very first page of this book when the children are at the beach and receive terrible news, continuing on through the entire story, disaster lurks at their heels. One might say they are magnets for misfortune. In this short book alone, the three youngsters encounter a greedy and repulsive villain, itchy clothing, a disastrous fire, a plot to steal their fortune, and cold porridge for breakfast. It is my sad duty to write down these unpleasant tales, but there is nothing stopping you from putting this book down at once and reading something happy, if you prefer that sort of thing. With all due respect, *Lemony Snicket*

Rules
Lord, Cynthia.
Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

Travel Team
Lupica, Mike.
Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court -- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured.

Cinder
Meyer, Marissa.
Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl.

An Acquaintance with Darkness
Rinaldi, Ann
When her mother dies and her best friend's family is implicated in the assassination of President Lincoln, fourteen-year-old Emily Pigbush must go live with an uncle she suspects of being involved in stealing bodies for medical research.

No Summit Out of Sight
Romero, Jordan.
In this inspiring young adult memoir that includes color photos, he tells how he achieved such great heights.On May 22, 2010, at the age of thirteen, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. At fifteen, he became the youngest person to reach the summits of the tallest mountains on each of the seven continents. In this energizing memoir for young adults, Jordan, recounts his experience, which started as a spark of an idea at the age of nine and, many years of training and hard work later, turned into a dream come true.

Counting by 7s
Sloan, Holly.
Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

Peak
Smith, Roland.
The only thing you'll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things that really matter lie far below. – Peak Marcello
After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit--and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer
Swanson, James.
Tells the story of the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth and gives a day-by-day account of the wild chase to find this killer and his accomplices.

Forget Me Not
Terry, Ellie
A girl with Tourette syndrome starts at a new school and tries to hide her quirks in this debut middle-grade novel in verse. Astronomy-loving Calliope June has Tourette syndrome, so she sometimes makes faces or noises that she doesn't mean to make. When she and her mother move yet again, she tries to hide her TS. But it isn't long before the kids at her new school realize she's different. Only Calli's neighbor, who is also the popular student body president, sees her as she truly is—an interesting person and a good friend. But is he brave enough to take their friendship public? As Calli navigates school, she must also face her mother's new relationship and the fact that she might be moving, again, just as she starts to make friends and finally accept her differences.

The Hobbit
Tolkien, J.R.R.
In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort. Written for J.R.R. Tolkien's own children, The Hobbit met with instant critical acclaim when it was first published in 1937. Now recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth recounts of the adventures of a reluctant hero, a powerful and dangerous ring, and the cruel dragon Smaug the Magnificent.

The Running Dream
Van Draanen, Wendelin.
When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

Locomotion
Woodson, Jaqueline.
When Lonnie Collins Motion "Locomotion" was seven years old, his life changed forever. Now he's eleven, and his life is about to change again. His teacher, Ms. Marcus, is showing him ways to put his jumbled feelings on paper. And suddenly, Lonnie has a whole new way to tell the world about his life, his friends, his little sister Lili, and even his foster mom, Miss Edna, who started out crabby but isn't so bad after all. Jacqueline Woodson's novel-in-poems is humorous, heartbreaking . . . a triumph.

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Popular Young Adult Authors

- Kwame Alexander
- Avi
- Suzanne Collins
- James Dashner
- Tommy Greenwald
- Gordon Korman
- Holly Jackson
- Marie Lu
- Karen McManus
- Jason Reynolds
- Ann Rinaldi
- Neal Shusterman
- Scott Westerfeld
- Jacqueline Woodson

7th Grade Reading List (Whole Class Reads); **avoid choosing the following as summer reading**:

- *The Odyssey* by Homer (Graphic Novel Version~ Select Stories)
- *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

Possible selections during the year; **avoid choosing the following as summer reading**:

- *Restart* by Gordon Korman
- *Legend* by Marie Lu
- *Sophia's War* by Avi
- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
- *Dry* by Neal Shusterman
- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry