Hello, rising seventh and eighth grade students!

This summer, Mrs. McClurg and Mrs. Commons have a challenge for you: build a habit of reading regularly.

Your mission is to finish reading at least one of the books listed below and write a series of related journal entries also listed below.

> Hint for success: Set a goal for yourself. What amount of time will you dedicate to reading every day/week or how many pages will you turn in a single sitting?
>
> Example: Mrs. Commons plans to dedicate at least 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week, to reading.

Summer Book List & Assignment

Step One: Choose ONE of the following books to read.

Note: 1) Books can be checked out from your public library, found at a local bookshop, or ordered online.

2) The first seven books will be included in the Junior Tome Reading Bowl and may also be used in many of the literary competitions for TomeCon 2027.

- ***Away* by Megan Freeman**
  - Dystopia; mystery; poetry; male and female protagonists
- ***Once for Yes* by Allie Millington**
  - Realistic fiction; some magic; female protagonist
- ***Rebellion 1776* by Laurie Halse Anderson**
  - Historical fiction; female protagonist
- ***School for Thieves* by Peter Burns**
  - Adventure; male protagonist
- ***Secrets of the Broken House* by Taryn Souders**
  - Mystery; male protagonist
- ***The Lions' Run* by Sara Pennypacker**
  - Historical fiction; male protagonist
- ***The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman* by Gennifer Choldenko**
  - Realistic fiction; male protagonist

- ***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan**
    - Historical fiction; realistic fiction; female protagonist
- ***The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite de Angeli**
    - Historical fiction; medieval coming-of-age
- ***The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien**
    - Fantasy; adventure; male protagonist
- ***The Horse and His Boy* by C. S. Lewis**
    - Fantasy; adventure; allegory; male and female protagonists
- ***The Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell**
    - Historical fiction; survival adventure; female protagonist

Step Two: Annotate key passages, words, or quotations in the book.
Q: How?
A: As you read, mark (either directly in the book or with sticky notes) passages, words, or quotations that show conflict, a plot climax, or any evidence of a character's growth. Additionally, mark any words whose definition you didn't know before you read the book.

Step Three: Keep a journal as you journey through the book.
Q: How?
A: Looking at the choice board on the next page, choose FIVE connecting squares. Those five squares will decide the type of topics* you will consider in your journal entries. Your line of 5 topics can be either horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

*Note: Scroll to the end of this document for a description of each topic.

Respond to each square's topic in a written journal entry (one 6+ sentence paragraph per square). Once you are finished with the assignment, you should have five journal entries equalling a total of 5 paragraphs.

Choice Board				
Personal reflection	**Literary device**	**Power word reflection**	**Literary device**	**Figurative language**
Figurative language	**Theme(s)**	**Literary device**	**Power word reflection**	**Personal reflection**
Power word reflection	**Figurative language**	**Personal reflection**	**Theme(s)**	**Literary device**
Personal reflection	**Power word reflection**	**Literary device**	**Figurative language**	**Theme(s)**
Literary device	**Personal reflection**	**Theme(s)**	**Personal reflection**	**Power word reflection**

Helpful links:

Q: How do I choose a book that I will like?

A: Read about each book using the following links: https://www.goodreads.com/ OR https://www.arbookfind.com/.

Q: Can a family read the book together?

A: Absolutely! Find tips for a family book club on www.weareteachers.com, "How to Start a Family Book Club (Plus 11 Great Reads to Try)" by Staake.

Happy reading, students! We can't wait to hear which book(s) you choose to befriend and how your reading journey goes!

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Mrs. McClurg & Mrs. Commons
7th & 8th Grade English Teachers
Tallulah Falls Middle School

Personal reflection: Explain a personal connection you have to a part of the story.

Power word reflection (Can be a strong vocabulary word, a quotation, or a descriptive passage): Explain why you chose/noticed the powerful word, quotation, or passage. How does it help develop the story for you?

Theme(s): Choose a segment of the novel that reveals a theme (author's underlying message about life). How does this segment show what the author wants to tell us about life experience? Where do you see this theme playing out in your own life or the life of someone you know?

Figurative language (Includes similes, metaphors, alliteration, personification, onomatopoeia, etc.): What example of figurative language did you find? What is its symbolic meaning? How does the author use it to help you better understand the story?

Literary devices (Includes flashback, foreshadowing, irony, symbolism, etc.): What literary device did you find? What is its symbolic meaning? How do you understand the story better because the author used this literary device?