

Don Estridge High Tech Middle School

Incoming 7th Grade Summer Reading

DIRECTIONS:

This summer, you are required to read and study a novel from the list provided below and create **ONE** of the projects from the choice board. **Your project is due by Friday, August 21, 2026.**

- Read **ONE** novel from the summer reading list.
- Choose **ONE** project from the following to demonstrate your understanding of the literary benchmarks.

Summer Reading Books List: (Choose **ONE** of the following)

***A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord:** “First published in 1955, *A Night to Remember* remains the definitive, classic tale of the sinking of the *Titanic*. Walter Lord interviewed more than sixty survivors before committing their searingly vivid recollections to his minute-by-minute account of the *Titanic's* fatal collision and the experiences of both passengers and crew under pressure of the unthinkable: the swift plummet into icy waters of the ship promised never to sink.” (Good Reads)

***I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* by Malala Yousafzai:** “I AM MALALA is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.” (Good Reads)

***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander:** Josh and Jordan "JB" Bell are the teen phenom sons of former superstar Chuck "Da Man" Bell and junior high principal Crystal Stanley-Bell. Josh is the better student, one inch taller, plays small forward, and aspires to go to Duke. Jordan attempts to emulate his idol, Air Jordan, plays shooting guard like his namesake, and yearns to go to North Carolina. Both are all-county players on their way to the big time. Their exploits on and off the court are expressed through an emphatic onomatopoeia poetry that shows basketball as an art form. (Good Reads)

***Tangerine* by Edward Bloor:** Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he's not so blind that he can't see there are some very unusual things about his family's new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Where else does a sinkhole swallow the local school, fire burn underground for years, and lightning strike at the same time every day?

The chaos is compounded by constant harassment from his football-star brother, and adjusting to life in Tangerine isn't easy for Paul—until he joins his middle school's soccer team. With the help of his new teammates, Paul begins to discover what lies beneath the surface of his strange new hometown. And he also gains the courage to face up to some secrets his family has been keeping from him for far too long. In Tangerine, it seems, anything is possible. (Good Reads)

***The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings:** No novel better epitomizes the love between a child and a pet than *The Yearling*. Young Jody adopts an orphaned fawn he calls Flag and makes it a part of his family and his best friend. But life in the Florida backwoods is harsh. So, as his family fights off wolves, bears, and even alligators, and faces failure in their tenuous subsistence farming, Jody must finally part with his dear animal friend... (Good Reads)

***Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* by Russell Freedman:** On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus and give up her seat to a white man. This refusal to give up her dignity sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, a yearlong struggle, and a major victory in the civil rights movement. Source notes, map, bibliography, index. (Good Reads)

Project Choices: (Choose ONE of the following 6 options)

Due Date: Friday, August 21, 2026

1. Newspaper Create a newspaper for the novel. Your newspaper should include at least three multi-paragraph informational articles about different events from the novel. Your articles should contain relevant text evidence from the novel. Be sure to include headlines and pictures for your articles. Give the newspaper a title and a date.	2. Book Cover Redesign the book cover to reflect the novel. Your cover should include illustrations, an enticing synopsis (at least one paragraph), author's biography, your opinion/review of the book (at least one paragraph), and three quotes from the novel that capture the essence of the book.	3. Character Profile Write a one- page profile all about a main character, including five character traits, 4 quotes relating to the character's traits, three facts about the character, two ways the character changed throughout the novel and one visual representation of the character. You may arrange the profile however you want.
4. Theme Playlist Create a playlist of at least eight songs for the story. Each song should correspond to a different event that occurred in the book. List each song and artist, then write a detailed, multi-sentence explanation with text evidence for each song about how it relates to the book.	5. Plot Map with Decision Points Create a map that shows where at least eight significant plot events took place. Include illustrations or symbols for each map location. Write a multi-sentence explanation with text evidence of each of your depicted plot events explaining their significance.	6. Theme Poster Create an inspirational theme poster for one of the novels. Include a thematic statement, a visual representation, and a quote from the book to support your thematic statement. On a separate piece of paper, write one paragraph about the theme with text evidence from the beginning, middle and end of the novel that shows how the theme develops throughout.

Rubric (20 Points Total)

Criteria	4 Points (Exceeds)	3 Points (Meets)	2 Points (Approaching)	1 Point (Beginning)
Understanding of Character (ELA.7.R.1.3)	Deep insight with a clear explanation of character development	Clear understanding with some explanation	Basic or limited understanding	Minimal or unclear understanding
Setting & Plot (ELA.7.R.1.1 & 1.4)	Strong explanation of how setting impacts plot and events	Accurate explanation with some detail	Partial or unclear explanation	Minimal or incorrect understanding
Theme (ELA. 7. R. 1.2)	Clear theme with strong explanation and development	Theme identified with support	Theme unclear or weakly supported	Theme missing or incorrect
Text Evidence	Strong, relevant evidence well explained	Evidence used with some explanation	Limited or weak evidence	Little to no evidence
Creativity & Effort	Highly creative, detailed, and complete	Complete with some creativity	Partially complete or minimal effort	Incomplete or lacks effort

✓ Grading

- Each category = **4 points**
- Total = **20 points**