



THE
STANLEY CLARK
SCHOOL



Dear (rising) Eighth-Grade Students and Families:

Eighth Graders, as a Clark alumna myself, I can remember how I felt when I finally became an Eighth Grader. You are now at the top of the school. Maybe you are looking forward to starting on a sports team, or winning a ribbon at a speech meet, or being a captain on Olympic day (GO IROQUOIS!). While all of those goals and aspirations are exciting and fun, I hope you can also be excited to read in English class as well.

For summer reading this year, I am requesting that you read a minimum of **four books** this summer. I would like students to read a classic book (see details below), one fantasy, one dystopian/science fiction book, and one book that is realistic fiction or historical fiction. I ask that **only one** of the four books is a graphic novel or novel in verse. In 7th and 8th grade, we need to work on reading stamina and work toward more challenging texts. In addition, I will give students extra credit for any additional free-choice books.

I would like students to use their summer reading as an exploration into what they like and dislike in a book. This will be an opportunity to try picking up a book that you normally wouldn't, but with the potential of finding a new favorite genre. This summer, I want students to try new books that they have had recommended by friends. This is a great opportunity for parents to share their favorite books with their students.

Your first assignments of the year revolve around your summer reading. Please fill out this [google form](#) after completing each summer reading book. This summer reading log will prompt the students to tell me about their books, including: book information, a summary, a review, their favorite quotation, their favorite character, and a rating with justification. In 7th grade, students should complete **four forms**.

Students should come prepared to do a **book talk** on their favorite book of the summer when they return to school. These book talks should include book information (title, author, genre), a spoiler-free summary, a passage with page number, and their recommendation. Students may use a notecard for this assignment.

Before school gloriously resumes in August, you need to complete the following tasks:

- Read a minimum of **four books**.
- Please look over the list of [classic books](#) and fill out the [form](#) with your book interests. Mrs. Horvath will then email you two options. This novel will be the focus of your research paper at the beginning of the year.
- Fill out the [google form: Summer Reading Log](#) for all four of the independent reading selections. Completion of these four, simple reviews will serve as your first homework grade of the semester!
- Return to school prepared to give a book talk about your favorite book of the summer.

In addition to reading, here are some other OPTIONAL activities that you may wish to work into your summer routine to keep those language arts skills sharp:

- Start a [family book club](#)! Googling “[book title] discussion guide” should yield some thought-provoking questions to help you get the conversation started. You can also encourage students to start a book club with their friends or look into teen programming at your local public library.
- Build that writing stamina—keep [a journal](#), or let loose with some [creative writing](#).
- Listen to audiobooks on long car rides. Remember, our [Sora digital library](#) is open 24/7 all summer long! I do recommend following along with a physical book to maximize your fluency.
- Slow down, unplug, and work on your [penmanship](#). Many middle school students still need lots of practice developing the fine motor skills needed to produce neat, legible handwriting. In 7th grade, spelling counts on vocabulary quizzes and if I cannot read a student's handwriting they are at risk of losing points!

Download the [IXL app](#) on a phone or tablet, and work on 1-2 skills each week. Your language arts teachers will be happy to recommend individual skills upon request. These skills are optional and will not relate to any grading in quarter one. If you would like specific recommendations for your student, please reach out to Mrs. Horvath or Mrs. Squadroni. If you are struggling with book selections please reach out to Mrs. Lewis (klewis@stanleyclark.org), Mrs. Squadroni (csquadroni@stanleyclark.org), or Mrs. Horvath (ahorvath@stanleyclark.org). We all love reading and helping our students find books that fit their interests and stretch their skills.

Eighth graders, I am excited to see all of you in August. I am looking forward to the good work we will do together in the fall! Happy Summer! (Please escape into the world of a good book!)

Abby Horvath

7/8 English