

## Summer Reading Assignment

### Grades 6–8 Language Arts

Dear Students and Families,

Reading is an important part of keeping our minds active and growing over the summer. All students entering **grades 6–8** are required to complete **summer reading**.

#### Your Summer Reading Task:

- ✓ Choose and read **ONE book** of your choice over the summer- you may choose any appropriate novel that interests you.
- ✓ You may take notes on the attached graphic organizer while reading to help you remember important details, characters, themes, and events. This is optional.
- ✓ During the **first week of school**, you will complete an assignment connected to the novel you read.

Please choose a book that you have **not already read in Language Arts class**.

The following novels may **NOT** be selected as they may be incorporated into future instruction.

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#### Entering Grade 6 — Do NOT Choose:

- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
  - *Flush* by Carl Hiaasen
  - *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper
  - *Letters from Rifka* by Karen Hesse
  - *Hidden Talents* by David Lubar
  - *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
  - *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
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#### Entering Grade 7 — Do NOT Choose:

- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman
- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers
- *Canyon's Edge* by Dusti Bowling

- *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
  - *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen
  - *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse
  - *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar
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### Entering Grade 8 — Do NOT Choose:

- *Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper
  - *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
  - *That Was Then, This Is Now* by S.E. Hinton
  - *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
  - *The Pigman* by Paul Zindel
  - *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi
  - *Unwind* by Neal Schusterman
  - *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
  - *The Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
  - *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
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### Tips for Choosing a Book:

-  Pick something you will enjoy reading.
-  Choose a book that challenges you and keeps you interested- if you're not enjoying it, put it down and choose another!
-  Yes, graphic novels are novels!

We are excited to hear about the books you chose and discuss your reading experiences when school begins again.

**Happy Reading!** 

**Mr. Pape, Mrs. Rieth, Mrs. Trischitta, Mrs. Ward**

## Summer Reading Book Suggestions

### Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Graders- Need Help Choosing a Book?

Not sure what to read this summer? Check out these recommendations! These books are similar to novels we have enjoyed in class and include themes such as adventure, friendship, humor, history, and overcoming challenges. As always, have your parents preview the book to make sure it's a good choice for you!

**Remember:** You only need to read **ONE book** this summer. These are suggestions — you may choose another appropriate book that interests you.

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#### If You Enjoyed *Holes* by Louis Sachar...

##### You may like:

- *Small Steps* by Louis Sachar  
A continuation of Armpit's story as he faces new challenges and opportunities.
  - *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate  
A heartfelt story about friendship, hope, and finding your place.
  - *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown  
An adventure story about survival, friendship, and adapting to a new world.
  - *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo  
A story about friendship, family, and how one dog changes a young girl's life.
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#### If You Enjoyed *Flush* by Carl Hiaasen...

##### You may like:

- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen  
A funny environmental mystery about kids working to protect endangered animals.
- *Scat* by Carl Hiaasen  
A mystery involving wildlife, a missing teacher, and environmental issues.
- *Chomp* by Carl Hiaasen  
A humorous adventure involving animals and a reality television show.
- *Restart* by Gordon Korman  
A student gets a second chance after an accident changes his life.
- *The Last Kids on Earth* by Max Brallier  
A fast-paced adventure series filled with humor and friendship.

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### If You Enjoyed *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper...

#### You may like:

- *Out of My Heart* by Sharon Draper  
Melody experiences new adventures and independence at summer camp.
- *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt  
A student learns that struggles do not define her abilities.
- *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio  
A powerful story about kindness, friendship, and acceptance.
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord  
A story about family, friendship, and understanding others.
- *Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine  
A moving story about a girl learning to navigate life after loss.

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### If You Enjoyed *Letters from Rifka* by Karen Hesse...

#### You may like:

- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
A girl must rebuild her life after moving to a new country.
  - *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanh Hà Lai  
A novel in verse about immigration, family, and starting over.
  - *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park  
A powerful story about survival, hope, and perseverance.
  - *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
A story about courage, independence, and finding hope.
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# Summer Reading OPTIONAL Graphic Organizer

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Book Title and Author: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Characters & Character Traits

| Character | Traits | Evidence from the Story |
|-----------|--------|-------------------------|
|           |        |                         |
|           |        |                         |
|           |        |                         |

## 2. Major Themes

Theme #1:  
What does the author show about this theme?

Theme #2:  
What does the author show about this theme?

### 3. Conflict

Main Conflict:

Type: ☐ Character vs. Character ☐ Character vs. Self ☐ Character vs. Society ☐ Character vs. Nature

How does the conflict affect the characters?

How is the conflict solved?

### 4. Plot Elements

Setting:

Exposition (Beginning):

Rising Action (Important Events):

1.

2.

3.

Climax:

Falling Action:

Resolution: