

ELA 7th Grade Summer Reading

Hello and welcome to Summer Reading!

Below you will find your summer reading assignment. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Darna Davis at: darna.davis@dhschools.org

Summer reading provides you with an opportunity for recreational reading, personal exploration, and continued intellectual growth. Research shows that students who are actively engaged in reading throughout the summer demonstrate improved academic performance during the following school year! And I want to hear your thoughts and ratings for the books you selected.

Attached is a list of titles for your summer reading enjoyment, as well as grade specific assignments to complete. Your teacher will collect your Reading Log and TWO (2) written assignments on **Monday, August 02, 2021** (first day of school).

Have a great summer!
Mrs. Johnson

	Assignment	Due Date
Part I: Independent Reading	Choose and read any book from the list below.	Monday, August 02, 2021
Part II: Reading Assignments	Complete TWO (2) different novel study projects to complete.	Monday, August 02, 2021

Summer Reading List

Medieval History & The Renaissance

Crystal Tibbon by Celeste Lim

In Medieval China, twelve-year-old Li Jing is the daughter of a poor tea farmer. After a particularly bad harvest, she is sold as a bride to help her family survive. When she's treated poorly by her new family and then sold into an even worse situation, Li Jing runs away with the help of a spider and a nightingale.

The Inquisitor's Tale by Adam Gidwitz

In a novel reminiscent of [*The Canterbury Tales*](#), three travelers meet in 1241 France and begin to tell the intersecting stories of three children on a quest with their holy greyhound. William is on a mission from his monastery. Jacob is a Jewish boy escaping persecution. And Jeanne is a peasant girl who must hide her prophetic visions. Together they will work to save a precious, holy text from being burned.

The Mad Wolf's Daughter by Diane Magras

One night in Medieval Scotland, Drest's life is changed forever when knights invade her father's castle. They capture her entire family. Drest is the only one they leave behind. Her father is a famous warrior and her five older brothers make up a renowned war-band, but now it is Drest's

turn to save them. But on her wild journey, her loyalty is challenged when she befriends a wounded invader and learns of the atrocities her brothers committed.

Leonardo's Shadow or My Astonishing Life as Leonardo Da Vinci's Servant by Christopher GreyGiacomo

Giacomo works as a servant in the home of the master painter Leonardo da Vinci. The year is 1497. And da Vinci has been working on his painting *Last Supper* for almost two years. If he doesn't finish—and get paid—soon, the shopkeepers of Milan may rise up against him because of his debt. But Giacomo comes up with a plan to save his master. He just needs to convince him to go along with it first.

The 18th & 19th Centuries

The Attack of the Turtle by Drew Carlson

Set against the backdrop of the American Revolutionary War, fourteen-year-old Nathan works with his older cousin David Bushnell to create the first submarine. But if Nathan really wants to help his people win independence he will need to overcome his fear of water and investigate his suspicions that his neighbors are Tory spies.

Silent Thunder by Andrea Davis Pinkey

The title of this novel refers to the process where enslaved children learn to hold their thoughts and questions inside in order to survive. This is particularly difficult for eleven-year-old Summer, who has questions about everything from who her father is to why her mother seems so upset most of the time. Her older brother Roscoe conceals questions and secrets of his own. In the era of the Civil War, both siblings are determined to make a better life for themselves despite the danger.

The Detective's Assistant by Kate Hannigan

Eleven-year-old Nell only has one person between her and the orphanage. She needs to convince her aunt to take her in. But her aunt is Kate Warne, the first female detective who worked for the Pinkerton Detective Agency during the Civil War. To persuade her aunt to let her stay, Nell tries to make herself useful solving mysteries, including one mission to save President Lincoln.

Calico Girl by Jerdine Nolen

Twelve-year-old Callie Wilcomb is a slave living with her family when Abraham Lincoln is arrested. And when Virginia succeeds from the union, the contraband law means that if her family can get to Fort Monroe, they won't be returned to their owners. With new freedom comes new dreams for Callie, but her new life isn't free from hardship or the lingering trauma of her time working as a slave.

The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood. Taking place in the Elizabethan era, it recounts the story of Widge, an orphan whose master sends him to steal Hamlet from the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

The 20th Century

Chasing Secrets by Gennifer Choldenko

It's 1900, and thirteen-year-old Lizzie is enamored with the excitement of San Francisco's Gilded Age. But she's stuck in a boring finishing school where no one understands her passion for science. Her only escape is when she can convince her physician father to take her along on house calls. During these outings, Lizzie's exposed to a darker side of her city: one with rat infestations, cramped living quarters, and people dying of a mysterious illness. Her father and all the newspapers deny the plague's existence. But when her best friend Jing goes missing and she learned that Chinatown is under quarantine, Lizzie begins to investigate to satisfy her curiosity and save her friend.

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

An account of World War One imagined through the eyes of a horse, Joey. After Joey is sold to the army, he tries to act courageously in battle and give the soldiers hope. But in his heart, through witnessing the atrocities of war and being captured by the Germans, he just wants to get back to his first owner Albert, the fifteen-year-old who trained him.

Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper

Things have been peaceful in eleven-year-old Stella's small North Carolina town for a while. Peaceful doesn't mean equal. In the Jim Crow South, Stella notices the nicer white school building and the fact that the white doctor doesn't treat African Americans. But the KKK hasn't been active in a long time. Until in 1932, with the Depression making finding work hard for everyone, the Klan resurrects itself. And when Stella's Dad decides to vote with two other black men, Stella's family and her entire community are in danger.

The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis

Twelve-year-old Deza loves school and has big dreams for what she wants to accomplish in life. But when the Great Depression makes her father lose his job and leave Indiana in search of work, Deza dreams of her family being together again. Then her mom loses her job, and they become homeless. Deza must find an inner resilience while looking for her dad and adjusting to a new life in Flint, Michigan.

The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

When World War Two break out, nine-year-old Ada has never been outside of her one-room apartment in London or had a moment away from her abusive mother. Ada has a club foot and only experiences the world through her little brother and the window she stares out. But when she's evacuated to the countryside, Ada experiences love and proper care for the first time. But when the war ends, will she and her brother have to return to their dreary former existence?

Fred Korematsu Speaks Up by Laura Atkins & Sta Yogi

Fred Korematsu was born in the United States. And his parents have lived in the country for over two decades. But in 1941 when the U.S. goes to war with Japan, the government forces all people of Japanese descent to move into prison camps. Fred's family wants him to follow orders and go with them. But he refuses and is put in jail, where his case eventually goes to the Supreme Court.

The Last Cherry Blossom by Kathleen Burkinshaw

Yuriko loves growing up in Hiroshima with her father. But with World War Two coming to an end, the future of Japan is uncertain. Yuriko is used to sirens and air-raid drills, but real news about the war is censored by the government. But in 1945, the bomb hits Hiroshima and her life and hometown will be changed forever.

Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz & Renee Watson

Written by the daughter of the civil rights icons Malcom X and Dr. Betty Shabazz with the acclaimed novelist Renée Watson, this novel explores Betty's life as an eleven-year-old living in Detroit in 1945. The connection Betty longs for at home is instead filled by her activist church. This eventually leads her to volunteer with the Housewives League, an organization advocating for black-owned businesses.

The Night Diary by Veer Hiranandani

Nisha is twelve in 1947 when India becomes independent from Britain and splits into two countries: India and Pakistan. The divide is supposed to reduce tensions between Hindus and Muslims. But Nisha is both, half Muslim and half Hindu. She's not sure where she belongs. She writes her accounts of civil unrest and danger in a diary full of letters to her dead mother—hoping that she can find a way to feel whole again.

The Warden's Daughter by Jerry Spinelli

Cammie has grown up inside a prison and without a mother. She's not a criminal. She's just the daughter of the warden of the small-town Pennsylvanian prison. In 1959, at the age of thirteen, Cammie becomes desperate for a maternal figure in her life. She begins to evaluate her most convenient options for a mother stand in—the women living in her father's prison.

I Lived on Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosin

Eleven-year-old Celeste Marconi has lived an idyllic existence filled with family and friends in Valparaiso, Chile. But in 1973, a new government takes over, declaring that anyone involved in art or political protest are dangerous dissidents. With an increased military presence and classmates “disappearing” without explanation every day, Celeste is scared. Her parents go into hiding and send Celeste to America to be safe. She adjusts to a new life in Maine, but never stops dreaming of Chile and missing her parents.

Classic/Prize Winners

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger

Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Entering Grade 7: Summer Reading Assignment

***** Complete a reading log for the book you selected!

AND

***** Choose TWO (2) different projects to complete for your novel of choice.

Reading Response #1

Scene Re-write

Take a scene from your book and re-write it from the point of view (POV) of another character (i.e. any character if the book is told in 3rd person). This should be a minimum of one paragraph (6 sentences) long and you should choose a section that is narration, Not DIALOGUE. Also make sure that you show your understanding of the characterization of the character you choose.

Reading Response #2

Letter Writing

Write a letter to a character in your novel giving him/her some advice. The letter must be at least two paragraphs in proper letter format. Your writing should not be large print.

Reading Response #3

Write a new ending

Rewrite the ending to your novel. How do you think the novel should have ended? This new ending should be at least one page in length and be coincide with the current setting and characters.

Reading Response #4

Make a collage

Make a collage about one character in your novel. Write 1-2 paragraphs explaining how the collage represents that particular character's personality and his/her role in the novel.

