

Grades 7th through 9th – Summer Reading Book List 2020-2021

Students in grades 7th – 9th will choose two books to read from the selections below. The students will be assessed the first week back to school in the fall. **Please scroll to the bottom of this document for assessment details.**

7th grade:

The Hatchet – Gary Paulsen

ISBN-13: 978-1416936473

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present—and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart since his parent's divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self-pity, or despair—it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

The Call of the Wild-Jack London

ISBN-13: 978-0812504323

Kidnapped from his safe California home, thrown into a life-and-death struggle on the frozen Arctic wilderness, half St. Bernard, half Shepard, Buck learns many hard lessons as a sled dog: the lesson of the leash, of the cold, of near-starvation and cruelty. And the greatest lesson he learns from his last owner, John Thornton: the power of love and loyalty.

Yet always, even at the side of the human he loves, Buck feels the pull in his bones, an urge to answer his wolf ancestors as they howl to him.

A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine L'Engle

ISBN-13: 978-0312367541

It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.

"Wild nights are my glory," the unearthly stranger told them. "I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I'll be on my way. Speaking of ways, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract."

A tesseract (in case the reader doesn't know) is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would rob the reader of the enjoyment of Miss L'Engle's unusual book. *A Wrinkle in Time*, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem.

***The Giver* – Lois Lowry**

ISBN-13: 9780544336261

The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.

8th grade:

***Stargirl* – Jerry Spinelli**

ISBN-13: 978-0439444439

Stargirl. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of “Stargirl, Stargirl.” She captures Leo Borlock’s heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted at first, then, they turn on her.

Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love.

***Among the Hidden* – Margaret P. Haddix**

ISBN-13: 978-0689824753

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm in this start to the Shadow Children series from Margaret Peterson Haddix.

Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend.

Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside.

Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows -- does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?

***Teacher's Funeral* – Richard Peck**

ISBN-13: 978-0142405079

If your teacher has to die, August isn't a bad time of year for it," begins Richard Peck's latest novel, a book full of his signature wit and sass. Russell Culver is fifteen in 1904, and he's raring to leave his tiny Indiana farm town for the endless sky of the Dakotas. To him, school has been nothing but a chain holding him back from his dreams. Maybe now that his teacher has passed on, they'll shut the school down entirely and leave him free to roam.

No such luck. Russell has a particularly eventful season of schooling ahead of him, led by a teacher he never could have predicted—perhaps the only teacher equipped to control the likes of him: his sister Tansy. Despite stolen supplies, a privy fire, and more than any classroom's share of snakes, Tansy will manage to keep that school alive and maybe, just maybe, set her brother on a new, wiser course

Alabama Moon—Watt Key

ISBN—13: 978-0312384289

For as long as ten-year-old Moon can remember, he has lived out in the forest in a shelter with his father. They keep to themselves; their only contact with other human beings an occasional trip to the general store. When Moon's father dies, Moon follows his father's last instructions: to travel to Alaska and find others like themselves. But Moon is soon caught and entangled in a world he doesn't understand; he's become the property of the government he has been avoiding all his life. As he encounters constables, jails, institutions, and true friends, he adapts his wilderness skills and learns to survive in the outside world.

9th grade:

The Alchemist—Paula Coelho

ISBN-10: 0062315005

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

My Antonia—Willa Cather

ISBN-13: 978-0486282404

My *Antonia* evokes the Nebraska prairie life of Willa Cather's childhood, and commemorates the spirit and courage of immigrant pioneers in America. One of Cather's earliest novels, written in 1918, it is the story of *Antonia* Shimerda, who arrives on the Nebraska frontier as part of a family of Bohemian emigrants. Her story is told through the eyes of Jim Burden, a neighbor who will befriend *Antonia*, teach her English, and follow the remarkable story of her life. Working in the fields of waving grass and tall corn that dot the Great Plains, *Antonia* forges the durable spirit that will carry her through the challenges she faces when she moves to the city. But only when she returns to the prairie does she recover her strength and regain a sense of purpose in life. In the quiet, probing depth of Willa Cather's art, *Antonia*'s story becomes a mobbing elegy to those whose persistence and strength helped build the American frontier.

The Secret Life of Bees—Sue Monk Kidd

ISBN-13: 978-0142001745

The Secret Life of Bees was a *New York Times* bestseller for more than two and a half years, a *Good Morning America* "Read This" Book Club pick and was made into an award-winning film starring Dakota Fanning, Queen Latifah, Jennifer Hudson, and Alicia Keys. A coming of age tale set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of*

Bees will appeal to fans of Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* and Beth Hoffman's *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt*, and tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed.

When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the town's most vicious racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There they are taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna who presides over their household. This is a remarkable story about divine female power and the transforming power of love—a story that women will continue to share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

It received critical acclaim and was a New York Times bestseller list. It won the 2004 Book Sense Book of the Year Awards (Paperback), and was nominated for the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction.

***The Graveyard Book* – Neil Gaimen**

ISBN-13: 978-0060530945

In this Newbery Medal-winning novel, Bod is an unusual boy who inhabits an unusual place—he's the only living resident of a graveyard. Raised from infancy by the ghosts, werewolves, and other cemetery denizens, Bod has learned the antiquated customs of his guardians' time as well as their ghostly teachings—such as the ability to Fade so mere mortals cannot see him. Can a boy raised by ghosts face the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead? And then there are beings such as ghouls that aren't really one thing or the other.

The Graveyard Book won the Newbery Medal and the Carnegie Medal and is a Hugo Award Winner for Best Novel.

Summer reading beginning of the year assessments (7-8)

2020-2021

7 th grade and 8 th grade	<p style="text-align: center;">Book Report Formats for Grades 7-8</p> <p>7th and 8th English Summer Reading Book Assessments</p> <p>The first Friday after school starts, the students will test on the summer reading book of their choice. The test on one of the books they chose will have objective questions such as character matching and multiple-choice and will also include discussion questions.</p> <p>For the second book of choice, write a book report using the form below. The book report is due the first Friday after school starts.</p> <p>I. Title</p> <p>II. Author</p> <p>III. Setting</p> <p>IV. Main Characters: Two or three sentences telling who they are, and why they are important.</p> <p>V. Plot: Summarize the plot, and explain what happens in the book.</p> <p>VI. Theme: What is the theme of the story?</p> <p>VII. Briefly explain what you thought of the book.</p> <p>VIII. Vocabulary: List twenty-five words that you did not already know and define them.</p>
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