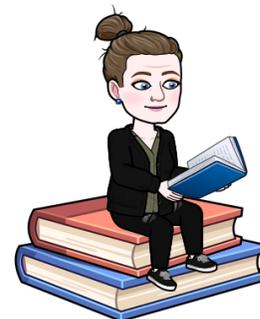


8TH GRADE SUMMER READING PACKET

“Why Summer Reading Pays Off Year-Round”

Posted to Homeroom, the official Blog of the US Department of Education



Attention parents & guardians: [You can] help your child become a better reader before the new school year begins. Summer is an important time for students to keep reading and improve their language skills. If your child [does not read] regularly this summer, they may be in danger of the “summer slide”—a decline in their reading ability.



Numerous studies indicate that students who don't read or read infrequently during their summer vacation see their reading abilities stagnate or decline. This effect becomes more pronounced as students get older and advance through the school system. The situation for economically disadvantaged students is especially grim: if students from low-income families don't read over the summer, they are much more likely to fall behind their more privileged peers, widening the “achievement gap.”

“It's like if you play an instrument but put it down for three months,” said Laurie Calvert, a teacher who is working as the Director of Teacher Outreach at ED. She wrote an academic thesis on improving summer reading programs at her North Carolina high school. “You're not going to be as good as a person who continues to play the instrument over those three months.”

However, this “summer slide” can be avoided by ensuring that children are as engaged as possible in whatever they choose to read—**just as long as they're reading every day.**

“Anything that keeps students reading works,” Calvert said. “The more engaged you are in the text, the closer you're going to read it. The closer you read it, the more you comprehend. And that process grows your skill.”

The best ways to keep your child from becoming a “rusty reader” over the summer are:

1. Encourage your children to read books they enjoy for at least 30 minutes per day. Your child will likely be more engrossed in material they choose themselves than material that is forced on them.
2. Provide incentives for reluctant readers. For example, if your child enjoys basketball, agree to take them to the local court if they do their “daily reading.”
3. Make reading a social act. Establish a time during the day when all members of the family gather and read on their own, or take turns reading the same book aloud.
4. Use apps and websites! Newsela.com, CommonLit, Overdrive, and TedEd are great resources for engaging young readers 😊

8TH GRADE Summer READING ASSIGNMENT



Assignment: Utopia Choice Book

For the upcoming school year, you will read **ONE** utopian novel over the summer. A utopian novel is a story that is set in a “perfect” society. We will be using texts for discussions and assignments in September. If you decide to read the books in June, you may need to review them again. “I forget what happened” will not be accepted. *Any work not completed will result in recurring after-school meetings until completion.*

Steps for success:

1. Choose **ONE** of the books described on the following pages of the packet. You can find copies of the books at your local library, in your ELA teacher’s library, online, or in a bookstore.
2. Read your novel. Please read the book carefully! I suggest taking notes on details or highlighting important information within the book itself.
3. As you read, fill out EACH of the graphic organizers (parts 1-5). You may do this as you read, or once you’ve finished the novel. I suggest stopping every 50 pages or so to look at the packet.
4. Complete the novel study worksheet. I will collect this on the first day of school.

NOTE: You will be able to use all of your materials (book, graphic organizer, and novel study) that you prepared for the summer reading assessment in September.

If you have any questions as you are reading (about the novel, assignment, or your notes), please email Mrs. O’Reilly at moreilly@town.hull.ma.us!

BOOK OPTIONS (CHOOSE 1)

TITLE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
<i>The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm</i>	Nancy Farmer	Zimbabwe, 2194. General Matsika's three children sneak out of the house on a forbidden adventure and disappear. Immediately the general calls Africa's most unusual detectives: the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm. Together these three detectives combine their superhuman powers to find the missing children. It's a dangerous mission that leads them from the seedy streets of the Cow's Guts to the swaying top of the Mile-High MacIlwaine Hotel. With the evil spirits of the past and the villains of the future chasing them all the way, can the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm find the Matsika children before it's too late? <i>Audiobook Available</i>
<i>The Limit</i>	Kristen Landon	In a world not too far removed from our own, kids are being taken away to special workhouses if their families exceed the monthly debt limit imposed by the government. Thirteen-year-old Matt briefly wonders if he might be next, but quickly dismisses the thought. After all, his parents are financially responsible, unlike the parents of those other kids. As long as his parents remain within their limits, the government will be satisfied and leave them alone. But all it takes is one fatal visit to the store to push Matt's family over their limit and to change his life forever.
<i>The City of Ember</i> (Book 1)	Jeanne DuPrau	The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever! <i>Audiobook Available</i>
<i>The Hunger Games</i> (Book 1)	Suzanne Collins	In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. <i>Audiobook Available</i>
<i>Divergent</i> (Book 1)	Veronica Roth	In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue: Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is; she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself. <i>Audiobook Available</i>

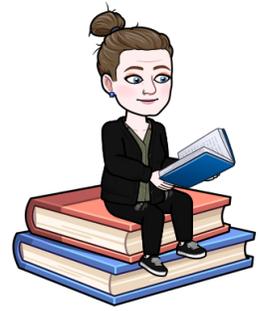
<p><i>Among the Hidden</i> (series)</p>	<p>Margaret Peterson</p>	<p>Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child is forbidden by the Population Police. 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 meets 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? <i>Audiobook Available</i></p>
<p><i>Uglies</i> (series)</p>	<p>Scott Westerfield</p>	<p>Everybody gets to be supermodel gorgeous. What could be wrong with that? Tally Youngblood is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her driver's license; but rather, for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. In just a few weeks Tally will be there.</p> <p>Anticipating this happy transformation, Tally meets Shay, another female ugly, who shares her enjoyment of hoverboarding and risky pranks. But Shay also disdains the false values and programmed conformity of society. She'd rather risk life on the outside and urges Tally to defect with her. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world, and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she can imagine: Find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. The choice Tally makes changes her world forever. <i>Audiobook Available</i></p>
<p><i>The Maze Runner</i> (series)</p>	<p>James Dashner</p>	<p>Thomas awakens alone and confused in an elevator. He can't remember how he got there. He doesn't know anything about himself...except his name. When he gets out of the elevator, he finds other boys, 60 of them. All are trapped in the Glade, a small patch of land surrounded on all sides by a brick wall. Between the food they've learned how to grow and the supplies that are sent to them, they do well. But why are they here? And will they ever figure out how to navigate the maze that keeps them locked inside the Glade? Soon, a girl arrives with a mysterious message, and everything changes. Thomas knows that he could lead everyone out through the maze...if only he could tap into his dark memories. Mysterious and creepy, action-packed and suspenseful, you'll get so into this book you might not be able to get out! <i>Audiobook Available</i></p>

***Note: Although you are only required to read one title from this list, please feel free to read more than one from this list if you're interested! Several of these titles are openers to a series. I encourage you to continue the series if you enjoyed it! You may receive additional credit should you choose to continue a series.**

Name: _____

8TH GRADE NOVEL STUDY

Directions: Fill in the appropriate information based on your chosen summer reading novel. You can fill in the graphic organizer as you read or when you finish the novel. Mrs. O'Reilly will collect this paper on the first day of school.



Novel Title: _____ by _____

Characters:

Setting:

Exposition:

Rising Action:

Climax:

Falling Action:

Resolution:

NOTE: You will be able to use **any** of the materials (notes, novel, etc.) that you prepared for the summer reading assessment in September.

Part I: Character Analysis

Directions: Fill in the appropriate information based on your chosen summer reading novel. You can fill in the graphic organizer as you read or once you finish the novel. Mrs. O'Reilly will collect this paper on the first day of school.

Title of Text: _____

Name of Character: _____

Character's Role:

(how does the character impact the story?)

Physical Traits:

(what does the character look like?)

Trait 1
(adjective)



Direct Evidence
(quote from the book)

Explanation

Trait 2
(adjective)



Direct Evidence
(quote from the book)

Explanation

Trait 3
(adjective)



Direct Evidence
(quote from the book)

Explanation

Part 2: Theme Analysis: SUMMER READING

Title of Text:

Theme (What is the overall message / moral of the story):



Direct Evidence:

(Quote from the book that proves the theme)

Direct Evidence:

(Quote from the book that proves the theme)

Explanation:

Explanation:

Part 3: Conflict Analysis: SUMMER READING

Title of Text:

Conflict: circle one

Person.
vs.
Person

Person.
vs.
Society

Person.
vs.
Nature

Person.
vs. Self

Direct Evidence:

(Quote from the book that proves the conflict) (With page number)

Direct Evidence:

(Quote from the book that proves the conflict) (With page number)

Explanation:

Explanation:

Make a Prediction: Did the protagonist overcome the conflict? Explain.

Part 4: Quote Analysis: SUMMER READING

Title of Text:

2-3 sentence
summary of your
chosen novel:
→

Direct Quote

(Quote from the book that you liked)

What the quote means in your own words:

How does this quote affect the story/characters? What purpose does the quote serve? Explain.

Part 5: Mood Analysis: SUMMER READING

Title of Text:

Summary of the
novel's mood:

Adjective(s) to describe the mood of the novel:

Direct Evidence: (With page number)
(Quote from the book that proves the mood)

Direct Evidence (With page number)
(Quote from the book that proves the mood)

Explanation of Evidence:

Explanation of Evidence:

Name:

SUMMER READING CHECKLIST:

1.) Choose a utopia book. The book I chose is:
_____ by _____

2.) Complete each of the worksheet activities in this packet.

Part 1: Character analysis

Part 2: Theme analysis

Part 3: Conflict analysis

Part 4: Quote analysis

Part 5: Mood analysis

3.) Complete the Novel Study Graphic Organizer.

4.) Bring ALL of your work to school on the first day! You will be able to use anything you prepared for the summer reading assessment.

