Middle School Summer Reading

You will read two books, one fiction, and one non-fiction. Suggested reading lists are provided, but you may also choose to do your assignments based on a book not found on the lists (of course, these books of choice must be at an appropriate reading level for your grade. Use your best judgment. If you turn in an assignment on a book clearly beneath your abilities, you will lose points!) Choose one book to write a book report on, and then choose one of the creative options below to represent your other book.

Book Report Assignment (Required):

Complete the outline provided for a book report. Then, take the information, and use it to write a fully developed essay. Be sure to follow the structure of your outline, use correct grammar and mechanics, and include appropriate transitions. This is a sample of your writing! This is the first thing we will see from you to mark the beginning of the new school year! Make it the best it can possibly be!

Other Options for Summer Reading Assignments (Choose 1):

1. Movie Poster. *GREAT for artists!*

   Imagine the book you have read is going to be made into a movie, and you’re the designer for the promotional poster. Create a poster like one you might see at the movie theater. You must include the title of the book, a release date (ex: Coming March 2015, or In Theaters Next Summer), the names of at least TWO actors starring in the film (they don’t have to be celebrities. You can totally be one of the stars!), and illustrations (make it colorful!). Please note, these pictures MUST be HAND DRAWN and colored! You are NOT allowed to use clipped pictures from a magazine or printed out pictures from the internet. In the illustrations, you might include the setting of the story, or perhaps drawings of the characters, or symbols representing the main theme of the book (ex: a book about pilots might have a giant airplane on its movie poster). Make me want to read this book and then go see this movie!

2. Time line.

   Create a timeline of the story you have just read. If you are choosing to do this assignment for your fiction novel, make a timeline of the major plot points. If you are choosing this assignment for non-fiction, tell me the major events. Your timeline must include at least FIVE (5) major events from the text, in correct chronological order, with a paragraph (5 sentences minimum) under each time point explaining BOTH the event, and its significance to the story you have read.

3. Technology!

   Create a book trailer (iMovie works well!), Power Point, Prezi, or PicCollage for the book you have read. Information should include the title and author, at least five pictures to illustrate the setting and characters, a brief summary of the book (no spoilers!), and a brief explanation of why you liked it (again, no spoilers!) Think of this as a visual book recommendation. Make me want to read this book!
**Fiction:**

**Rebecca Stead. *When You Reach Me.*** (Newbery Award Winner)

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The $20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

**Louisa May Alcott. *Little Women.***

Lovely Meg, talented Jo, frail Beth, spoiled Amy: these are hard lessons of poverty and of growing up in New England during the Civil War. Through their dreams, plays, pranks, letters, illnesses, and courtships, women of all ages have become a part of this remarkable family. Part I introduces us to the sisters of the March family. Part II chronicles Meg’s joys and mishaps as a young wife and mother, Jo's struggle to become a writer, Beth's tragedy, and Amy's artistic pursuits and unexpected romance. Based on Louise May Alcott's childhood, this lively portrait of nineteenth-century family life possesses a lasting vitality that has endeared it to generations.

**Baseball Crazy: Ten Short Stories That Cover All the Bases.***

A collection of ten short stories from popular, contemporary authors that celebrate the joys of America's favorite pastime and the wonder, frustration, and delight of its fans.

**Julie Chibarro. ***Deadly.***

Sixteen-year-old Prudence Galewski takes a job in the early 1900s as assistant to the head epidemiologist at New York's Department of Health and Sanitation, who is trying to discover how a seemingly healthy woman can be spreading typhoid fever.
Eoin Colfer. *Airman.*

This is a fast-paced, highly entertaining tale of flying machines, criminals, martial arts, swordplay, princesses, poisons, and evil villains, mixed with themes of justice, revenge, romance, good triumphing over evil, realizing one's dreams, blackmail, conspiracy, corruption, and betrayal.


Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Erin Dionne. *The Total Tragedy of a Girl Named Hamlet.*

All Hamlet Kennedy wants is to be a normal eighth grader. But with parents like hers - Shakespearean scholars who actually dress in Elizabethan regalia . . . in public! – it’s not that easy. As if they weren’t strange enough, her genius seven-year-old sister will be attending her middle school, and is named the new math tutor. Then, when the Shakespeare Project is announced, Hamlet reveals herself to be an amazing actress. Even though she wants to be average, Hamlet can no longer hide from the fact that she - like her family - is anything but ordinary.

S. J. Kincaid. *Insignia*

Tom, a fourteen-year-old genius at virtual reality games, is recruited by the United States Military to begin training at the Pentagon Spire as a Combatant in World War III, controlling the mechanized drones that do the actual fighting off-planet.

In 1868, with his army officer father suddenly posted to India, and his mother mysteriously "unwell," fourteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes is sent to stay with his eccentric uncle and aunt in their vast house in Hampshire, where he uncovers his first murder and a diabolical villain.

Marie Lu. Legend.

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

Agatha Christie. Murder on the Orient Express

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stopped the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train was surprisingly full for the time of year, but by the morning there was one passenger fewer. An American lay dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside...Red herrings galore are put in the path of Hercule Poirot to try to keep him off the scent, but in a dramatic denouement he succeeds in coming up with not one but two solutions to the crime.

Jim Murphy. Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting.

Tells the story of the December 25, 1914, truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas.
Arthur G. Slade. *The Hunchback Assignments. The Dark Deeps. Empire of Ruins. Island of Doom.* (The Hunchback Assignments series - only one counts)

In Victorian London, fourteen-year-old Modo, a shape-changing hunchback, becomes a secret agent for the Permanent Association, which strives to protect the world from the evil machinations of the Clockwork Guild.  Book Trailer

Paul Zindel. *The Pigman*

It's an uneventful September afternoon when sophomores John and Lorraine make a prank call to a stranger named Angelo Pignati. But the two of them aren't prepared to be so touched by the old man whose loneliness reaches out to them through the phone line. And what starts as a practical joke quickly turns into a friendship that changes all of their lives forever.

Then John and Lorraine make a terrible mistake that betrays their new friend's trust—and just like that, Mr. Pignati is gone. Now, the only way for them to find peace is to write down their friend's story—the story of the Pigman.


While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, Jim, a worker in an inn, finds a treasure map that leads him on the adventure of his life with the infamous Long John Silver.
### US History – 7th and 8th Grade - Colonial

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<th>Book Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Witch of Blackbird Pond</td>
<td>Elizabeth George Speare</td>
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<td>Calico Captive</td>
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<td>Johnny Tremain</td>
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<td>Death Comes for the Archbishop</td>
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<td>Caddie Woodlawn</td>
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<td>The Little House books</td>
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### Civil War

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<td>Across Five Aprils</td>
<td>Irene Hunt</td>
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<td>Little Women</td>
<td>Louisa May Alcott</td>
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<td>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</td>
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### WWI

### WWII

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<td>The Winged Watchman</td>
<td>Hilda Van Stockum</td>
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<td>The Longest Day or A Bridge Too Far</td>
<td>Cornelius Ryan</td>
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Non-Fiction


An account of how counterfeiter Benjamin Boyd's gang stole the body of Abraham Lincoln and demanded Boyd's release from jail and two hundred thousand dollars as ransom and the efforts of the Secret Service to recover the remains.

Jim Murphy. *The Crossing: How George Washington Saved the American Revolution*

It is 1776, and George Washington and his army of rebellious American colonists are emboldened by its stunning victories over the British at Lexington and Concord. But now, the Americans face the threat of a brutal British retaliation.

George Washington, who has little experience with a threat of this magnitude, is unanimously chosen as commander in chief in hopes he can unite the colonies. Britain's army is massive and well trained. America's is small and unruly. As the British begin their invasion of New York City and its environs, George Washington isn't the only one who is worried.

Peg Kehret. *Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio*

In a riveting story of courage and hope, Peg Kehret writes about months spent in a hospital when she was twelve, first struggling to survive a severe case of polio, then slowly learning to walk again.

Jim Murphy. *The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain In the Wild, Wild West*

This is the story of Samuel Clemens, who went from being an unknown steamboat pilot in Missouri to one of the greatest American authors of all time, under the name Mark Twain.
Mel Boring. Guinea Pig Scientists

Who are these "guinea pig scientists"? Searching for clues to some of science's and medicine's bigger (and sometimes stranger) questions, they are all the men and women who devoted their lives to help find the answers. Spanning from the 1770s to the present—and uncovering the science behind digestion, the spread of yellow fever, the development of the first heart catheter, and more—their ten stories are at once scientifically detailed and fascinatingly narrated.

Burns, Loree Griffin. THE HIVE DETECTIVES: CHRONICLE OF A HONEY BEE CATASTROPHE.

In 2006, nearly 40 per cent of the honeybee population in the United States simply vanished. Bee scientists and beekeepers across the country have been working to understand “colony collapse disorder.” Photographs and scientific journals help tell the story.

DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinaami. A BLACK HOLE IS NOT A HOLE.

What are black holes? Where do they come from? How do we know they exist? Will Earth fall into one? This book is an excellent introduction to an extremely complex scientific concept as it takes readers on a ride through the galaxies. Fall into this book and learn about the phenomenon known as a black hole.

Fleming, Candace. THE GREAT AND ONLY BARNUM: THE TREMENDOUS, STUPENDOUS LIFE OF SHOWMAN P.T. BARNUM.

This biography takes a look at the life of the entrepreneur and showman P.T. Barnum, the man behind The Greatest Show on Earth. From jumbo elephants to three-ring circuses, the story follows Barnum from his childhood to his amazing success to financial disaster and back again.

Jurmain, Suzanne. THE SECRET OF THE YELLOW DEATH: A TRUE STORY OF MEDICAL SLEUTHING.

Fever, chills, headaches, vomiting blood, and liver failure—all symptoms of the deadly disease: yellow fever. In this story, follow Walter Reed and his team of doctors as they travel to Cuba in 1900 to run lab reports, use soldiers as test subjects, and experience inevitable challenges and triumphs as they try to unlock the secret of what once was an unsolved medical mystery.

Chinese Cinderella is the perfect title for Adeline Yen Mah’s memoir of her childhood growing up in China during the 1940s as she endures life ruled by a cruel stepmother.