

# 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!

**Orson Scott Card. *Ender's Game*.**

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

**Jane Austin. *Pride and Prejudice*.**

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the courtship of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.

**Avi. *Nothing But The Truth*.**

In this thought-provoking examination of freedom, patriotism, and respect, ninth-grader, Philip Malloy, is kept from joining the track team by his failing grades in English class. Convinced that the teacher just doesn't like him, Philip concocts a plan to get transferred out of her class. Breaking the school's policy of silence during the national anthem, he hums along, and ends up in a crisis at the center of the nation's attention. A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story. Newbery Honor Book.

**Sara Bennett Wealer. *Rival*.**

Two high school rivals compete in a prestigious singing competition while reflecting on the events that turned them from close friends to enemies the year before.

**Robin Brande. *Fat Cat*.**

Cat's smart, sassy and funny, but thin she's not. Until her class science project. That's when she winds up doing an experiment—on herself. Before she knows it, Cat is living—and eating—like the hominids, our earliest human ancestors. True, no chips or TV is a bummer and no car is a pain, but healthful eating

and walking everywhere do have their benefits. This funny and thoughtful novel explores how girls feel about their bodies, and the ways they can best take care of their most precious resource: themselves.

**Alexandre Dumas. *The Count of Monte Cristo*.**

After escaping from the island fortress where he has been imprisoned for treason, Edmund Dantes sets out to discover the treasure of Monte Cristo and seek revenge against the people who falsely accused him.

**Douglas Adams. *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***

Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor.

Together this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from *The Hitchhiker's Guide* ("A towel is about the most massively useful thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have") and a galaxy-full of fellow travelers.

Where are these pens? Why are we born? Why do we die? Why do we spend so much time between wearing digital watches? For all the answers stick your thumb to the stars. And don't forget to bring a towel!

**Kenneth Oppel. *This Dark Endeavor. Such Wicked Intent*. (Apprenticeship of Victor Frankenstein series)**

Victor and Konrad Frankenstein are inseparable twin brothers who stumble upon The Dark Library, where secret books of alchemy and ancient remedies are housed, but after their father forbids them to ever return to the library Konrad falls gravely ill and Victor seeks out a cure for his brother beyond traditional medicine.

**Daniel Keyes. *Flowers for Algernon***

The classic story of a mentally disabled man whose experimental quest for intelligence mirrors that of Algernon, an extraordinary lab mouse. In poignant diary entries, Charlie tells how a brain operation increases his IQ and changes his life. As the experimental procedure takes effect, Charlie's intelligence expands until it surpasses that of the doctors who engineered his metamorphosis. The experiment seems to be a scientific breakthrough of paramount importance—until Algernon begins his sudden, unexpected deterioration. Will the same happen to Charlie?

**Ursula Poznanski. *Erebos: It's a game. It watches you.***

Nick is given an addictive computer game called "Erebos" that asks its players to carry out actions in the real world in order to keep playing online, actions which become more and more terrifyingly manipulative. As Nick loses friends and all sense of right and wrong in the real world, he gains power and advances further towards his online goal—to become one of the Inner Circle of Erebos.

**Ransom Riggs. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children.***

Sixteen-year-old Jacob, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and, after some investigating, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined and may also still be alive.

**N. H. Senzai. *Shooting Kabul***

In the summer of 2001, twelve year old Fadi's parents make the difficult decision to illegally leave Afghanistan and move the family to the United States. With Taliban soldiers closing in, the escape truck speeds away, leaving Fadi's sister, Mariam behind.

Adjusting to life in the United States isn't easy for Fadi's family and as the events of September 11th unfold the prospects of locating Mariam in a war torn Afghanistan seem slim. When a photography competition with a grand prize trip to India is announced, Fadi sees his chance to return to Afghanistan and find his sister. But can one photo really bring Mariam home?

**Maggie Stiefvater. *The Scorpio Races*.**

Nineteen-year-old returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connolly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races, both trying to keep hold of their dangerous water horses long enough to make it to the finish line.

**J. R. R. Tolkien. *The Fellowship of the Ring: Being the First Part of The Lord of the Rings. The Two Towers. The Return of the King*. (The Lord of the Rings trilogy)**

The story of a grand quest to keep the Ring of Power from falling into the hands of the evil Sauron. Book  
Trailer

**Mark Twain. *The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer*.**

The adventures of a mischievous Missouri boy named Tom Sawyer, growing up a few decades before the Civil War.

### **US History – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Colonial**

Witch of Blackbird Pond

Elizabeth George Speare

Calico Captive

Elizabeth George Speare

Johnny Tremain

Esther Forbes

### **Expansion**

Death Comes for the Archbishop

Willa Cather

The Oregon Trail

Caddie Woodlawn

Carol Ryrie Brink

The Little House books

Laura Ingles Wilder

### **Civil War**

Across Five Aprils

Irene Hunt

Little Women

Louisa May Alcott

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass

### **WWI**

### **WWII**

Escape from Warsaw

Ian Serrailler

The Winged Watchman

Hilda Van Stockum

The Longest Day or A Bridge Too Far

Cornelius Ryan

Non-Fiction:

**Chris Barton. *Can I See Your I.D.?: True Stories of False Identities.***

From the impoverished young woman who enchanted 19th-century British society as a faux Asian princess to the lonely but clever Frank Abagnale of "Catch Me if You Can" fame, these 10 vignettes offer riveting insight into mind-blowing masquerades.

**James Bradley. *Flags of Our Fathers: A Young People's Edition*. (abridged)**

In February 1945, American Marines plunged into the surf at Iwo Jima and into history. The son of one of the flag raisers has written a powerful account of six very different men who came together in the heroic battle for the Pacific's most crucial island.

**Steve Sheinkin. *Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*. Newbery Honor Book.**

Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

**Malala Yousafzai. *I Am Malala***

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Deborah Hopkinson. *Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1924***

Deborah Hopkinson focuses on five immigrants' stories to reveal the triumphs and hardships of early 1900s immigrant life in New York. The book recounts the lives of five immigrants to New York's Lower East Side through oral histories and engaging narrative. We hear Romanian-born Marcus Ravage's

disappointment when his aunt pushes him outside to peddle chocolates on the street. And about the pickle cart lady who stored her pickles in a rat-infested basement. We read Rose Cohen's terrifying account of living through the Triangle Shirtwaist fire, and of Pauline Newman's struggles to learn English. But through it all, each one of these kids keeps working, keeps hoping, to achieve their own American dream.

**James M. McPherson. *Fields of Fury: The American Civil War***

Pulitzer Prize award-winning historian James M. McPherson has written for young readers a stirring account of the greatest conflict to happen on our nation's soil, the Civil War, bringing to life the tragic struggle that divided not only a nation, but also friends and family. From the initial Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, to the devastating loss of life at Shiloh as Ulysses S. Grant led the Union to unexpected victory, to the brilliance of Stonewall Jackson's campaign at Shenandoah, *Fields of Fury* details the war that helped shape us as a nation.

Also included are personal anecdotes from the soldiers at the battlefield and the civilians at home, as well as profiles of historical luminaries such as Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and Ulysses S. Grant. McPherson also explores the varied roles that women played during the war, healthcare on the battlefield, and the demise of slavery.

**John Fleischman. *Phineas Gage***

Phineas Gage was truly a man with a hole in his head. Phineas, a railroad construction foreman, was blasting rock near Cavendish, Vermont, in 1848 when a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain. Miraculously, he survived to live another eleven years and become a textbook case in brain science.

**James Cross Giblin. *Good Brother, Bad Brother: The story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth***

Edwin Booth and his younger brother John Wilkes Booth were, in many ways, two of a kind. They were among America's finest actors, having inherited their father's commanding stage presence along with his impulsive behavior. In other respects, the two brothers were very different. Edwin was more introspective, while John was known for his passionate intensity.

Award-winning author James Cross Giblin draws on first-hand accounts of family members, friends, and colleagues to create vivid images of Edwin Booth and his brother John Wilkes, best known today as the man who shot Abraham Lincoln.



**Goodall, Jane. *THE CHIMPANZEES I LOVE: SAVING THEIR WORLD AND OURS.***

Imagine a curiosity and passion that compels you to live in a community of chimpanzees. Dr. Goodall tells of her discoveries about chimpanzees, her love for them, and her campaign for the protection of these amazing animals.

**Burns, Loree Griffin. *TRACKING TRASH: FLOTSAM, JETSAM, AND THE SCIENCE OF OCEAN MOTION.***

This book describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels great distances by way of ocean currents.

**Moore, Wes. *DISCOVERING WES MOORE.***

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart and within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both ran into trouble with the police. How did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? When Wes Moore wrote to his namesake in prison, they began a remarkable friendship. This story looks at the challenges of growing up and the power of the choices that people make in their lives.