Summer Reading for Grades 6-8

The Washington Middle School English Department requires all students to complete a summer reading assignment designed to support an appreciation of reading, while also providing an opportunity for students to reinforce their reading skills throughout the summer months.

Assignment:

- **Grade 6 and 7**: During the summer, you are required to read one of the books listed below which have been assigned to your appropriate grade level. You must also complete the corresponding activity provided for your grade level.

- **Grade 8**: All students will read *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner and complete the story map. All students will choose to read one additional book from the list provided and complete the scrapbook project or the movie poster project.

- For each novel listed below, you have the option to buy your own copy, download a copy to your e-reader, or obtain a copy from the town library.

**Grade 6**
*Rules* by Cynthia Lord  
*Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen  
*The Skull of Truth* by Bruce Coville  
*Criss Cross* by Lynne Rae Perkins- 2006 Newberry Medal  
*The Diary of Anne Frank*  
*Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain  
*Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

**Grade 7**
*Anything but Typical* by Nora Raleigh Baskin  
*Tiger Eyes* by Judy Blume  
*When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead  
*The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt  
*Dunk* by David Lubar  
*Smile* by Raina Telgemeier  
*Summerlost* by Ally Condie  
*Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell
Grade 8

REQUIRED TITLE (This book is to be read by ALL INCOMING 8TH GRADERS):

*The Maze Runner* by James Dashner

Grade 8

“CHOICE BOOK” (Choose ONE book from the following list):

*The Boy who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

*The Fault in our Stars* by John Green

*If I Stay* by Gayle Forman

*Down the Rabbit Hole* by Peter Abrahams

*Divergent* by Veronica Roth

*The Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card

*The Warrior’s Heart Becoming a Man of Compassion and Courage* by Eric Greitens

*Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah

*Thirteen Days to Midnight* by Patrick Carman

*Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs
Washington Middle School
Summer Reading Assignment
Grades 6 and 7

• Requirements:
  o Activities 1-3
  o Cover page: Name and grade that you are entering
  o Double-spaced with size 12 font
If you absolutely cannot type this report it MUST be neatly completed. Points will be deducted if the guidelines are not followed.

• Activity 1
  o Write a brief summary of the book that you read. This means to retell the story in your own words. Be sure to include the genre, the setting, main characters and any theme or lesson that could be learned from this book.
  o Find a connection between you and one of the characters or a situation that occurred within the book. Be sure to include:
    ■ Who or what happened in the text that made you think of a connection? Of what did this remind you?
    ■ How did this help you understand the character or situation better?

• Activity 2
  o Choose a passage from the story that you would like to share. A passage may be one paragraph or several paragraphs, but it must make sense where you started and where you stopped.
  o Report which page the passage begins on and where it ends.
  o Be sure to write why you chose that passage: I chose this passage because it was (surprising, thought-provoking, shocking, humorous, important, or another reason of your choice).

• Activity 3
  o Illustrate an important scene from the book. Time and effort must be apparent in your illustration. That means including background in your picture. Fill it with color. Write two or three sentences explaining what is happening in the picture, why it is important, and how the characters are feeling.

Please return to school in September with your summer reading assignment. It will be graded by your language arts teacher. Have an enjoyable reading experience!
Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming Eighth Grade Students,

As the end of another school year approaches, we are asking your assistance in keeping your child connected to the learning process through the summer months.

We have collaborated to create a summer reading assignment that will prepare your child for the 2017-2018 school year.

While we recommend that children try to read as much as possible over the summer, each child will be expected to read a minimum of two books:

- One book will be a required title that all students must read. A summer reading packet has been included with a story map that your child should fill out while reading the required title. When you child enters school in September, he/she will be permitted to use this story map while taking an Eighth grade assessment on the required book. This assessment will be counted as a quiz grade. The story map is due the first Friday of the 2017-2018 school year.

- The second book must be chosen from the list provided. For this book, each child will complete a “creative project”. Your child may choose one of the two project options provided. The creative project will be counted as a project grade. The creative project is due the first Friday of the 2017-2018 school year.

The information in this packet, which includes the list of titles and authors, story map, and project requirements, is also available on our school website. When school begins in September, your child should be prepared to discuss his/her reading during Language Arts class. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us kim.madalena@staff.harrisonschools.org; amy.morillo@staff.harrisonschools.org; sharon.catrambone@staff.harrisonschools.org. We wish you and your child an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Madalena, Mrs. Morillo, and Mrs. Catrambone
Grade Eight Summer Reading Information

1. REQUIRED TITLE (This book is to be read by ALL INCOMING 8TH GRADERS):
   - The Maze Runner by James Dashner
     Assignment for required book: Complete attached story map

2. “CHOICE BOOK” (Choose ONE book from the following list):
   - The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
   - The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
   - If I Stay by Gayle Forman
   - Down the Rabbit Hole by Peter Abrahams
   - Divergent by Veronica Roth
   - The Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card
   - The Warriors Heart Becoming a Man of Compassion and Courage by Eric Greitens
   - Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah
   - Thirteen Days to Midnight by Patrick Carman
   - Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

* A summary of each book has been included on the school website.

Assignment for choice book: Complete ONE of the following projects:
   - Scrapbook Project (requirements attached)
   - Movie Poster Project (requirements attached)
Grade Eight Summer Reading Book Summaries

REQUIRED READING:

_The Maze Runner by James Dashner_
When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he’s not alone. When the lift’s doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls.

Just like Thomas, the Gladers don’t know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they’ve closed tight. And every 30 days a new boy has been delivered in the lift.

Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up—the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers.

Thomas might be more important than he could ever guess. If only he could unlock the dark secrets buried within his mind.

CHOICE BOOKS:

_The Boy who Dared_ by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

The first page sets the mood for this haunting work of historical fiction, which is based on the life of Helmut Guddat Hubner, a member of the Hitler Youth and the title character of THE BOY WHO DARED. Susan Campbell Bartoletti has taken one episode from her Newbery Honor Book, HITLER YOUTH, and fleshed it out into a thought-provoking novel. THE BOY WHO DARED is a story about having the courage to act upon one’s beliefs, no matter one’s age or the risks and consequences involved. Bartoletti’s use of flashbacks builds the suspense, and her inclusion of numerous photos, along with a Third Reich timeline, complement the experience of reading this memorable novel.

_The Fault in our Stars_ by John Green

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel’s story is about to be completely rewritten.

_If I Stay_ by Gayle Forman

Choices. Seventeen-year-old Mia is faced with some tough ones: Stay true to her first love—music—even if it means losing her boyfriend and leaving her family and friends behind?

Then one February morning Mia goes for a drive with her family, and in an instant, everything changes. Suddenly, all the choices are gone, except one. And it's the only one that matters.

_Down the Rabbit Hole_ by Peter Abrahams
Welcome to Echo Falls. Home of a thousand secrets, where Ingrid Levin-Hill, super sleuth, never knows what will happen next.

Ingrid is in the wrong place at the wrong time. Or at least her shoes are. Getting them back means getting involved in a murder investigation rivaling those solved by her idol, Sherlock Holmes, and Ingrid has enough on her plate with club soccer, school, and the plum role of Alice in the Echo Falls production of Alice in Wonderland. But much as in Alice’s adventures down the rabbit hole, things in Ingrid’s small town keep getting curioser and curioser. Her favorite director has a serious accident onstage (but is it an accident?); and the police chief is on Ingrid’s tail, grilling her about everything from bike-helmet law to the color of her cleats. Echo Falls has turned into a nightmare, and Ingrid is determined to wake up. Edgar Award-nominated novelist Peter Abrahams builds suspense as a smart young girl finds that her small town isn’t nearly as safe as it seems.

_Divergent_ by 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.

_The Ender’s Game_ by Orson Scott Card

In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race’s next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew “Ender” Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his seductive brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut—young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training.

_The Warriors Heart Becoming a Man of Compassion and Courage_ by Eric Greitens

In this adaptation of his best-selling book, _The Heart and the Fist_, Eric speaks directly to teen readers, interweaving memoir and intimate second-person narratives that ask the reader to put themselves in the shoes of himself and others. Readers will share in Eric’s evolution from average kid to globe-traveling humanitarian to warrior, training and serving with the most elite military outfit in the world: the Navy SEALs. Along the way, they’ll be asked to consider the power of choices, of making the decision each and every day to act with courage and compassion so that they grow to be tomorrow’s heroes. Sure to inspire and motivate.

_Chinese Cinderella_ by Adeline Yen Mah

A Chinese proverb says, "Falling leaves return to their roots." In _Chinese Cinderella_, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for — the love and understanding of her family.

_Thirteen Days to Midnight_ by Patrick Carman

_You are indestructible_. Three whispered words transfer an astonishing power to Jacob Fielding that changes everything. At first, Jacob is hesitant to use the power, unsure of its implications. But there’s something addictive about testing the limits of fear.

Then Ophelia James, the beautiful and daring new girl in town, suggests that they use the power to do good, to save others. But with every heroic act, the power grows into the specter of a curse. How to decide who lives and who dies?

In this nail-biting novel of mystery and dark intrigue, Jacob must walk the razor thin line between right and wrong, good and evil, and life and death. And time is running out. Because the Grim Reaper doesn't disappear . . . He catches up.
*Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

A mysterious island.

An abandoned orphanage.

A strange collection of very curious photographs.

It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive. A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with haunting vintage photography. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* will delight adults, teens, and anyone who relishes an adventure in the shadows.
Name__________________________________________

Story Map
This story map should be completed while reading the required book. If you return to school in September with the story map completed, you will be permitted to use it during the test on the book. You may also use the back side of this paper to take any additional notes you think may be important while reading your book.

Book Title:______________________________________  Author:__________________________

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Protagonist ("good guy/girl" or hero of the book)

Antagonist ("bad guy/girl" or the character that causes the most problems for the protagonist)

Other Important Characters

Setting:

Time:__________________________  Place:__________________________

Main Events: (be sure to list the events in the order they happened)
1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  

Climax: (the highest, most intense, turning point of the book – there may be more than one!)

Resolution: (the “ending,” how conflicts are resolved)

Theme: (what can this book, or the main character, teach us about life?)
Summer Reading Creative Project
Incoming 8th Graders
Option #1 Scrapbook Project

Directions for completing the Summer Reading Creative Response project:

1. First, choose a book from the Summer Reading List. Read the book.

2. After you finish reading the book, decide on a plan to create your unique scrapbook. For example, you may choose to use construction paper, card stock, blank computer paper, or a three ring binder to create your scrapbook.

3. Your scrapbook should have a **COVER** and must include **5-10 scrapbook pages**.
   - The **COVER** must include:
     - Your Name
     - The Book Title
     - An Illustration
   - The **SCRAPBOOK PAGES** must share:
     - Story Elements or Important Events/Topics
     - **Fiction Titles** Should Include:
       - Story Elements: Characters, Setting, Conflict, Theme, Resolution, Important Events
     - **Nonfiction Titles** Should Include:
       - Important Events in Sequential Order
         - OR-
       - Interesting and Important Topics Learned
     - **Fiction/Nonfiction**- all pages must include a brief description.

4. You may use anything to decorate your scrapbook, such as crayons, markers, stickers, enlarged clipart, felt, cut-outs from magazines, or glitter. Use whatever materials work best and are appropriate for your purpose.
   (PARENTS: The scrapbook pages can be created and decorated by your child with supplies you already have. There is no need to spend money on this project.)

5. When you return to school in September, you will have the opportunity to show your scrapbook and tell the class about your book. You will also explain how each page in your scrapbook relates to your story in a brief oral presentation.

6. Your project will be graded based on the attached rubric.

   Have a wonderful summer vacation and remember to **read**!
SUMMER READING CREATIVE PROJECT
INCOMING 8th GRADERS

OPTION #2 MOVIE POSTER PROJECT

Movie Mania!

For your Summer Reading Project, you are to create a movie poster based on the book you have chosen to read. Please use large construction paper or poster board that is 12" x 18". You may use any color paper/poster-board.

The front of your poster should include the following:

- The title of the book and author (this should be written as: ____ (title)_____, Based on the novel by ____ (author)_____.
- Picture(s) that are relevant to the book (Do NOT use a picture of the book cover!).
- Actors and Actresses to play the roles of title characters.
  Include pictures of real life actors, their names, and the names of the characters they will play. Your actor choices should make sense according to the type of character in the book. For example: If the character is silly and goofy, choose someone like Adam Sandler, rather than Denzel Washington.
- An important quote from the book or a catchy phrase that represents something important from the book.
- Director / Producer Name: Your name

You must also include a written explanation of the items on your poster and why you chose them. This explanation should be approximately one page in length, TYPED, and attached to the back of your movie poster.

Remember to explain the following items:

- Why did you choose the actors/actresses for each of the characters?
- What is significant about the chosen quote or phrase?
- What pictures did you include and why?
- Did you like or dislike the book? Why or why not? What would you change to make it better?
- Do you think it would make a good movie? Why? If the book has already been made into a movie, have you seen it yet? Did you like it?

Note: If your book was already made into a movie, DO NOT use any information from the movie! Your poster must be original!

Websites to see examples of movie posters: