Seventh and Eighth Grade Summer Reading 2023

Because it is important to keep learning year round, you will be reading at least three age appropriate books over the summer and responding to each with a thoughtful journal reflection of at least eight sentences. You may choose either fiction or non-fiction books which appeal to you and which are challenging without being too difficult. For fiction books, your journal reflections should include your reaction to the book, your thoughts on the book's theme (the author's message about life), and any other thoughts on the book's plot and characters. For non-fiction books, you should write a summary about what you have learned and your reaction to this new knowledge. For those who would like to tackle an ambitious piece of writing, you may substitute an original short story of 1000 - 1600 words for one of the books and reflections. Your story should have an interesting plot, at least one well-developed character, and a strong theme. Your short story can be submitted during the first week of school. Journal reflections may be hand-written or typed and submitted during the first week of school. Your reflections will be worth ten points each and will become your first graded assignment of the new school year. On the back of this page are some suggestions for books that you might like. Have fun!

Assignment Requirements:

- Read three books of your choice -or- two books of your choice with one 1000 word short story. *Books with more than 400 pages may count as two books.*
- Submit a journal entry for each book read. Entries must be eight sentences minimum turned in either handwritten or typed. Please be mindful of your spelling and grammar.

A Note from Ms. Kopp

As you are reading these books of choice, be sure to take notes after each concluding chapter on anything you find noteworthy and memorable for you. Manage your time this summer where you have a quiet and safe space to dedicate at least 20 minutes of undisturbed reading at a time. I encourage you to read a physical book or ebook along-side an audiobook version if available. You may read these novels all at once and work on your journal reflections most of summer, or slowly, one chapter a day, complete the reading and then begin writing. I do not advise you to wait until the last minute to quickly read and write. Dedicate time and energy to read and write; devote yourself to this assignment to carefully pour into books and write all your thoughts and feelings while reading. Use this reading and writing as your private time to be alone and to meditate. Practice being still and quiet for just moments out of your summer days; this will assist you into transitioning back into the school year this fall. Take care and I will see you soon! I very much look forward to reading your journals.
Suggestions for Reading:

If you like *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, try

_Auggie and Me: Three Wonder Stories* by R.J. Palacio (includes "The Julian Chapter", Charlotte's chapter, and Christopher's chapter)

_Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt - about a sixth grade girl with dyslexia

_One for the Murphys* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (a modern day foster child story)

_Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan

If you like historical fiction, try:

_The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare (Colonial America/witch hunt)

_The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi (mutiny on the high seas)

_Jacob Have I Loved* by Katherine Paterson (set on an island in the Chesapeake Bay during WWII)

_Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi (medieval setting)

If you like *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls, try:

_A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron

_Jeron The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford

If you like *Tuck Everlasting*, try:

_A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness

_Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

If you like *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin, try:

_The View from Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg

_Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children or Hollow City or Library of Souls* by Ransom Riggs

If you like the dystopian theme of _The Giver* by Lois Lowry, try:

_A Gathering Blue, The Messenger, or Son* by Lois Lowry (The Giver Quartet - companion novels, not sequels - Jonas and Gabe are characters in Son)

_The Maze Runner* series by James Dashner

_Divergent* series by Veronica Roth

_The Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins

_Legend Trilogy* by Marie Wu

*Scythe* by Neal Shusterman
If you like *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech, try:

- *Absolutely Normal Chaos* by Sharon Creech (which is about May Lou Finney's unusual family)
- *Chasing Redbird or Ruby Holler* by Sharon Creech
- *Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer

**Great books in the fantasy genre:**

- *The Hobbit* or any of the books in *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien
- Any of the *Harry Potter* books by J.K. Rowling
- Any of *The Dark Is Rising* series by Susan Cooper
- *The Thief Lord or Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke
- Any of the *Chronicles of Narnia* books by C.S. Lewis
- *The Tale of Despereoux* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini
- *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series by Rick Riordan

**Great books in the realistic fiction genre:**

- *Crash* or *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* by Kimberly Willis Holt
- *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Dranaan
- *Hoot or Flush* by Carl Riassen
- *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor
- *Travel Team or Heat* by Mike Lupica

**Great books in the survival genre:**

- *Call of the Wild* or *White Fang* by Jack London
- *Hatchet* or *Brian's Winter* by Gary Paulsen
- *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George