

Summer Reading Packet for Students Starting English 8 2018 - 2019

This packet includes the book lists for English summer reading and the related assignments. Students should read at least one book from List #1 and one book from List #2. Each student should have access to paper or electronic copies of each book so that they can refer to them in English class. Happy reading!

Summer Reading Checklist to Complete for the First Day of School

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| Read <i>Piecing Me Together</i> by Renee Watson | |
| Complete Assignment #1: Prepare for Book Club Meeting | |
| Read a Book from The Choice List | |
| Complete Assignment #2: Write a Book Review | |
| Bring Paper or Electronic Copies of BOTH Books to English Class | |

*"Reading brings us unknown friends." --Honore
de Balzac*

English 8 Grade Community Read

Read *Piecing Me Together* and complete Assignment #1 (Prepare for a Book Club Meeting) before the first day of school. Bring your paper copy of the book with you to English Class!

***Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson**

Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood in Portland, Oregon, if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take every opportunity that comes her way, and she has. She accepted a scholarship at a mostly-white private school and even Saturday morning test prep opportunities. But some opportunities feel more demeaning than helpful, and Jade is struggling to feel seen and heard both at home and at school. When Jade joins a mentoring program and meets her mentor Maxine, she learns to find her voice as a friend, a daughter, an artist, and an activist.

English 8 Summer Reading Choice List:

Read ONE of these books and complete Assignment #2 (Write a Book Review). Bring your paper copy of the book with you to English Class!

Adventure

***The False Prince* by Jennifer A. Neilsen (Guided Reading Level Z)**

Choose to lie...or choose to die? In a discontent kingdom, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. Sage knows that Conner's motives are more than questionable, yet his life balances on a sword's point -- he must be chosen to play the prince or he will certainly be killed. But Sage's rivals have their own agendas as well.

***Bamboo People* by Matali Perkins (Guided Reading Level X)**

Narrated by Chiko and Tu Reh, teenage boys on opposing sides of the conflict between the Burmese government and the Karenni, one of Burma's many ethnic minorities, this coming-of-age novel takes place against the political and military backdrop of modern-day Burma.

Dystopian Fiction

***Railsea* by China Mieville (Guided Reading Level Q)**

On board the moletrain Medes, Sham Soorap watches in awe as he witnesses his first moldywarpe hunt: the giant mole bursting from the earth, the harpoonists targeting their prey, the battle resulting in one's death & the other's glory. But no matter how spectacular it is, Sham can't shake the sense that there is more to life than traveling the endless rails of the railsea--even if his captain can think only of the hunt for the ivory-colored mole she's been chasing since it took her arm all those years ago. When they come across a wrecked train, at first it's a welcome distraction. But what Sham finds in the derelict--a kind of treasure map indicating a mythical place untouched by iron rails--leads to considerably more than he'd bargained for.

***Scythe* by Neal Shusterman (Guided Reading Level S)**

In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly "gleaned" by professional reapers ('scythes'). Two teens must compete with each other to become a scythe--a position neither of them wants. Subjected to killcraft training, exposed to numerous executions, and discouraged from becoming allies, the two find themselves helpless in a fatal competition; The one who becomes a scythe must kill the one who doesn't.

***Pacifica* by Kristen Simmons (Guided Reading Level Q)**

Blue skies. Green grass. Clear ocean water. An island paradise like the ones that existed before the Melt. A lucky five hundred lottery winners will be the first to go, the first to leave their polluted, dilapidated homes behind and start a new life. It sounds perfect. Like a dream. The only problem? Marin Carey spent her childhood on those seas and knows there's no island paradise out there. She's corsario royalty, a pirate like her father and his father before him, and she knows a con when she sees one. So where are the First Five Hundred really going?

Fantasy/Magical Realism

***The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black (Guided Reading Level R)**

Jude was seven years old when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King.

***Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor (Guided Reading Level O)**

Twelve-year-old Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has latent magical powers which she and three similarly gifted friends use to catch a serial killer.

Historical Fiction

***The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation: The Pox Party* by M.T. Anderson (Guided Reading Level Z)**

At the dawn of the Revolutionary War, young Octavian is raised in highly unusual circumstances at the Novanglian College of Lucidity. Though the scholars give him a first-rate education, they also monitor him closely...too closely. As he grows older, Octavian learns the horrifying truth of his situation, and that truth leads him to question his understanding of himself and the Revolution: if the Patriots can fight for their freedom, why can't he fight for his?

***My Lady Jane* by Cynthia Hand (Guided Reading Level Z+)**

On the eve of her marriage to a stranger, sixteen-year-old Lady Jane Grey is swept in a conspiracy to usurp the throne from her cousin. An irreverent version of the true story of Lady Jane Gray and King Edward VI.

***The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusack (Guided Reading Level Q)**

Death is the narrator of this acclaimed novel about a foster girl named Liesel Meminger who is living outside Nazi-occupied Munich in 1939. She begins stealing books and learns to read with the help of her foster father. She then shares the stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Realistic Fiction

***La Linea* by Ann Jaramillo (Guided Reading Level P)**

When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.

***Jellicoe Road* by Melina Marchetta (Guided Reading Level S)**

Taylor Markham isn't just one of the new student leaders of her boarding school, she's also the heir to the Underground Community, one of three battling school factions in her small Australian community. For a generation, these three camps have fought "the territory wars," a deadly serious negotiation of land and property rife with surprise attacks, diplomatic immunities, and violence. Only this year, it's complicated: a rival faction leader might be the only person who can help find Taylor's wayward mother.

***Boy in the Black Suit* by Jason Reynolds (Guided Reading Level R)**

Matt wears a black suit every day. No, not because his mom died--although she did-- but for his gig at the local funeral home, which pays way better than the Cluck Bucket. He needs the income since his dad can't handle the bills (or anything, really) on his own. So while Dad's up to no good, Matt's snagging fifteen bucks an hour. Not bad. But everything else? Not good. Then Matt meets Lovey and she's been through more crazy stuff than he can imagine. Yet Lovey is tough. Really tough. Which is maybe why he's drawn to her, and definitely why he can't seem to shake her.

Memoirs and Nonfiction

***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Guided Reading Level Z+)**

A bold and honest look at what it means to live within a black body and how to navigate through the falsehoods of race. From the slavery and segregation of America's past, to the incarceration and murder of black women and men today, Coates gives a voice to black American history and shares a vision for a better tomorrow.

***Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea* by Sungju Lee (Guided Reading Level U)**

Lee, an only child, grew up comfortably in the nation's capital of Pyongyang because his father was a well-respected member of the military. Yet with no warning, the boy and his parents were deported to the countryside. Mass hunger, public executions, and unemployment were rampant—a stark contrast to the propaganda Lee had been taught his whole life. Forced by starvation, Lee's parents left him in search of commerce or emigration, leaving Lee to fend for himself in an unpredictable and dangerous environment.

***Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi (Guided Reading Level Z+)**

Sara has lived in the United States since she was two years old and, now 13, she's *basically* an American "girl next door...." Except she's Iranian, boyfriendless, unbrowed, and undocumented. This humorous--but appropriately serious-- memoir recounts Sara and her family's 20-year saga through the naturalization process.

Science Fiction

***Genius: The Game* by Leopoldo Bout (Guided Reading Level Q)**

Three underprivileged, teen technology and engineering prodigies from across the world team up to solve the universe's most dangerous game.

***Exo* by Fonda Lee (Guided Reading Level S)**

For a century now, Earth has been a peaceful colony of an alien race. Donovan Reyes' father is the Prime Liaison of the colony and they are both extreme loyalists to the alien race. In an ambush, Donovan is kidnapped by intergalactic terrorists who hold him for ransom. Donovan soon realizes he and the coveted exocel attached to his body, are his only chance for freedom.

***Orleans* by Sherri Smith (Guided Reading Level R)**

A deadly virus has turned the Mississippi Delta into a new, primitive society where tribes based on blood types fight to remain alive. When fifteen year old Fen de la Guerre's tribe is ambushed, she is sent on a harrowing journey to bring her tribe leader's baby to the Outer States, potentially exposing the baby and herself to the virus.

Name _____

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment #2 - Write a Book Review

Which book did you read? (circle one)

Reading Notes

Characters:

Setting(s):

Conflict(s):

Questions:

Topics/Big Ideas/Themes:

Choose from the tasks below to show your understanding of the book you chose to read. You should have this finished by day one of school. On that day, your English teacher will share with you how to submit your work.

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|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Advertisement</p> <p>Create an engaging and persuasive advertisement for your book.</p> <p>Your advertisement should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Original</u> image(s) of some kind (drawing, photograph, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> An image of the book's cover (can be found on the internet) <input type="checkbox"/> Persuasive techniques to try and sell the book to readers <input type="checkbox"/> Comments on what was interesting, engaging, or exciting about the story, characters, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Color and creativity <input type="checkbox"/> NO SPOILERS! <p>Use real advertisements from magazines or billboards as inspiration!</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">BookTube</p> <p>Create a "BookTube" video that tells a bit about your book.</p> <p>The goal of a BookTube video is to review a book by talking about its basic plot, target audience, and strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>An effective "BookTube" video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Has a confident, engaging presenter <input type="checkbox"/> Has good lighting and an interesting background <input type="checkbox"/> Has clear and focused discussion of the book <input type="checkbox"/> Gives a review of the book, but it does not spoil the book <p>Look at some BookTube videos online to get ideas and inspiration!</p> |
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| <p>Written Book Review</p> |
| <p>Paragraph 1: BRIEFLY introduce and summarize your book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hook your readers with an engaging and attention-getting first sentence. ● Include specific details about characters, setting, major conflicts/challenges and moral of the story. ● Include the name of the text and the author in the first paragraph! ● Avoid spoilers! <p>Paragraph 2: Your opinion and recommendation</p> <p>Explain how you viewed the book and whether you liked it. Include specific details. Here are some questions that can guide you, but you don't have to answer them all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What did you like? ○ What did you think worked well? ○ What didn't you like? ○ What might you have changed, or what do you wish had been written differently? ○ What were the most interesting parts of this book for you? ○ What was it in the story that made you feel this way? ● Recommendation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not? <p style="text-align: center;">Your book review should be typed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proofread it for correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.</p> |

RUBRIC

| | Does Not Meet | Meets | Exceeds |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Introduction and Summary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Not engaging or attention-grabbing <input type="checkbox"/> Missing information about ideas, characters, settings, and conflicts from the book <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks information about the plot <input type="checkbox"/> May contain spoilers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging and attention-grabbing <input type="checkbox"/> Highlights major ideas, characters, setting, and conflicts from the book <input type="checkbox"/> Gives some information about the plot without spoiling the book | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging and attention-grabbing <input type="checkbox"/> Highlights major ideas, characters, settings, and conflicts from the book using specific examples <input type="checkbox"/> Gives just enough information about the plot without spoiling the book |
| Opinion and Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Basic opinion with few specific details <input type="checkbox"/> Little analysis <input type="checkbox"/> May not have a recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughts, responses, and reactions to the book <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis of how well the book is written <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation to read/not to read and why | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Perceptive thoughts, responses, and reactions to the book <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtful analysis of how well the book is written <input type="checkbox"/> Clear recommendation to read/not to read and why |
| Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not flow logically <input type="checkbox"/> Little evidence of planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Logical flow <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear, logical flow <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of planning |
| Style and Language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Many errors in sentence structure, grammar, and spelling <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking in voice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses mostly complete, accurate sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly free from grammatical and spelling errors <input type="checkbox"/> Creative voice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses complete, accurate sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Free from grammatical and spelling errors <input type="checkbox"/> Strong, creative voice |