

READING LIST -- SUMMER 2021

Incoming 8th Graders

Today's world offers far too many distractions to lure young people away from reading. Yet, research has shown that students who continue reading during the summer are better prepared to begin school in the fall. Therefore, I would like for each rising 8th grader to read **at least two books** (in addition to *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*) for pleasure over the summer. Below you will find a list of suggested books, but feel free to read whatever interests you.

REQUIRED: *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom. **Students must finish this novel by Friday, September 3rd.**

REQUIRED: Read one additional novel of your choice and complete a reading response for the novel. Reading response choices are on the back of this sheet. **Reading responses are due on or before Friday, September 3rd.**

REQUIRED: Memorize one poem of your choice (twelve lines or more) or memorize a section from a longer poem (twelve lines or more). Be prepared to recite and analyze it in the fall. Avoid silly poems like Shel Silverstein as they are hard to analyze.

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer

Rocket Boys by Homer H. Hickam, Jr.

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed

Fog a Dox by Bruce Pascoe

Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Goodnight, Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian

The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Peak by Roland Smith

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

I love you, Michael Collins by Lauren Baratz-Logsted

Mississippi Trial, 1955 by Chris Crowe

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay

Battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper

The Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline

Kid Docs by Jenny Lynne

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Switch! The Kingdoms of Karibu by Karen Prince

Code Talker by Joseph Bracha

Cinder by Marissa Meyer

The Princess Bride by William Goldman

Knots in My Yo-yo-String by Jerry Spinelli

The Someday Birds by Sally J. Pia

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass

Alanna: The First Adventure by Tamora Pierce

The Riddle of Arandella by J.D. McBride

The Two Princesses of Bamarre by Gail Carson Levine

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Moves Make the Man by Bruce Brooks

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Heat (or other sports novels) by Mike Lupica

Paperboy by Vince Vawter

Ghost (or any in the track series) by Jason Reynolds

In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer by Irene Gut Opdyke

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

MENU OF READING RESPONSES

Choose one of the reading responses below to complete after reading a novel of your choice. Your reading response is due no later than Monday, August 31st. All written responses should be a minimum of one page typed in 12 pt. font.

<p>WRITE A DIARY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ONE OF THE CHARACTERS: Imagine you are the person in your book. Write diary entries (3-5) for a few days to a week as the character would have written the entries.</p>	<p>WRITE A BOOK REVIEW OF THE BOOK: Explain why you would (or wouldn't) recommend the book to your peers and review/evaluate the book compared to other books of the same genre.</p>	<p>THE WRITTEN WORD VERSUS THE VIDEO: Compare the book to the movie or television version of it. What aspects of the book have been altered for the visual performance and why? Do these alterations make the story "better"? Why or why not?</p>
<p>WRITE THE STORY FROM A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW: Take a part of the story and write a version as someone else would tell it.</p>	<p>WRITE A TELEPHONE OR TEXT CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS: Include an analysis of the conversation.</p>	<p>SPONSOR A BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION ABOUT THE BOOK: Document attendees, date and include an analysis of the discussion.</p>
<p>WRITE A PARODY OF THE BOOK: Parody a summary of the book or a relationship or a key event in the text.</p>	<p>WRITE A POEM: Write a poem about one of the characters or some event in the book. (Minimum of twenty lines, five stanzas of four lines each)</p>	<p>CREATE A MOSAIC OF QUOTES, THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND PICTURES ANALYZING KEY THEMES IN THE BOOK: If the mosaic is too large, you may bring a picture of it to school.</p>
<p>DESIGN THE FRONT PAGE OF A NEWSPAPER SET IN YOUR BOOK'S TIME PERIOD: Write a short news story explaining the implications of a major event in your book.</p>	<p>CREATE A DOUBLE ENTRY JOURNAL FOR THE BOOK: Write text-based quotes on one side of the journal, and write reflections and questions on the other side.</p>	<p>CORRESPOND WITH ANOTHER CHARACTER: Pretend that you are one character in the book. Write a letter to another character to express your appreciation, respect or disappointment.</p>
<p>CONNECT THE BOOK TO A FAMILY EVENT: Write a reflection about how your book is similar to a family event (i.e., wedding or reunion) or activity you did this year.</p>	<p>GRADE YOUR CHARACTER: Evaluate a character's skills at reflecting and communicating. Assign a letter grade for each of those skills (and any additional skills you select). Use specific text examples to justify why you assign the character an A, B, C, D or F.</p>	<p>PUT TOGETHER A CAST FOR THE FILM VERSION OF THE BOOK: Decide which current actors and actresses would best play the roles. Include brief descriptions of the stars and tell why each is "perfect" for the part.</p>