

## Seventh Grade Summer Reading

Dear Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders, Parents and/or Guardians,

In preparation for the start of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, all students are required to read **ONE** book from the attached list. These thought-provoking novels will be the basis for your child's first assignments in both Communication Arts and Social Studies. They explore themes such as:

- Friendship
- Honesty
- Acceptance
- Diversity
- Equality
- Equal Protection of Laws



The novels are available in the public library, and most bookstores have paperback editions of them available. Most novels are also available as a downloadable audiobook.

We will discuss the novel themes in Communication Arts and, soon thereafter, in Social Studies we will discuss the meaning of “general welfare” and how can we apply lessons learned from *the* summer reading to our own school and community. Students will realize that in order for us to enjoy the many rights and freedoms we have as American citizens it is important for the value of equal respect to exist within all of us.

1. **Please be sure that ONE book is read in its entirety prior to the start of the school year.**
2. **After you have read your novel, choose ONE of the following writing prompts to answer. (1 paragraph minimum)**

- Reflection: One person, or a small group of people have the power to greatly impact society. How did the character/characters in your novel demonstrate this? What did you learn from them?
- Motivation: It is important to take a stand against adversity and advocate for your personal beliefs and values. Why is it important to fight for what you believe in?
- Current Events: Our society is constantly evolving, as evident in the fight for change that is ongoing in America. Identify the theme of the novel you have chosen and explain how you see that theme reflected in American society today.

Please bring your novel and completed assignment with you on the second day of school. You will need them in both Communication Arts and Social Studies.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing all of you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hernandez, Communication Arts  
Mrs. David, Social Studies

Mrs. Gaughan, Communication Arts  
Mr. Haggerty, Social Studies

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7<sup>th</sup> Grade Florence M. Gaudineer Summer Reading  
2020-2021

**Rules** by Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public" -- in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors.

But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

**Nothing But the Truth** by Avi

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 Very Large Expanse of Sea** by Tahereh Mahi

It's 2002, a year after 9/11. It's an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a 16-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped. Shirin is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She's tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments - even the physical violence - she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. So she's built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. Instead, she drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother. But then she meets Ocean James. He's the first person in forever who really seems to want to get to know Shirin. It terrifies her - they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds - and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she's not sure she'll ever be able to let it down. Shirin's words and actions are an inspiration to anyone who feels the need to defend themselves against ignorance.

**The Wave** by Todd Strasser (770L)

*The Wave* is based on a true incident that occurred in a high school history class in Palo Alto, CA, in 1969. The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave", with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.

**Stella by Starlight** by Sharon M. Draper

Stella lives in the segregated South - in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community - her world - is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.

**Out of My Mind** by Sharon M. Draper

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

**One True Way** by Shannon Hitchcock

Welcome to Daniel Boone Middle School in the 1970's, where teachers and coaches must hide who they are, and girls who like girls are forced to question their own choices. Presented in the voice of a premier storyteller, *One True Way*

sheds exquisite light on what it means to be different while, at the same time, being wholly true to oneself. Through the lives and influences of two girls, readers come to see that love is love is love. Set against the backdrop of history and politics that surrounded gay rights in the 1970s South, this novel is a thoughtful, eye-opening look at tolerance, acceptance, and change, and will widen the hearts of all readers.

***Lisa, Bright and Dark*** by John Neufeld

Hailed as a "work of art" by the *New York Times*, this best-selling classic brings a deft touch and understanding spirit to the story of a teenage girl's descent into madness - and the three friends who are determined to walk with her where adults fear to tread.

***Finding Perfect*** by Elly Swartz

To twelve year-old Molly Nathans, perfect is: the number four, the tip of a newly sharpened No.2 pencil, a Crisp white pad of paper, her neatly aligned glass animal figurines. What's *not* perfect is Molly's mother leaving the family to take a faraway job with the promise to return in one year. Molly knows that promises are sometimes broken, so she hatches a plan to bring her mother home: Win the Lakeville Middle School Poetry Slam Contest.

\*All summary blurbs taken from Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com