



Middle School Humanities Summer Reading 2016

**English 7
Ms. Ryan**

ENTERING SEVENTH GRADE

Summer reading is an opportunity for you to relax and enjoy yourself. When you get to pick your books, you are more likely to spend more time reading, not because you have to, but because you want to read. You can read any books you want this summer, but if you want some suggestions, look at the *Suggestions for Summer Reading list*.

“There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a good book.”

--Marcel Proust

- You are required to read a **minimum of 3 books** of your choice, however, I am encouraging you to read more!
- You are required to fill out a reading log, which will be collected on the first day of school (see below).
- You will conduct a book talk on one of the books when you return to school. I will select which book you will “talk” about and you will prepare for the talk during class.
- Book talks will be conducted during the first few weeks of school.
- Below are guidelines for you to follow as you prepare for your book talk.

Book Talk Guidelines:

- Plan to speak for about 3-5 minutes
- Briefly summarize the plot of the book and identify the genre, but do not give away the ending. Think about what you would and would not have wanted to know before reading.
- Prepare what you are going to say about the book. You don't need to memorize, but you need to know the points you are going to make. Practice until you are comfortable with your material.
- Optional topics to focus on:
 - The theme of the book
 - The major conflict
 - A brief description of the main characters and their relationships
 - Setting and how it relates to the plot and characters
 - Mention if the book reminds you of another book you have read or a movie you have seen
 - Identify what you think the author would have wanted readers to take from the experience of reading the book
 - Tell the audience if you recommend the book and why or why not. It's okay if you did not enjoy the book, someone else may.
 - If you come across a significant or powerful passage, you may read it aloud. This should be short and leave the listener wanting more.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!
Ms. Ryan

Suggestions for Summer Reading:
Books marked with an (*) can be checked out from the Wooster library for the summer.

Realistic Fiction

Gantos, Jack

***Dead End in Norvelt**

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

Green, Tim

Unstoppable

Winners never give up. If anyone understands the phrase "tough luck," it's Harrison. As a foster kid in a cruel home, he knows his dream of one day playing for the NFL is a long shot. Then Harrison's luck seems to change. He is brought into a new home with kind, loving parents—his new dad is even a football coach. Harrison's big build and his incredible determination quickly make him a star running back on the junior high school team. In no time, he's practically unstoppable. But Harrison's good luck can't last forever.

Schmidt, Gary D.

***The Wednesday Wars**

Seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood, stuck in Mrs. Baker's classroom during the 1967 school year while his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, learns much of value about the world in which he lives from the study of the plays of William Shakespeare.

Historical Fiction

Avi

City of Orphans

In 1893 New York, thirteen-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works.

Blackwood, Gary L.

Curiosity

In 1835, when his father is put in a Philadelphia debtor's prison, twelve-year-old chess prodigy Rufus Goodspeed is relieved to be recruited to secretly operate a chess-playing automaton named The Turk, but soon questions the fate of his predecessors and his own safety. A thrilling look at the 19th-century age of automata—a time of curiosity-seekers—and the riveting story of a likable

Philadelphia boy whose life of the mind helps him transcend his extraordinary, oft-cruel circumstances.

Galbis, Enrique Flores
90 Miles to Havana

90 Miles to Havana When Julian's parents send him and his two brothers to Miami to escape from the Cuban revolution, the boys are thrust into a new world where bullies run rampant and it is not always clear how best to protect themselves.

Vanderpool, Clare
***Moon over Manifest**

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

Timberlake, Amy
One Came Home

In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha, presumed dead when remains are found wearing the dress she was last seen in, and before the end of the year gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters.

Adventure/Science Fiction/Mystery

Chainani, Soman
The School For Good and Evil

Best friends Sophie and Agatha discover what it is to be a student at the fabled School for Good and Evil where ordinary boys and girls are trained to be fairy tale heroes and villains. When the two girls are swept into the Endless Woods they find their destinies reversed.

Meloy, Maile
Apothecary

Follows a fourteen-year-old American girl whose life unexpectedly transforms when she moves to London in 1952 and gets swept up in a race to save the world from nuclear war.

Columbus, Chris
***House of Secrets**

Cordelia, Brendan, and Eleanor Walker, aged fifteen to eight, must rely on a mysterious book to face the Wind Witch and her father, the Storm King, who have kidnapped Dr. and Mrs. Walker and brought them to a strange world of magic

Gaiman, Neil
***The Graveyard Book**

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard. The threat of the evasive Jack hunting for Nobody adds to the suspense of the story.

Nonfiction

Fleming, Candace

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart

In alternating chapters, Fleming deftly moves readers back and forth between Amelia's life (from childhood up until her last flight) and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself—plus informative sidebars tackling everything from the history of flight to what Amelia liked to eat while flying (tomato soup)

Schanzer, Rosalyn

Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem

The riveting, true story of the victims, accused witches, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt that took over a dozen people's lives and ruined hundreds more unfolds in chilling detail.

Swanson, James

Chasing Lincoln's Killer

Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.

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