

Middle School – Grades 6th, 7th, and 8th
Summer Reading Project
2016-2017

This year, your summer reading project will challenge you to set goals for your summer reading as well as read in two different genres! The written portion of your project will take the form of writing reflectively about the things you read.

Part I – Readings

Please choose at least **one novel** and at least **one poem** to read this summer. Please make sure that you and your parents consider each text you plan to read. If you start reading a text and find it inappropriate or aren't enjoying it, please choose something else. Please choose at least one novel and one poem that **you have not yet read**.

Choices-

Please choose one of the fifteen battle books for your summer reading. The list is attached to this assignment. You may choose any poem that you like to study and read. You can visit these websites to help you find a poem if you are struggling!

- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>
- <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/>

Part II – Journal Entries

Please write at least **three** journal entries of at least **one page each**. This should equate to a *minimum* of **12 complete sentences** per entry. This assignment will provide me with a good sample of your writing (a big focus in seventh grade!), so make sure you are putting in your best effort ☺ These entries will be based on what you're thinking about the things you're reading! Below you will find a list of questions/ideas for your journal entries.

- Write at least **two entries** about the **novel** you read and **one** about the **poem**.
- Please choose to respond to at least two different questions. One of the questions can be a repeat for a different text.

You can type or hand-write your journal entries. If you'd like to start your writer's notebook over the summer and include these entries in it, please do!

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to e-mail at jenny.holden@lutzprep.org (8th) mindy.gilbert@lutzprep.org (7th), or Katie.allen@lutzprep.org (6th)

Due Date: Wednesday, August 17 (one week after the start of school ☺)!

Journal Entry Questions/Ideas

Message/Theme

What do you think the writer is trying to communicate to the reader? What message or truth about life is the writer trying to communicate? How does the writer communicate this message?

Character Motivation

Think about an important character from the text. What does this character do or say? What is the character's motivation to do or say these things? How does this character help the writer to communicate a message or truth about life?

Conflict

Think about conflicts that arise in the text. What happens? Why do you think the writer included these conflicts? How do these conflicts help the writer communicate a message or truth about life?

Personal Connection

How do you personally connect to the text? What events, characters, conflicts, or feelings remind you of something you've experienced in your own life?

Mood

How does the text make you feel? Sometimes a text will make you feel different ways in different parts, so feel free to focus in on one specific part of the text if that works better when you consider mood.

Figurative Language

How does the writer use figurative language? What figures of speech does the writer use and how do they help the reader understand the message of the text?

Relevance

How does this text fit into our world today? Think and write about how the text relates to events, circumstances, social justice, and things people go through today. Even if the text takes place in a different time period or is unrealistic, there are comparisons that you can make!

Rethinking the End

Rewrite the end of the story. How would you change the end? How does this change impact the characters? The conflict? The theme? Make sure you rewrite the end in the same point of view as the original story.

Climax

Create a detailed visual (picture!) to represent the climax of the story. Beneath the illustration or on a separate paper, describe the climax in your own words and explain how you are sure it is the climax!

Different Point of View

Choose an important scene from the story and rewrite it from a different character's perspective. Consider the following questions: How does this character view other characters? How will s/he view the scene differently than the current narrator? What does this character talk like? What will his/her questions be like?

Have another Idea? E-mail your teacher to let us know what you're thinking! There are lots of different ways to respond to the texts we read, and we are glad to hear your ideas! If you have any questions at all, please feel free to e-mail at jenny.holden@lutzprep.org (8th) mindy.gilbert@lutzprep.org (7th), or Katie.allen@lutzprep.org (6th)

Important Terms

Theme – the writer's message; a deeper truth about life that is revealed through the text

Character Motivation – a reason that explains a character's thoughts, feelings, actions or speech

Conflict – a problem or obstacle

Mood – the feelings or emotions of the reader; the atmosphere or feeling a reader gets from the text

Figurative Language – words or expressions that are not meant to be taken literally. Examples: "Hope is the thing with feathers" – "The pencil danced across the paper" – "the sound was rough like sandpaper"

Relevance – important to the matter at hand; fits in and is important to the people and world around you

Climax – The turning point in the novel where the reader can begin to see the resolution

Book Options



Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2016-2017 List for Grades 6-8



All Fall Down by Ally Carter

Grace Blakely's life was turned upside down the night her mother was murdered. Grace believes the scarred man who killed her mother is lurking somewhere on Embassy Row, her new home in the country of Adria. She and her new friends set out to find him and stop another murder from happening. But will it cost her everything? Will Grace find somebody to listen to her before it's too late?



Bot Wars by J.V. Kade

Aiden (Trout) misses his dad who's been missing since the end of the Bot Wars. That conflict, between the increasingly advanced robots who were demanding rights and the humans who owned them, has left the United Districts in dire straits. His older brother won't answer his questions, so he decides to post a video asking for information. It goes viral and now his brother is missing and Trout's a wanted fugitive. Nothing makes sense any more and Trout doesn't know who to trust.



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Using riffs from concrete poetry, hip-hop and jazz, this is the verse story of twins Josh and Jordan Bell. Both boys dominate the basketball court, and Josh is also a master of rhythm and rhyme. Their family bond is strong. Things change when Jordan meets a new girl and dad refuses to confront his health problems. Josh finds himself left in a game he no longer feels comfortable playing without his teammate and coach by his side.



Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan

The novel, introduced with the fairytale-like story of Otto and the prophecy of a harmonica, transitions to the lives of Friedrich in WWII Germany, Mike, an orphan in 1935 Great Depression Pennsylvania, and Ivy on the WWII homefront in 1942 California all impacted by the history of their times, a harmonica, and the power of music.



Frenzy by Robert Lettrick

Frenzy is a fast paced thrilling story with an apocalyptic feel. Heath and his friends are left to defend themselves and survive a ravenous disease that has taken over the surrounding wild animals that live in the forest of Camp Harmony. The summer camp residents are forced to turn to one other and remain alive through the FRENZY!



The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart

Mark leaves home with only two things: a duffel bag and his dog, Beau. He is determined to fulfill his lifelong dream of climbing Mount Ranier. But, Mark is sick, and he's sick and tired of the treatments he has to receive for his illness. The story of Mark's journey is told alternately from Mark's point of view, and that of his best friend, Jessie, who's been sworn to secrecy about Mark's whereabouts.



Insignia by S.J. Kincaid

When fourteen year old Tom first enters an elite military division during the middle of WWII, his biggest achievement is his prowess at virtual reality games, his killer instinct in gambling and a spelling bee he lied about winning. But this may just be the perfect combination to win the war... if he agrees to submit to the unique and top secret conditions of becoming a space-age warrior. Tom has always wanted to be someone important. But at what cost?



Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2016-2017 List for Grades 6-8, Page 2



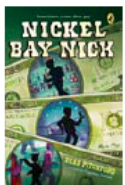
***The Luck Uglies* by Paul Durham**

Rye O'Chanter tries her best to follow the house rules, but mysterious things are happening in the Village Drowning. On the night of the Black Moon, Rye goes out to catch her cat and has a frightening encounter with a supposedly extinct Bog Noblin. Rye begins to unravel the secrets that she's been told about the village legends and the notorious society called the Luck Uglies.



***The Neptune Project* by Polly Holyoke**

In this dystopian adventure, the government is forcing citizens to leave the coasts to move inland to work in labor camps. Nere, who has always loved the water, and can communicate with dolphins, finds out that she and others have been genetically mutated to be able to breathe underwater. With danger following at every turn, will the Neptune Children escape the government's clutches and begin a new human colony in the ocean as they were designed to do?



***Nickel Bay Nick* by Dean Pitchford**

The town of Nickel Bay has given up hope. Nickel Bay Nick a local good Samaritan who hides hundred-dollar bills around town each Christmas season has abandoned them. Sam Brattle is feeling the abandonment more than others. His dad's bakery is on the brink of bankruptcy, his mother has a new family and he has fallen in with the wrong crowd. But then, one night changes Sam's life forever...



***The Sinister Sweetness of Splendid Academy* by Nikki Loftin**

Splendid Academy, a new school in Lorelei's neighborhood, almost seems too good to be true. With a fantastic playground, gourmet food, and optional homework, this school seems like every kid's dream! That is, until Lorelei discovers that the school is hiding a sinister secret in this Hansel and Gretel twist.



***The Summer I Saved the World in 65 Days* by Michele Weber Hurwitz**

Thirteen-year-old Nina begins her summer vacation by doing a random act of kindness for a neighbor. When she sees how well received this kind gesture is, she decides to spend her summer vacation secretly doing 64 more good deeds for her neighbors, friends and family (one good deed for every day of vacation). Will her random acts of kindness change the world or backfire in ways she never dreamed?



***The Tapper Twins Go To War (With Each Other)* by Geoff Rodkey**

No one can agree on how the war between twelve year old twins Claudia and Reese Tapper began, but...IT.IS.ON! Claudia and Reese both try to out-prank, outsmart and out-embarrass each other in this hilarious tale of the love/hate relationship between siblings.



***Turn Left at the Cow* by Lisa Bullard**

Thirteen-year-old Trav heads to rural Minnesota to uncover the mystery of his deceased dad. When he learns of an unsolved bank robbery and that his father is connected to it, Trav sets out to unravel the mystery and finds more than he expected.



***The Worst Class Trip Ever* by Dave Barry**

Who doesn't love an overnight field trip? When Wyatt and his class fly from Miami to Washington D.C., Wyatt's best friend Matt suspects two passengers on the plane are up to no good. Determined to stop them, Wyatt and his friends find themselves in a world of trouble and a chase through the streets of the nation's capital. With each passing moment the stakes get higher as the friends dodge bad guys, the secret service, and their teacher.