

INCOMING GRADE 7 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

The seventh grade English/Language Arts teachers require students to read **two books: one from this list and one free choice. One selection should be fiction and the other non-fiction. The non-fiction title should be a minimum of 100 pages and at your reading level. No autobiographies or memoirs (biographies are acceptable).**

In addition, students will be required to read at least one article from a magazine, newspaper, or the internet. This article should tie in with one of the **themes or significant messages** of the **required reading** novels. Please make a print out or copy of the article that you are using to bring with you in September. All students will be responsible for demonstrating understanding of their books and article during the third week of the school year. Parents should review the list to help select books, which are mutually acceptable to them and their children.

So, *in mid-September*, you need to return to school with the graphic organizer completed and a copy of your non-fiction article (or the title of your non-fiction book if you chose to read a book instead of an article).

Required Reading (Choose One)

Fiction Choices:

Baseball in April – Gary Soto

The small events of daily life reveal big themes -- youth and age, love and friendship, success and failure -- in this unique collection of short stories. Calling on his own experience of growing up in California's Central Valley, Gary Soto paints the everyday experiences of contemporary young people. The smart, tough, and vulnerable kids in these short stories are Latino; their dreams and desires belong to all of us. (growing up)

The Fifth Wave – Rick Yancey

After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the unlucky survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one. Now, it's the dawn of the 5th wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, who roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Who have scattered Earth's last survivors. To stay alone is to stay alive, Cassie believes, until she meets Evan Walker. Beguiling and mysterious, Evan Walker may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her brother—or even saving herself. But Cassie must choose: between trust and despair, between defiance and surrender, between life and death. To give up or to get up.

The Lie Tree – Frances Hardinge

Faith Sunderly is intensely curious about her famous father's scientific research. When he is suddenly found dead, she is convinced that he was murdered, and pieces together clues and uncovered secrets, like the reverend's prized specimen—a tree that thrives on lies and bears a fruit that, when eaten, reveals a hidden truth. A dark and haunting mystery. The time is nineteenth-century England; the setting is an island; the main character is a fourteen-year-old girl caught between society's expectations and her fierce desire to be a scientist. Mystery, magic, science, feminism. Top 10 Best Fiction for Young Adults 2017.

Divergent (or sequels Insurgent and Allegiant) – Veronica Roth

The novel is the first of the Divergent trilogy, a series of young-adult dystopian novels set in the Divergent Universe. The novel *Divergent* features a post-apocalyptic version of Chicago and follows Beatrice "Tris" Prior as she explores her identity within a society that defines its citizens by their social and personality-related affiliation with five factions, which removes the threat of anyone exercising independent will and re-threatening the population's safety. Underlying the action and dystopian focused main plot is a romantic subplot between Tris and one of her instructors in the Dauntless faction, nicknamed Four.

Variant - Robinson Wells

Benson Fisher thought that a scholarship to Maxfield Academy would be the ticket out of his dead-end life. He was wrong. Now he's trapped in a school that's surrounded by a razor-wire fence. A school where video cameras monitor his every move. Where there are no adults. Where the kids have split into groups in order to survive. Where breaking the rules equals death. But when Benson stumbles upon the school's real secret, he realizes that playing by the rules could spell a fate worse than death, and that escape—his only real hope for survival—may be impossible.

My Brother Sam Is Dead - James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother Sam. Sam's smart and brave -- and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British -- including Tim and Sam's father. With the war soon raging, Tim know he'll have to make a choice -- between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats . . . and between his brother and his father. (American Revolution)

The Clique – Lisi Harrison (or any of the other titles in the series)

Meet the Clique. The social minefield's most privileged middle-school girls drive the over-the-top drama in this addictive new book, set in suburban New York City's Westchester County. Massie Block: With her glossy brunette bob and Whitestrip smile, Massie is the uncontested ruler of The Clique and the rest of the social scene at Octavian Country Day, an exclusive private school in Westchester, New York. Dylan Marvil: Massie's second in command who divides her time between sucking up to Massie and sucking down Atkins shakes to try to get rid of the extra fifteen pounds that won't seem to leave her hips alone. Alicia Rivera: As sneaky as he is beautiful, Alicia floats easily under adults radar because she seems so "sweet." Would love to take Massie's throne one day. Just might do it. Kristen Gregory: She's been dying to fit in ever since her parents went broke. She's smart, hardworking and will insult you to tears faster than you can say "scholarship kids." And then there's Claire Lyons, the new girl in two-year old GAP overalls from Florida, who is clearly not Clique material. The only problem is that Claire's family is staying in the guest house on the Blocks' massive estate while they look for a new home! Claire's future looks worse than bad Prada knock-off. But with a little luck and a lot of scheming, Claire might just come up smelling like Chanel Mademoiselle... (bullying)

The Westing Game – Ellen Raskin

One fateful day, sixteen people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. To their surprise, the will turns out to be a contest, challenging the heirs to find out who among them is Westing's murderer. Forging ahead, through blizzards, burglaries, and bombings, the game is on. Only two people hold all the clues. One of them is a Westing heir. The other is you!

Piecing Me Together – Renee Watson

Sixteen-year-old Jade dreams of success beyond her neighborhood despite the prejudices that surround her.

For two years, Jade has been a scholarship student at a predominantly white private high school where she is one of few African-American students—the only one from her “bad” neighborhood in Portland, Oregon. Jade’s mom struggles to make ends meet. At school, Jade has many opportunities, steppingstones to move beyond her neighborhood someday, maybe even travel the world. But sometimes these opportunities and her white guidance counselor make Jade feel like a charity case. Junior year brings yet another opportunity that leaves Jade feeling judged and pitied: the Woman to Woman mentorship program, which promises a full college scholarship to mentees. Jade’s mentor, Maxine, is both well-intentioned and also black, but she’s from a wealthy family. Jade chafes against the way Maxine treats her as though she needs to be saved. Through Jade’s insightful and fresh narration, Watson presents a powerful story that challenges stereotypes about girls with “coal skin and hula-hoop hips” who must contend with the realities of racial profiling and police brutality. Jade’s passion for collage and photography help her to find her voice and advocate not only for herself, but for her community.

The Face on the Milk Carton – Caroline B. Cooney

Fifteen-year-old Janie Johnson’s life is turned upside down when she notices the picture of a missing girl on the back of a milk carton. A girl named Jennie Spring, with red hair much like her own, was kidnapped twelve years ago. Janie wonders if she could be this face on the milk carton when other questions about her own past begin to arise. Why has she never seen her own birth certificate? Are her parents not really her parents? Janie tries to ignore these persistent thoughts, until she starts having strange memories. She remembers being left alone in a shopping mall, sitting on a stool, when a woman came up to her and offered her ice cream. She remembers spilling milk in a kitchen that was definitely not her own, surrounded by unfamiliar faces. She remembers a dog, and a prayer, and a family that is not the one she has known for most of her life. Janie investigates her theory and uncovers more evidence that she might be the face on the milk carton.

Travel Team – Mike Lupica

Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court — but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured. *Travel Team* is an inspirational tale in the tradition of *The Bad News Bears* and *Hoosiers*. It will leave readers of all ages cheering.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children - Ransom Riggs

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow-impossible though it seems-they may still be alive. A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with haunting vintage photography, *An adventure in the shadows.*

Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue - Julius Lester

This powerful and engaging historical novel is told in dialogue and through monologues. It begins with a factual event—the largest slave auction in United States history that took place in 1859 on Pierce Butler's plantation in Georgia. The book introduces Butler, his abolitionist ex-wife Fanny Kemble, their two daughters, the auctioneer, and a number of slaves sold to pay off Butler's gambling debts. Emma, a fictional house slave, is the centerpiece of the novel. She cares for the master's daughters and has been promised that she will never be sold. On the last day of the auction, Butler impulsively sells her to a woman from Kentucky. There she marries, runs away, and eventually gains her freedom in Canada. Lester has done an admirable job of portraying the simmering anger and aching sadness that the slaves must have felt. Each character is well drawn and believable. This novel does a superb job of showing the inhumanity of slavery. (Civil War, slavery)

Chains -Laurie Halse Anderson

Slaves Isabel and her five year-old sister Ruth are sold and shipped to New York City in May 1776. Isabel, overhearing her Loyalist master's scheme to kill George Washington, helps foil the plot. Her role forgotten by the Patriots, Isabel realizes it's up to her alone to find freedom. At first, Isabel isn't keen to help: "I'm just fighting for me and Ruth. You can keep your rebellion." But when she overhears her master's scheme to kill George Washington, Isabel reports it to a Patriot colonel. The rebels foil the plot; Isabel, however, is forgotten. Finally, Isabel realizes that it's up to her -- and her alone -- to find freedom. A portrait of slavery and of New York City during the Revolutionary War. (Slavery, Revolutionary War)

Fever 1793 -Laurie Halse Anderson

Yellow fever is sweeping through Philadelphia. For fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook, the epidemic begins with the news of the sudden and unexpected death of her childhood friend Polly. It is summer 1793. The death toll will reach five thousand (ten percent of the city's population) before the frost. Mattie, her mother, and grandfather run a coffeehouse on High Street, and when others flee the city, they choose to stay-until Mattie's mother is stricken. Sent away by her mother to escape contagion, Mattie tries to leave, is turned back by quarantine officers, falls ill herself, and is taken to Bush Hill, a city hospital run by the celebrated French doctor Steven Girard. Mattie is tenacious and likable. She wonders if her mother has survived the fever and whether they will be reunited.

Non-fiction choices:

Undefeated : Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team - [Sheinkin, Steve](#)

Young readers of this biography may be surprised that Jim Thorpe, an athlete they may never have heard of, was once considered “the best athlete on the planet.” Proclaimed “the greatest all-around athlete in the world” by legendary football coach Glenn “Pop” Warner, Jim Thorpe dominated sports in the early 1900s. His natural athleticism, in tandem with Warner’s innovative coaching style, helped establish the Carlisle Indian Industrial School’s football program as one of the nation’s best, eclipsing perennial gridiron powerhouses Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. Despite the fame and attention Carlisle received because of its winning team, a stark reality existed: the cultures of these same young men were being systematically eradicated by the school (e.g., prohibiting students from speaking Native languages, forcing them to cut their hair). Operating under the premise that the “Indian problem” could be solved by stripping students of their cultural identities, Carlisle founder and superintendent Richard Henry Pratt, a U.S. Army captain, vowed to “Kill the Indian; Save the Man” through any means necessary. Sheinkin has created a rich, complex narrative that balances the institutionalized bigotry and racism of the times with the human-interest stories that are often overshadowed by or lost to history.

The War to End All Wars: World War I - Russell Freedman

In August 1914, European countries “armed to the teeth” and bursting with exuberant nationalism entered what they believed would be a short, glorious affair. What emerged on battlefields such as the Somme, Verdun, and Gallipoli were nightmarish scenes played out on desolate barbed-wire “no man’s lands” of machine-gun fire and poison gas. From the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 to the controversial Treaty of Versailles in 1918, Freedman lucidly recounts the origins, meaning, and legacy of history’s first “total” war that spanned the globe and was characterized by the horrors and brutality of trench warfare. The author’s excellent narrative skillfully encompasses all facets of the conflict including battles, leaders, and the new technologies that made it so destructive. Elegantly written and filled with vivid, powerful photographs.

Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting- Jim Murphy

On July 29th 1914, the world’s peace was shattered as the artillery of the Austria-Hungary Empire began shelling the troops of the country to its south. What followed was like a row of falling dominoes as one European country after another rushed into war. Soon most of Europe was fighting in this calamitous war that could have been avoided. This was, of course, the First World War. But who could have guessed that on December 25th the troops would openly defy their commanding officers by stopping the fighting and having a spontaneous celebration of Christmas with their “enemies”? Two-time Newbery Honor Book author Jim Murphy writes a stunning nonfiction masterpiece about a Christmas miracle on the Western Front during World War I.

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals (Young Reader’s Edition) –Michael Pollan

In the book, Pollan asks the seemingly straightforward question of what we should have for dinner. As [omnivores](#), the most unselective eaters, humans (as well as other omnivores) are faced with a wide variety of food choices, resulting in a [dilemma](#). Pollan suggests that, prior to modern food preservation and transportation technologies, this particular dilemma was largely resolved, primarily through cultural

influences. These technologies have recreated the dilemma, by making available foods that were previously seasonal or regional. The relationship between food and society, once moderated by culture, now finds itself confused. To learn more about those choices, Pollan follows each of the [food chains](#) that sustain us; industrial food, [organic food](#), and food we forage ourselves; from the source to a final meal, and in the process writes a critique of the [American way of eating](#).

The Boys in the Boat the True Story of an American team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics Young Reader's Edition by Gregory Mone

Adapted from the adult best-seller *The Boys in the Boat*, this quietly compelling story tells of the University of Washington rowing team that competed in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Overcoming a difficult childhood—his mother passed away, his father abandoned him, and the Great Depression made it even harder for a teenager to survive on his own—Joe Rantz not only managed to go to college, he made the freshman crew team at the University of Washington. There, he met boys equally determined to succeed and a coach who was driven not only to best West Coast rival University of California and the storied programs on the East Coast, but also to take the gold medal at the 1936 Olympics, in Hitler's Germany.

The President Has Been Shot –James L. Swanson

Swanson presents the assassination of President John F. Kennedy to young readers in this [2014 Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults](#) finalist a way that is accessible but never condescending. The first part of the book is called, Introduction to John F. Kennedy, and that is exactly what it provides a brief outline of Kennedy's life, the circumstances of his election, and his major accomplishments in office. This section portrays Kennedy in a mostly positive light, perhaps glossing over some of his personal flaws, but in this particular book, I think that decision works. It is not a biography, and readers do not necessarily need to know all the lurid details of Kennedy's personal life to understand the kind of leader he was and what he represented to the American people. The other thing the book does exceptionally well in those initial chapters is to build a historical context for the events. Swanson condenses the complex climate of world affairs in the early sixties into a few succinct pages, helping readers understand the times without bogging down the narrative in a glut of unnecessary information.

Imperfect: An Improbable Life – Jim Abbott and Tim Brown

Born without a right hand, Jim Abbott dreamed of someday being a great athlete. Raised in Flint, Michigan, by parents who encouraged him to compete, Jim would become an ace pitcher for the University of Michigan. But his journey was only beginning: By twenty-one, he'd won the gold medal game at the 1988 Olympics and—without spending a day in the minor leagues—cracked the starting rotation of the California Angels. In 1991, he would finish third in the voting for the Cy Young Award. Two years later, he would don Yankee pinstripes and pitch one of the most dramatic no-hitters in major-league history.

In this honest and insightful book, Jim Abbott reveals the challenges he faced in becoming an elite pitcher, the insecurities he dealt with in a life spent as the different one, and the intense emotion generated by his encounters with disabled children from around the country. With a riveting pitch-by-pitch account of his no-hitter providing the ideal frame for his story, this unique athlete offers readers an extraordinary and unforgettable memoir.

Name: _____

Summer Reading Graphic Organizer

Below, write the themes (or significant ideas or messages) that your selected **fiction book** and article share. Provide details/evidence from **both** texts.

Below, the write the themes (or significant ideas or messages) that your selected **non-fiction** book and article share. Provide details/evidence from **both** texts.