

ENGLISH 7 Summer Reading Information 2023 - 2024

Due: Tuesday, September 6th

Summer reading is your first taste of what to expect from English class. Through summer reading, your English teachers would like:

- to encourage thoughtful book selection
- to help you grow your reading and critical thinking skills
- to encourage you to enjoy the experience of reading
- to introduce our course themes: *identity* and *perspective*

English 7 focuses on the themes of identity and perspective. What makes us who we are? How can we broaden our sense of self while gaining a better understanding and appreciation for that which exists outside of ourselves? All of the books on the attached reading list deal with the development of someone's identity.

Complete these two things:

1. **Read 1 book from the attached list:** Read the book, and write short responses to the questions below. Your responses should be 3-5 complete sentences each and may be typed or handwritten. Please include specific examples when possible.

- Which book did you read?
- Who are the main characters and what conflict do they encounter?
- How do the main characters deal with the conflict?
- How do the main characters grow to better understand themselves (as individuals)?

2. **Free choice reading:** Read a book of your choice, and make a video responding to your free choice reading. **Your video MUST address these prompts:**

- Introduce yourself.
- What did you choose to read, and how did you select it?
- Tell me about 1 or 2 characters. Who are they and what do you think of them?
- Tell me about a favorite part. Why did you like it?
- What was your overall reaction to the book? What was your reaction to the ending?

You MAY also address the starred prompts.

- ★ Was this an easy or a hard read for you? How do you know?
- ★ How well did you relate to this story?
- ★ To whom would you recommend this book and why?

***See back for information on Submission and Grading**

Submission and Grading:

You should complete your work over the summer and are encouraged to turn it in as soon as you finish. You will have the first few days at school to get clarifications or help with technology if needed. You should email or share your completed work to Ms. Permar at

lpermar@mamail.net **Due: Tuesday, September 6th**

- If you type your written responses in a Google Doc, you can share the doc or email it as an attachment.
- If you choose to handwrite your written responses, you should take a photo and email it.
- Your video can be sent as an attachment or a link to your Google Drive.

Please note -- In summer reading, we want to see *your* best work and hear *your* best ideas. Your writing needs to be in your own words and should be based on your reading of the book itself. **No outside sources (including AI-assisted writing like ChatGPT) are permitted for this assignment.**

This work will count towards the first trimester and will be mostly based on completion.


VIDEO TIPS:

Think of this as a casual reading conference with your teacher that just happens to be recorded! You may read over the prompts ahead of time, but you should NOT rehearse or write out responses. This video will not be posted or shared anywhere, and it's okay if you misspeak or have some long pauses. You can use an iPhone, iPad, or computer to complete this part, and having a parent or older sibling ask you the questions can make it feel more natural.

Additional Reading:

If you are looking for additional reading material, please feel free to browse the [recommended middle school resource lists](#).

REQUIRED: Read one of the books listed below. NOTE: Select a title that you have NOT already read.

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|  <p><i>Blended</i> By Sharon M. Draper</p> <p>Eleven-year-old Isabella’s blended family is more divided than ever after her parents get divorced. As Isabella navigates living between two worlds (in more ways than one), she thinks things can’t get any worse. How will she figure out who she is when everything seems to be falling apart?</p> |  <p><i>Counting by 7's</i> By Holly Goldberg Sloan</p> <p>Willow Chance is a 12-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life, until now.</p> |
|  <p><i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> * By Anne Frank</p> <p>Told from the perspective of 13-year-old Anne Frank, this diary shares Anne’s thoughts and experiences during the last two years of her life, the majority of which she spent in hiding to avoid persecution from the Nazi’s. *Any version</p> |  <p><i>Freak the Mighty</i> By Rodman Philbrick</p> <p>Two boys – a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces – forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. A wonderful story of triumph over imperfection, shame, and loss.</p> |
|  <p><i>Hoot</i> By Carl Hiaasen</p> <p>A Montana boy who moves to Florida and unearths a disturbing threat to a local population of endangered owls. Determined to protect his new environment, the boy and his friends fight to prevent the adults from making a big mistake.</p> |  <p><i>I Am Malala</i> * By Malala Yousafzai</p> <p>Malala Yousafzai was only 10 when the Taliban took control of her region. They said girls couldn’t go to school, but she fought for her right to be educated and nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive, but she did, and this is her story... *Young Readers Edition or the original</p> |
|  <p><i>Project Mulberry</i> By Linda Sue Park</p> <p>Julia and Patrick team up to win a blue ribbon at the state fair. They decide to raise silkworms, like Julia’s mom did in Korea, but they quickly realize that raising silkworms is a lot tougher than they thought. And Julia never suspected that she'd be discussing the fate of her and Patrick's project with Ms. Park, the author of this book!</p> |  <p><i>Same Sun Here</i> By Silas House & Neela Vaswani</p> <p>Meena, an Indian immigrant living in NYC and River, the son of a Kentucky miner, forge a friendship as pen pals that inspires bravery and challenges cultural misconceptions.</p> |
|  <p><i>Schooled</i> By Gordon Korman</p> <p>Told in alternating voices, this thought-provoking novel about a homeschooled kid who gets sent to middle school is filled with moments of tenderness, comedy, and reflection.</p> |  <p><i>Summer of the Mariposas</i> By Guadalupe Marcia McCall</p> <p><i>Summer of the Mariposas</i> is a magical Mexican American retelling of The Odyssey—and a celebration of sisterhood and maternal love. When Odilia and her four sisters find a dead body in the swimming hole, they embark on a hero's journey to return the dead man to his family in Mexico.</p> |