

# Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

## *"Character Development"*

*"How does the protagonist or main character develop or change throughout your novel?"*

### **I. Why do we require summer reading?**

Due to school buildings being closed and working remotely, **we believe more strongly than ever** that all students need to be able to read and write effectively to prepare for the upcoming school year and to be lifelong learners. Summer reading encourages students to **maintain skills** learned in school.

Through their summer reading, students will be **observing how authors create characters that develop and change throughout a novel and learn lessons** that connect to the novel's overall theme. **Analyzing a character's development** throughout a story will enable students to remember key points of their reading and will **assist them in the writing activity that will take place at the beginning of the school year.**

### **II. What are our goals and objectives for summer reading?**

- To encourage students to read closely and focus on character development
- To assess writing strengths and weaknesses
- To maintain skills learned prior to summer

### **III. Assignment for ALL Middle School Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8**

Choose an **appropriate** novel (either from the **Suggested Book List OR one of Your Choice**) that is **within your reading level**, describes a **strong protagonist (main character)**, and is **new to you (Do not read a book that you have read before)**. As you read, pay attention to how the events **propel the protagonist to develop and change** throughout the novel. It is important to note **lessons learned and the overall development** of that person.

**\*\*\*Incoming 8th graders are required to choose a novel based on History (Fiction or Nonfiction), either from the given list or of your choosing. The \*items on the list are considered historical based novels.**

Attached are two character development **graphic organizers**. **You may choose whichever organizer appeals to you. It must be completed in detail** and will be taken as a grade in your ELA classes. It's important to take your time, be **detailed and thoughtful in your written responses, and write neatly.**

Feel free to **TYPE** the **character development information** and attach it to the graphic organizer on return to school in the fall. This organizer will also be **used as a reference for an in class assignment** within the first month of school.

**\*\*\* MIDDLE SCHOOL READING CHALLENGE--** We would like to see students read **more than one book** over the summer. There is a reading challenge through Commonlit.com at [https://www.commonlit.org/en/parents\\_and\\_guardians](https://www.commonlit.org/en/parents_and_guardians) . This website will provide high interest reading lists for your child. You may use this platform or create your own reading log. We challenge you to **read as many age-appropriate novels** as you can. All logs that have a parent signature will be entered into a raffle for gift cards. Are you up for the "Reading Challenge?" **Ready, Set, READ!**

## A List of "Suggested" Character Development Titles

Fiction	<b>*Nonfiction*</b> (Any of these are good for 8th graders, too)
<i>Hunger Games (series)</i> <i>Maze Runner (series)</i> <i>Divergent (series)</i> <i>Twilight (series)</i> <i>Hatchet</i> <i>Among the Hidden</i> <i>Call it Courage*</i> <i>Robinson Crusoe*</i> <i>The 5th Wave</i> <i>Fever 1793*</i> <i>The One and Only Ivan</i> <i>City of Ember</i> <i>Ender's Game</i> <i>Where the Red Fern Grows*</i> <i>Old Yeller*</i> <i>The Yearling*</i> <i>Tangerine</i> <i>Out of the Dust*</i> <i>Wringer by Jerry Spinelli</i> <i>Crossover by Kwame Alexander</i> <i>El Deafo by Cece Bell</i> <i>Bomb: the Race to Steal the World's Most Dangerous by Steve Sheinkin*</i> <i>If I Stay by Gayle Forman</i> <i>Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys*</i> <i>Rumble Fish by S.E. Hinton</i> <i>That Was Then, This is Now by S.E. Hinton</i> <i>So Far from the Bamboo Grove*</i> <i>The Bonesetter's Daughter*</i> <i>The Clay Marble*</i>	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> <i>A Long Way Gone</i> <i>Unbroken</i> <i>Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell Bartoletti--2007 Newbery Honor</i> <i>Lincoln: A Photobiography--Newbery Honor.</i> <i>The Freedom Summer Murders by Don Mitchell</i> <i>Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Beals</i> <i>Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks</i> <i>Guts by Gary Paulsen</i> <i>Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson</i> <i>Alive by Piers Paul Read</i> <i>Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story by Sandra NEil</i> <i>Wallace Rich Wallace</i> <i>Brown Girl Dreaming by Woodson Jacqueline</i> <i>Hidden Figures:The Untold True Story of Four African Women Who Helped Launch Our Nation into Space by Margot Lee Shetterly</i> <i>We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler by Russell Freedman</i> <i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler:Knud Peterson and the Churchill Club by Philip Hoose</i> <i>Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin</i> <i>The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank</i> <i>Trapped by Marc Aaronson</i> <i>The 57 Bus: A True Story about Two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed their Lives by Dashka Slater</i> <i>I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai</i>

<p><i>Alone Together by Sarah Donovan</i> <i>Dreams of Gold-Anne O'Neil</i> <i>Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII</i> <i>by Joseph Bruchac*</i> <i>The Breadwinner*</i> <i>The Storm in the Barn</i> <i>Rules</i> <i>A Break with Charity*</i> <i>A Long Way from Chicago*</i> <i>Mockingbird</i> <i>Sixth Grade Secrets</i> <i>Prisoner-B-3087*</i> <i>The Boy Who Dared*</i> <i>Refugee by Alan Graz*</i></p>	<p><i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson</i> <i>Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Ji Jiang</i> <i>Chinese Cinderella-Adeline Yen Mah</i> <i>The Boys in the Boat-Dan Brown</i></p>
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***These book titles, both content and reading level, may not be appropriate for all students. Parents, please preview your child's choice(s) before committing.***