

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?

We believe all students need to be able to read and write effectively to be lifelong learners. Summer reading encourages students to **maintain skills** learned during the previous school year. Through their 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** and describes a **strong protagonist (main character)**. As you read pay attention to how the events in the novel **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 Non-Fiction), either from the given list or of your choosing. The *items on the list are considered historical based novels.**

Attached is a character development **graphic organizer** that **must be completed** 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 August. This organizer will also be **used as a reference for an in class assignment** within the first month of school.

We would like to see students read **more than one book** over the summer. Please create **your own log** of how many books you read along with their titles. We challenge you to **read as many age-appropriate novels** as you can. Are you up for the "Reading Challenge?" **Ready, Set, READ!**

A List of "Suggested" Character Development Titles

Fiction	Nonfiction* (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>Wrinker 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>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 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>	<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</i> <i>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> <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>

These book titles, both content and reading level, may be not be appropriate for all students. Parents, please preview your child's choice(s) before committing.