



## WALTER O. KRUMBIEGEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

*"Aspire to Inspire!"*

Antoine L. Gayles, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Joyce M. Caine  
Principal

Danielle Caminiti  
Vice Principal

June 4, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There are many reasons why reading during the summer months is important. Summer reading enhances comprehension skills and expands vocabulary, which is significant since reading is a skill needed for all subjects and throughout life. Students who read over the summer are much less likely to experience 'summer slide' (loss of two months' learning each summer), which amounts to a two-year reading level lag over time. More importantly, reading expands students' knowledge and enriches their lives. Our summer reading selections offer a range of reading choices based on grade level, topics of interest, and genre.

### The incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders' summer reading assignment has two parts:

	Assignment	Due Date
<b>Part I: Independent Reading</b>	Read TWO (2) books from the attached list. BOTH books must come from the attached list.	September 14, 2018
<b>Part II: Book Report AND Creative Project</b>	For the first book ONLY, complete a book report using the attached rubric and guidelines. For the second book ONLY, choose ONE creative project to do from the attached list.	September 14, 2018

### The incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders' summer reading assignment has two parts:

	Assignment	Due Date
<b>Part I: Independent Reading</b>	Read TWO (2) books from the attached list. BOTH books must come from the attached list.	September 14, 2018
<b>Part II: Book Report AND Creative Project</b>	For the first book ONLY, complete a book report using the attached rubric and guidelines. For the second book ONLY, choose ONE creative project to do from the attached list.	September 14, 2018

**The assignments will be graded and together will count as your first Language Arts quiz grade. No late assignments will be accepted.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Lois Bohm, Language Arts Supervisor, at [lbohms@hillsidek12.org](mailto:lbohms@hillsidek12.org), or me. Have a safe and enjoyable summer and Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

*Joyce M. Caine*

Joyce M. Caine  
Principal

**Walter O. Krumbiegel Middle School  
Grade 7 Summer Reading List**

**Adventure and Fantasy/Magical Realism/Fairy Tales and Myths**

Sophie Quire and the Last Storygard by Jonathan Auxier

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-8

Peter Nimble and Sir Tode have been summoned by Professor Cake for a new mission: find a 12-year-old bookmender named Sophie Quire.

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

In the kingdom of Goredd, dragons and humans live and work side by side – while below the surface, tensions and hostilities simmer. NY Times Best-seller

The Alchemyst by Michael Scott

Reading Level: 6.4 Interest Level: Grades 6-8

Fifteen year-old twins Sophie and Josh Newman continue their magical training in Paris, with Nicholas Flannel, Scatty, and the Counte de Sant Germaine, pursued by Doctor Dee and the immortal Niccolo Machiavelli.

Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring (Part 1) by J.R.R. Tolkien

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

This book is the sequel to The Hobbit, but is technically the first book in the three-book series. This story takes place in Middle-Earth, a unique fantasy land that is filled with magical creatures.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Reading Level: 5 Interest Level: Grades 5-9

This iconic novel features wonderful and unforgettable characters as they time travel and enter the ultimate battle between good and evil – a journey that threatens their lives and our universe. Newbery Award winner.

Insignia by S.J. Kincaid

Reading Level: 5 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

This book combines humor with a disarming and highly realistic view of the future. The characters are funny, real, and memorable. The earth is in the middle of WWII and the planet's resources are almost gone. War is being fought to control the assets of the solar system and the enemy is winning, until a short fourteen-year-old with bad skin and excellent gaming skills comes to save the day.

**Biography/Autobiography**

Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Reading Level: 6.5 Interest Level: Grades 7-8

A young girl's journal records her family's struggles during two years of hiding from the Nazis in war-torn Holland.

Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-10

The daughter of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman describes her very difficult childhood and the psychological abuse she suffered at the hands of her stepmother.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

This memoir is as joyous and painful as childhood itself. It captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right.

Andrew Jackson: The Making of America by Teri Kanefield

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-9

The story of one of our most controversial presidents, this work shares the life of a man who was a polarizing figure in his era but who remains a powerful force in our national politics.

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Ji-li Jiang

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-12

This page-turning autobiography is moving, honest, and deeply personal. It is the incredible true story of one girl's courage and determination during one of the most terrifying eras of the twentieth century.

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yusafzai and Patricia McCormick

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-12

This memoir details Malala's passion for speaking out in support of girls' education, even at great risk to her own personal safety.

### Classics

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

Reading Level: 7.1 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

A story of classic simplicity, based on a Mexican folktale, this book explores the secrets of man's nature, the darkest depths of evil, and the luminous possibilities of love.

Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Reading Level: 6.7 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly businessman, learns the true meaning of Christmas after he is visited by the ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

Ponyboy is 14 years old, tough and confused, yet sensitive beneath his bold front. Since his parents' death, his loyalties have been to his brothers and his gang, the rough boys from the wrong side of the tracks. Violence begins and quickly envelopes Ponyboy in a turbulent chain of events.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

This tale of pirates and buried gold has a lovable and roguish cast of characters. Young Jim Hawkins goes to sea in search of Captain Flint's long-lost treasure. Threatening this endeavor is Long John Silver and a crew of pirates who make this a race not only for treasure but for survival itself.

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 4-12

Orphaned Anne Shirley has no idea what to expect when she comes to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert. But they, and everyone else on Prince Edward Island, soon come to love her irrepressible personality and imagination.

### Non-Fiction

The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in this Game Called Life by Kwame Alexander

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-9

Inspiration on the court of life, each rule contains wisdom from athletes and role models such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, LeBron James, Carli Lloyd, Steph Curry, and Michele Obama.

Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World by Reshma Saujani and Andrea Tsurum

Reading Level: 6.7 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

Part how-to, part girl-empowerment, and all fun, this book combines dynamic artwork, down-to-earth explanations of coding principles, and real-life stories of girls and women working at places like Pixar and NASA.

The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream by Dr. Sampson Davis, Dr. George Jenkins, and Dr. Rameck Hunt (also autobiography)

Reading Level: 6.8 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

This NY Times bestseller is the true story of three African-American men who made a pact to survive the streets of Newark and become doctors.

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos (also autobiography)

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

Lance Armstrong by Matt Doeden (also biography)

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-12

Learn how champion Lance Armstrong made it to the top and did what no other cyclist ever had. He won the grueling 2,000-plus-mile Tour de France seven times, all after a life-or-death struggle with cancer.

### Historical Fiction

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

This novel tells the story of a 12-year-old girl stranded alone for years on an island off the California coast. It is based on the true story of a Nicoleno Native American left alone for 18 years on San Nicolas Island during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Newbery Medal winner.

Mare's War by Tanita A. Davis

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

Teens Octavia and Tali learn about strength, independence, and courage when they are forced to take a car trip with their grandmother, who tells about growing up Black in 1940s Alabama and serving in Europe during World War II as a member of the Women's Army Corps.

**Bread Givers** by Anzia Yeziarska

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

Set in the 1920s on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, this masterwork of immigrant literature tells the story of an Orthodox rabbi's daughter who rebels against his rigid conception of Jewish womanhood.

**Deadend in Norvelt** by Jack Gantos (also humor)

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

**Dragonwings** by Laurence Yep

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.

**The Great Fire** by Jim Murphy

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

An account of the Great Fire of Chicago combines archival photographs and drawings with personal accounts by its survivors and historical documents.

**A Long Walk to Water** by Linda Sue Park

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 6-8

This NY Times bestseller is about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. Enduring hardship, both youngsters are survivors whose stories intersect in an astonishing and moving way.

**Realistic Fiction**

**Geek Girl** by Holly Smale (also Young Adult Fiction)

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

Harriet Manners is a geek. When her friend Nat drags her along to a fashion show and Harriet is accidentally discovered by a modeling agent, she leaps at the chance to reinvent herself.

**Who Will Tell My Brother** by Marlene Carvell

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 6-9

During his lonely crusade to remove offensive mascots from his high school, a Native American teenager learns more about his heritage, his ancestors, and his place in the world.

**Jacob Have I Loved** by Katherine Paterson

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-9

Louise knew she was the despised twin and Caroline was the one everyone loved best. It took her a long time and a lot of growing up until she could accept herself as a worthwhile person. A Newbery Award winner.

**Science Fiction**

**The House of Scorpion** by Nancy Farmer

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 6-8

This book describes what the author imagines life 100 years from now will be like. This Newbery Award-winning book is unsettling, provocative, and hard to put down.

**Maximum Ride Forever** by James Patterson

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-12

Encore episode of a series about the incredible adventures of a teenage girl who can fly. Maximum Ride boldly navigates a post-apocalyptic world.

**Max: A Maximum Ride** by James Patterson

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 6-8

Someone – or something – is decimating ships and sea life off Hawaii's coast, and Max and her flock find themselves sucked into the Navy's top-secret investigation of their catastrophe. Their objective: Rescue Max's activity mom from a wicked subterranean enemy.

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury

Reading Level: 5 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

Set in a bleak, dystopian future, this novel tells the story of a world where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction.

**Young Adult Fiction**

**Among the Hidden** (also science fiction) by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel – a young German girl whose book-stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

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The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

This Newbery-winning novel is a witty and compelling story about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967-1968 school year in Long Island, NY.

The Only Road by Alexandra Diaz

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

Jaime, 11, and his older cousin, Angela, leave their Guatemalan village because the gang that killed Angela's brother and Jamie's friend, Miguel, is now turning its sights on them. This novel is often harrowing yet full of warmth in the bonds the children create.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Reading Level: 4 Interest Level: Grades 4-12

The new tenth-grader stands out with her odd clothes and ukulele. This witty novel offers plenty for teen readers to think about in terms of individuality and conformity, and why some kids are popular while others are social outcasts.

Walter O. Krumbiegel Middle School  
Grade 8 Summer Reading List

**Adventure and Fantasy/Magical Realism**

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Like Water for Chocolate: A Novel in Monthly Installments, with Recipes, Romances, and Home Remedies by Laura Esquivel

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

Tale of family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico, this is a classic love story that takes place on the De la Garza ranch. Tyrannical owner, Mama Elena, chops onions at the kitchen table in the final days of pregnancy, so much so that she causes an early labor and little Tita slips out amid spices and soup fixings. This early encounter with food becomes a way of life and Tita grows up to be a master chef, sharing special food preparations with listeners throughout the story.

If I Stay by Gayle Forman

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

In a single moment, everything changes. Seventeen year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall riding along the snow-wet Oregon road with her family. Then, in a blink, she finds herself watching as her own damaged body is taken from the wreck.

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (Part 2) by J.R.R. Tolkien

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

This book is the second part of Tolkien's epic masterpiece. It is the story of Frodo and the Companions of the Ring who have been beset by danger during their quest to prevent the Ruling Ring from falling into the hands of the Dark Lord.

**Biography/Autobiography**

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different by Karen Blumenthal

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

Given up for adoption at birth and a college drop-out, Steve Jobs' life was never predictable. He went on to become a devoted husband a father, the ultimate CEO, and the creator of products the world wants.

Our America: Life and Death on the South Side of Chicago by LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman with David Isay

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

This book is the true story of two amazing young men living in one of the country's darkest places, Chicago's Ida B. Wells housing project. They tell their own stories and that of others, including the death of a five-year-old who was dropped to his death from the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of an apartment building by two other little boys. This work is a moving tale of a struggle to survive unrelenting tragedy.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

The African-American leader discusses his political philosophy and reveals details of his life, shedding light on the ideas that enabled him to become a significant figure in American history.

The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League by Jeff Hobbs

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

This book follows the upbringing of a young Black man named Rob as he moves from an impoverished childhood on the outskirts of Newark, NJ to the halls of Yale University and, finally, to his untimely and unsolved murder.

We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler by Russell Freedman

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 6-8

This story is of Austrian-born Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie. They belonged to Hitler Youth as young children, but began to doubt the Nazi regime. The Scholls and a few friends formed White Rose, a campaign of active resistance to Hitler and the Nazis, despite risks of imprisonment or even execution.

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

Reading Level: 10 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

A group of dedicated female mathematicians called "human computers" calculated the numbers to launch rockets and astronauts into space.

#### Classics

Black Boy by Richard Wright (also autobiography)

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

The author's memoir details his youth in the South and his eventual move to Chicago, where he establishes his writing career.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

Two laborers in California's dusty vegetable fields hustle work when they can, living a hand-to-mouth existence. When they land jobs on a ranch, the fulfillment of their dreams seems to be within grasp, but little do they know the tragedy that awaits them.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Reading Level: 7.9 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

This work chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in nineteenth-century New England.

Kaffir Boy by Mark Mathabane

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 8-12

Under apartheid, a young man comes of age in this autobiographical account.

Call of the Wild by Jack London

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

This classic adventure story is about the relationship between humans and dogs, focusing on Buck, a dog that becomes a sled dog during the Klondike gold rush and, later, the leader of a wolf pack.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (also mystery)

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 6-12

This collection of twelve short stories features the famous fictional detective.

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

This satire on the dangers of Stalinism is a magnificent parable about totalitarianism that made popular the phrase, "Everyone is equal, but some are more equal than others."

Farewell to Manzanar: A True Story of Japanese American Experience During and After the World War II Internment by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-10

Jeanne was seven years old when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at an internment camp with 10,000 other Japanese Americans. This is the true story of one family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention, and of a native-born American child who discovered what it was like to grow up behind barbed wire in the US.

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

Reading Level: 10 Interest Level: Grades 6-12

This book is about the subaquatic adventures of Captain Nemo and his captives and crew on his submarine, the Nautilus.

#### Non-Fiction

An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore

Reading Level: 7.4 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

This NY Times best-selling book is a daring call to action, exposing the shocking reality of how humankind has aided in the destruction of our planet and the future we face if we do not take action to stop global warming.

They Poured Fire On Us From the Sky: The Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan by Alphonsion Deng, Benson Deng, Benjamin Ajak, and Judy A. Bernstein

Reading Level: 7.4 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

A truly heart-wrenching novel, this work depicts the agony and struggle endured by the Lost Boys from Sudan. Three men tell their story of how they survived the awful war that took place in Sudan, going into significant detail about the hardships they encountered trying to make it to America.

The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

In the segregated military during World War II, Black sailors were responsible for loading munitions at Port Chicago on the San Francisco Bay, but were given no training and pressured to increase speed. On July 17, 1944, a tremendous explosion resulted in the deaths of 320 sailors on the dock. A group of sailors refused to go back to loading munitions after that event, which led to more conflict.

The President Has Been Shot!: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy by James L. Swanson

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

This book is the breathtaking and dramatic account of the JFK assassination, using a ticking-clock pace, an eye for details, and impeccable historical accuracy.

Simeon's Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidnapping of Emmett Till by Simeon Wright and Herb Boyd

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 6-8

At age 12 author Simeon Wright saw and heard his cousin Emmett whistle at a white woman at a grocery store. He was sleeping in the same bed with him when Emmett was taken, and he was at the sensational trial. This is his gripping coming-of-age memoir.

**Historical Fiction**

A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

This book is a stunning thriller about a girl who must escape to freedom after the Berlin Wall divides her family.

Outrun the Moon by Stacey Lee

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

An insightful and engaging work that is part boarding school story and part riveting account of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, this book is told through the eyes of smart, spirited Mercy Wong, 15, who navigates her way into a prestigious, whites-only girls' school. This is a tale of a social and cultural outsider who breaks down barriers to form real friendships across class and race lines.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

This extraordinary NY Times bestseller tells the story of a foster girl living outside of Munich in 1939 Nazi Germany.

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

This book is about slavery in America.

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation: Volume I, the Pox Party by M.T. Anderson

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 4-8

In a radical, revolutionary story, the author juxtaposes the struggle for independence and liberty in the American colonies in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War with the paradox of slavery.

**Realistic Fiction**

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 9-12

In this story of a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, Esperanza discovers the hard realities of life – the fetters of class, gender, and race – but she is able to rise above the hopelessness and create for herself a house in the midst of her oppressive surroundings.

Threatened by Eliot Schrefer

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 8-12

Luc is an orphan, living in debt slavery in contemporary Gabon, until he meets a professor who claims to be studying chimpanzees, and they head into the jungle, uninhabited by humans and full of natural dangers. When the professor disappears, Luc must survive by himself while also protecting the chimps he has befriended.

Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

**Science Fiction**

Scythe by Neal Shusterman

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

When the Thunderhead (maga computer) proves to be the truly unbiased and flawless leader of the entire world and medical and technology advancement make immortality a reality, governments are abolished and no one is naturally dying – except when they are "culled" by Scythes.

The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim by E.K. Johnston

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12

In this alternate to the world as we know it, most things are the same with one huge exception: carbon-craving, mammal-eating dragons have always existed, along with a long, proud tradition of dragon slaying.

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House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 6-8

In a future world, young Matt is a perfect clone of the elderly (140 years old) Matteo Alacran, the 'ruler' of a country called Opium. Once Matt's vital organs are harvested to prolong Alacran's life, he's done for.

**Young Adult Fiction**

Princess Diaires by Meg Cabot

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 8-12

Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenaged girl in New York City, is shocked to learn her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and heir to the throne.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 6-8

This gripping novel is set in the future, in a time when America is divided into twelve districts, each with a special function. There is an annual tradition of two teens selected by lottery to participate in a televised reality show in which contestants must not only survive in the wild but fight to the death. This volume is the first in a trilogy.

Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny by Hill Harper

Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 8-12

This is a motivational book full of encouragement on a wide array of hot topics, particularly for young men. From the challenges of getting a good education and making it through college to the media's destructive emphasis on material wealth, this book delivers eye-opening answers from an Ivy League graduate and Hollywood actor.



## **Creative Project Instructions**

*(to be done for ONE book you read – the book for which you did not do a book report)*

**Choose ONE activity from below.**

**Song Lyrics --** Write a poem or song lyrics that connect to your book. Focus on the plot, characters, and/or personal connections you have with the book. Your poem or song must be 20 lines or longer. If you record the song it must be at least 2 minutes long.

**Sneaky Snoop --** As an investigative reporter, you sneak into the house of the main character in your book. Report on at least 5 items you find and include a picture (hand-drawn or digital) for each item. Also, include a written description (at least 2 sentences per item) identifying how each item connects to the main character. These items may or may not have been mentioned in the book...feel free to use your imagination.

**T-Chart --** Label T-Chart with the titles of both books you read. Write at least 5 comparisons about the pair. You can tell how they are alike and how they are different. Use complete sentences in your comparisons.

**Dear Author --** Write a letter to the author of your chosen book. Explain what you liked/disliked, ask any questions you have about the story/characters, explain what you would have changed if you were the author, and mention at least one thing you will always remember about this novel and why. This letter must be at least one full page (front and back if handwritten, front only, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, all 1" margins if typed). You must use letter format as well.

**Dear Diary --** Write a diary entry about a main event in the book from the main character's point of view. Include their feelings/thoughts and questions. You must use a diary format. This entry must be at least one full page (front and back if handwritten, front only, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, all 1" margins if typed). You must use letter format as well.

**New Chapter --** Write a new chapter for the book you read. Make sure the chapter is at least two full pages (two pages front and back if handwritten; two pages front, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, all 1" margins if typed). Be sure to keep the voice and style of the author as you pen a new chapter.

**Glossary --** Find 10 words in your book and create a word glossary for the back of your book. Be sure to reference the page number on which each word was found. Also, create an example sentence for each word (you cannot use the sentence from the book).

**Collage --** Create a collage depicting the themes from the book. Attach a one-page summary explaining how the collage depicts the themes.

**Alternate Facts --** Create an alternate timeline. Change one event/decision in the book. Explain how this change would have affected the characters and the plot. Explain why this would/would not have been a better direction for the book to take. Your explanation must be at least one full page. Also, include a full-page timeline that reflects the change. Write a statement of the main theme with quotes from the book for support.

**Interview --** Interview a character from your book. The interview must have at least 7 open-ended questions with no yes or no responses. If recorded the interview must be 3 minutes long. If written the interview must be at least two full pages (two pages front and back if handwritten; two pages front, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, all 1" margins if typed).

**Movie Poster** – Make a full-sized poster that serves as an advertisement for the movie version of the book. You should have a bold and noticeable title, pictures of the main character, and some type of teaser to get the audiences to come see the film. You may use technology or more traditional tools (e.g., colored pencils, markers) to create the poster.

**Soundtrack** – Create a soundtrack you think would be a good backdrop for the movie version of the book. Keep in mind that movies have some music without lyrics to set the mood during important parts. There should be at least two genres of music and at least four songs in your soundtrack. You should actually create a CD, including a playlist and a written justification for each song choice. Indicate whether you have found a theme song for the movie. (Some musical genres: Hip Hop, Jazz, R&B, Video Game Music, Pop, Rock, Reggae, Country, Classical, House Music, Gospel, Opera, Orchestra, World Music)

**Book Cover** -- Create an illustrated cover for your book. Include a summary of the story that describes the main character and the central conflict. Also include a description of the main character. Discuss the idea of change throughout this book using examples from the text.

**Comic Strip** -- Create a cartoon/storyboard (minimum of 8 panels) based on your book. Focus on pivotal events and put them in chronological order.

**Movie Trailer** -- Prepare a video trailer for your book. The trailer should be 3-5 minutes long and a positive presentation of the subject. The trailer must contain original footage or copyright free media.  
Ex: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v>

**Poetry** – Write three poems in response to the book. The poems can be about the characters, the setting, the themes, the plot, or a combination of these.

**Draw a Scene** – Think of an important scene and draw it the way you see it. Place the characters in the scene too and then figure out where you were in relation to the characters when you read the book. Then write your explanations of why you drew the scene the way you did and why you think you were where you were in the scene. What does it tell you about who you related to in the book?

**Heroes and Superheroes** – Select two or three people your character would think of as a hero or superhero. Describe the characteristics of the hero and why those characteristics would be important to your character. Also describe which characteristics your character would most want for himself/herself that the hero or superhero possesses.

**College Application** – Create the application that a character you have just read about could write and submit to a college. Use all the information about the character and infer and create the rest of it. On the application include name, academic rank in class, high school courses taken and grade, extra-curricular activities and personal activities, and work experience. Choose one of the following questions to answer in a one-page essay from the character's point of view: What experience, event, or person has had a significant impact on your life?

<p><b>The following Creative Project Rubric will be used to grade this part of your assignment:</b> 100% -- Exemplary/Exceeds Standard: Student demonstrated that he/she read a book and completed ALL parts of the creative project and responses evidence a DEEP understanding of the book. 85% -- Proficient/Satisfactory: Student demonstrated that he/she read a book and completed ALL parts of the creative project and responses evidence a BASIC understanding of the book. 70% -- Developing/Needs Improvement: Student completed SOME parts of the creative project and responses evidence a basic understanding of the book. 55% -- Insufficient/Unsatisfactory: Student completed FEW or NO parts of the creative project with little to no undersatnding of the book.</p>
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# BOOK REPORT RUBRIC

	EXCELLENT 6-8 / 11-15	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT 4-5 / 6-10	UNSATISFACTORY 0-3 / 0-5	SCORE
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>				
<b>PAR. 1</b>	Title, author, and genre are stated. Catchy hook/opener is used. Thesis statement (sentence explaining what whole report will be about) is given. Hook/opener is missing or ineffective. Reason book was chosen is missing or not compelling.	Title, author, and genre are stated. Thesis statement (sentence explaining what whole report will be about) is given. Hook/opener is missing or ineffective. Reason book was chosen is missing or not compelling.	Thesis statement is missing. 2 are missing: title, author, genre. Catchy hook/opener is missing. Reason book was chosen is missing or not compelling.	
<b>BODY PAR. 2</b>	When and where story takes place are described in detail. At least 3 examples from the book are given to support statements.	When and where story takes place are mentioned. One detail/example from the book is given as support.	Time or place of story is not given. OR Time and place are given but no details/examples from the book are given as support.	
<b>BODY PARS. 3-4</b>	At least three main characters are described in detail (personalities). Explanation given of whether or not/how characters changed by story's end. At least 3 examples/details from book are given to support statements.	Discussion of characters is very limited and vague (ex: focuses on externals like age, gender, physical traits without real discussion of personalities). Little details from book are given to support statements.	Discussion of characters is surface and vague. No details from book given as support.	
<b>Characters</b>				
<b>20 pts</b>				
<b>BODY PARS. 5-6</b>	Description of the plot (what happens in the story) is given. The main conflict of the story is shared. How the conflict is resolved / how the story ends is stated. Several details from the book are given to support statements.	Description of the plot is brief and vague. Description of the conflict is incomplete. No details from book are given as support.	Description of the plot is missing or very brief, vague. The same is true of the plot. No supporting details given.	
<b>Plot</b>				
<b>20 pts</b>				
<b>BODY PAR. 7</b>	A clear theme (lesson learned from book) is given – perhaps more than 1. At least 3 examples from the book are given to support this theme.	A theme is given but it is unclear. Little to no details from book are given to support the theme.	Theme is missing or unclear. Theme is unsupported by details from book.	
<b>Theme</b>				
<b>10 pts</b>				
<b>CLOSING PAR. 8</b>	Closing paragraph restates title, author, and genre. Student shares opinion on book's themes and how well it is written (plot and character development) and overall success, failure of book.	Critique consists of general thoughts, responses, and reactions to the book. Opinion is stated on 1 aspect. Title, author, or genre are not restated.	Vague "I liked it" or "I hated it" or some other personal feeling is extent of critique.	
<b>Conclusion &amp; Critique/Opinion</b>				
<b>10 pts</b>				

<p><b>ORGANIZATION</b></p> <p>Structure of the report flows and is easily read because of smooth transitions from paragraph to paragraph. The sequence of topics is in logical order. There is a clear-cut introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.</p>	<p>Structure of the paper flows and is easily read, but 1 or 2 transitions may be faulty or missing. There is some illogical order in sequence of topics. There is a clear-cut introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.</p>	<p>Structure of the paper does NOT follow a logical order. The writing or ideas may jump around; it is not cohesive. There is not a clear introduction, body, or conclusion.</p>	<p>Structure of the paper does NOT follow a logical order. There are no transitional phrases that make it easy to read the paper OR review is just a copying of the book.</p>
<p><b>GRAMMAR</b></p> <p>Little to no grammar errors.</p> <p><b>MECHANICS</b></p> <p>Little to no mechanics mistakes.</p> <p><b>SPELLING</b></p> <p>Little to no spelling errors.</p> <p><b>FORMATTING</b></p> <p>All paragraphs are indented.</p> <p>Report is typed, 12 point, Times New Roman font.</p> <p>Report is single-spaced.</p> <p>Margins are 1" on sides and top and bottom of paper.</p>	<p>Errors in grammar, mechanics, and spelling are very few and do not detract from report's overall message.</p> <p>Report is neatly handwritten.</p>	<p>Many errors exist in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.</p> <p>Errors make it hard to follow student's thoughts/ideas.</p> <p>Report is not typed per guidelines OR is handwritten and partly illegible.</p>	<p>Significant errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.</p> <p>Errors detract from overall report.</p> <p>Report is not typed per guidelines OR is handwritten and largely illegible.</p>
<p><b>10 pts</b></p>			

**Summer Reading Book Report Guidelines (Along with the rubric above, use this format below to help you organize and write your book report.)**

**General Information:** Your book report may be neatly handwritten OR typed. If it is typed, it must be single-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins on top, bottom, left, and right. All book titles must be underlined. Whether handwritten or typed, the book report must consist of at least 8 paragraphs, and each paragraph must be indented and must have a minimum of four sentences.

**Paragraph 1 – Introduction –** Introduce the title, author, and genre (type of book) you read. Include a catchy hook/opener to grab the reader's attention. Share the reason you selected this book. There should be one sentence in this first paragraph that tells what your entire paper will be about; this is called your thesis statement.

**Paragraph 2 – Body (Setting) –** Tell when and where your story takes place. Be specific. Use the time and place as closely as you can. Use at least 3 examples from the book to support your statements.

**Paragraphs 3 & 4 – Body (Characters) –** Who is the story about? Write about the main characters and describe their personalities (how they act, what they believe and think and value, who they are as a person). Only describe externals (age, gender, physical traits) as they relate to or support your description of their personalities. Share which characters you find interesting and why. Be sure to focus on the protagonist (the person the story revolves around) and the antagonist (the person who opposes or is against the protagonist). Discuss how main characters change throughout the story, if at all. Be sure to give at least 3 details from the book to support your statements.

**Paragraphs 5 & 6 – Body (Plot) –** What happens in the story? Write about the main events. What was the conflict (struggle between two characters or forces; major problem in the story that has to be resolved)? How does the conflict get resolved? How does the story end? Include several details from the story to support your claims.

**Paragraph 7 – Body (Theme) –** What is the theme (major lesson the author is trying to get across/teach) of the book? There may be more than one. Be sure to give at least 3 examples from the book that support your statements about theme(s).

**Paragraph 8 – Conclusion –** Restate the title, author, and genre. Evaluate the book. What are some things you like or disliked about the book and why? Share your thoughts on how well the book was written (character and plot development). Share whether or not you agree with the author's theme and why/why not. Would you recommend this book to another person? Why or why not and to whom?



# 10 Critical Facts about Summer Reading

## Losses from the “Summer Slide”

– learning or reading skill losses during the summer months are cumulative, creating a wider gap each year between more proficient and less proficient students. By the time a struggling reader reaches middle school, summer reading loss has accumulated to a two-year lag in reading achievement.<sup>2</sup>

- Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading-comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer.<sup>1</sup>
- Teachers typically spend between 4 to 6 weeks re-teaching material students have forgotten over the summer.<sup>3</sup>
- It is estimated that the “Summer Slide” accounts for as much as 85% of the reading achievement gap between lower income students and their middle- and upper-income peers.<sup>4</sup>
- During the school year, lower income children’s skills improve at close to the same rate as those of their more advantaged peers – but over the summer, middle- and upper-income children’s skills continue to improve, while lower income children’s skills do not.<sup>3</sup>
- Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed.<sup>5</sup>
- 3rd graders who can’t read on grade level are four times less likely to graduate by age 18 than a proficient reader.<sup>6</sup>
- Studies show that making sure there are always interesting books at home can increase the likelihood of a child being a frequent reader, especially among ages 9-11 and 15-17.<sup>7</sup>
- An overwhelming 91% of kids say they are more likely to finish a book they picked out themselves, with 86% of kids saying they feel proud when they finish reading a book.<sup>7</sup>
- Reading frequency declines after age eight – and boys are more likely to be low frequency readers than girls.<sup>7</sup>
- Researchers have found that children growing up in homes with many books gain higher academic achievement than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents’ education, occupation, and class.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Summer Reading and the Ethnic Achievement Gap, Jimmy Kim, Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk, 2004

<sup>2</sup> Ameliorating summer reading setback among economically disadvantaged elementary students, Richard Allington, April 2007

<sup>3</sup> Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap, Karl Alexander, Denis Entwistle, Linda Steffel Olson, April 2007

<sup>4</sup> Why Summer Matters in the Rich/Poor Achievement Gap, Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Frazen, August 2009

<sup>5</sup> The Power of Reading, Stephen Krashen, Libraries Unlimited, 1993

<sup>6</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Hernandez, Donald J., 2011

<sup>7</sup> The Kids and Family Reading Report™ conducted by Yankelevich and Scholastic, 2010

<sup>8</sup> Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Evans, M. D. P., et al. Family scholarly culture and educational success: Books and schooling in 27 nations, 2010

