

Summer Reading for Incoming Grade 7s

“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”

-Walt Disney

Dear Year 6 students and families,

The Modern English School Secondary English Department wishes you all a relaxing and fun summer break. In an effort to provide you a summer reading assignment that is both interesting and enjoyable, we have included a suggested list of book titles that appeal to a wide range of interests. Of course, you do not have to choose your books from this list. This list is only given to you to provide you with suggestions.

You are to read a minimum of **two** books this summer. Of course, we encourage you to use the free time afforded you over the summer to read as many books as you can! Attached you will find a list of recommended books to choose from. If you choose a book that is not from the list, make sure that you choose at least one fiction piece and that your choices are appropriate for your grade and reading level. We encourage you to read aloud to your parents and have them read aloud to you as well. Share your thoughts and reactions to your reading with your parents. Great literature should be discussed and shared!

For two of the books you read this summer, you are to complete the attached worksheets and graphic organizers. Have a great summer and enjoy this opportunity to read great books! I look forward to discussing your selections with you in September.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Burton
Grade 7 English, American Section

Grade 7 Summer Reading Suggestions

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever 1793*

Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook is ambitious with plans. But life in Philadelphia is about to change as sickness grips the area. Her fight to build a better life gives way to a fight just to live.

Bellairs, John. *The House With the Clock in its Walls*

Lewis always dreamed of living in an old house full of secret passageways, hidden rooms, and big marble fireplaces. And suddenly, after the death of his parents, he finds himself in just such a mansion--his Uncle Jonathan's. When he discovers that his big friendly uncle is also a wizard, Lewis has a hard time keeping himself from jumping up and down in his seat. Unfortunately, what Lewis doesn't bank on is the fact that the previous owner of the mansion was also a wizard--but an evil one who has placed a tick-tocking clock somewhere in the bowels of the house, marking off the minutes until the end of the world. And when Lewis accidentally awakens the dead on Halloween night, the clock only ticks louder and faster. Doomsday draws near--unless Lewis can stop the clock!

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Notes from a Liar and Her Dog*

Twelve-year-old Ant, stuck in a family that she does not like, copes by pretending that her "real" parents are coming to rescue her.

Clements, Andrew. *Things Not Seen*

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Colfer, Eoin. *Artemis Fowl* (or any in series)

A genius, criminal mastermind, and a millionaire, Artemis Fowl is crafty. His plot to steal the richest treasure the world has ever known, is matched by Captain Holly Short – an elf from Special Forces.

Dahl, Roald. *Matilda* (or *James and the Giant Peach*)

Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn-Dixie*

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tiger Rising* (or *The Tale of Desperaux*)

Rob, who passes the time in his rural Florida community by wood carving, is drawn by his spunky but angry friend Sistine into a plan to free a caged tiger.

Fox, Paula. *One-Eyed Cat* (or *Monkey Island*, *The Slave Dancer*, or *Blowfish Live in the Sea*)

An eleven-year-old shoots a stray cat with his new air rifle, suffers from guilt, and eventually takes responsibility for it.

Funke, Cornelia. *Inkheart* (The *Inkheart* Trilogy)

One cruel night, Meggie's father, Mo, reads aloud from INKHEART, and an evil ruler named Capricorn escapes the boundaries of fiction, landing instead in their living room. Suddenly, Meggie's in the middle of the kind of adventure she thought only took place in fairy tales. Somehow she must master the magic that has conjured up this nightmare. Can she change the course of the story that has changed her life forever?

Funke, Cornelia. *The Thief Lord*

Two orphaned brothers, Prosper and Bo, have run away to Venice, where crumbling canals and misty alleyways shelter a secret community of street urchins. Leader of this motley crew of lost children is a clever, charming boy with a dark history of his own: He calls himself the Thief Lord.

Propser and Bo relish their new "family" and life of petty crime. But their cruel aunt and a bumbling detective are on their trail. And posing an even greater threat to the boys' freedom is something from a forgotten past: a beautiful magical treasure with the power to spin time itself.

Gantos, Jack. *Joey Pigza Swallows the Key* (or any in series)

To the disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

Gardiner, John Renoylds. *Stone Fox*

Little Willy's grandfather is sick, and it's up to Willy to save their farm from tax collectors. Their only hope is the prize money from the National Dogsled Race. But a lot of other people want to win the race, too, including Stone Fox, who has never lost a race in his life. Do Willy and his dog Searchlight stand a chance against the toughest racers around? Can they win the race to save the farm -- and Grandfather -- before it's too late?

George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain*

Sam runs away from his home in New York City, and lives in the woods.

Howe, James. *Bunnicula* (or any in series)

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

Konigsburg, E.L. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

Eleven-year-old Claudia Kincaid decided to run away from home and live at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Korman, Gordon. *Schooled*

Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television. He's never tasted a pizza. Never heard of a wedgie. Since he was little, his only experience has been living on a farm commune and being home-schooled by his hippie grandmother, Rain. But when Rain falls out of a tree while picking plums and has to stay in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and her cranky teen daughter and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dying and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school. Right from the beginning, Cap's weirdness makes him a moving target at Claverage Middle School (dubbed C-Average by the students). He has long, ungroomed hair; wears hemp clothes; and practices tai chi on the lawn. Once Zack Powers, big man on campus, spots Cap, he can't wait to introduce him to the age-old tradition at C-Average: the biggest nerd is nominated for class president...and wins.

Paulsen, Gary. *Molly McGinty Has A Really Good Day*

When supremely organized seventh-grader, Molly McGinty, loses the notebook she relies on to keep her life organized, she spends the day in chaos. This light breezy romp is humorous and unpredictable.

Sachar, Louis. *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom* (or any by author)

An unmanageable, but lovable, eleven-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is a sort of misfit too.

Spinelli, Jerry. *The Library Card*

The lives of four young people in different circumstances are changed by their encounters with books.

Book #1:

Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre:

- Realistic fiction
- Mystery
- Historical fiction
- Fantasy
- Non-fiction
- Science fiction
- Adventure

1. Write down 5 facts about two different characters:

Character #1 Name: _____	Character #2 Name: _____
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____

2. Tell how a **character** has changed over the course of the novel (used to be...now is...)

3. What is the **Setting** (Time and place) of the story?

4. **Conflict** (Describe the main character's problem):

5. **Resolution** (Describe how the problem was solved):

6. **Plot** (What happened? Sequence the main events from the story):

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

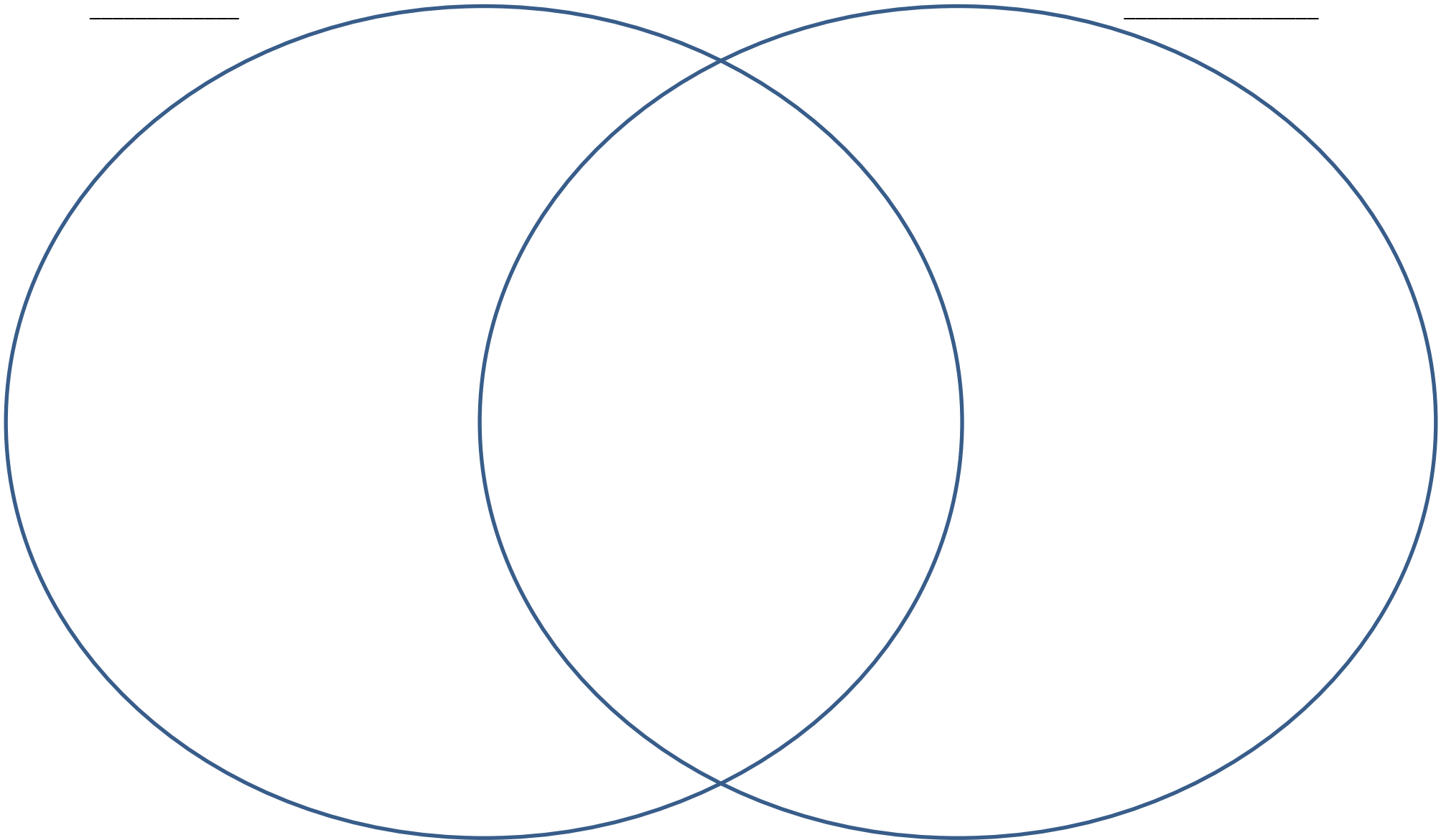
7. What has the character learned over the course of the novel?:

8. Review: I do/do not recommend this book because...(Support with details from the text)

9. Use this Venn Diagram to compare two different characters from the story. In the middle section, write how they are the same. In the outside sections, tell how they are different.

Name of character:

Name of character:



Book #2

Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre:

- Realistic fiction
- Mystery
- Historical fiction
- Fantasy
- Non-fiction
- Science fiction
- Adventure

6. Write down 5 facts about two different characters:

Character #1 Name: _____	Character #2 Name: _____
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____

6. Tell how a **character** has changed over the course of the novel (used to be...now is...)

7. What is the **Setting** (Time and place) of the story?

8. **Conflict** (Describe the main character's problem):

9. **Resolution** (Describe how the problem was solved):

6. **Plot** (What happened? Sequence the main events from the story):

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

7. What has the character learned over the course of the novel?):

8. Review: I do/do not recommend this book because...(Support with details from the text)

9. Use this Venn Diagram to compare two different characters from the story. In the middle section, write how they are the same. In the outside sections, tell how they are different.

Name of character:

Name of character:

