



Team C

Summer Reading List

Students entering grades 3 or 4 are required to read one of the following titles over the summer: Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C O'Brien , The Good Dog by Avi, or How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor. We will be starting the school year with Animal Fiction as our genre of study. We know students will enjoy reading one of these books.

In addition to the required books list, we would like to encourage students to keep up with their reading over the summer. Below is a list of other notable authors and Animal Fiction books that students may read.

Suggested Animal Fiction Titles

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

Strider by Beverly Cleary

Shiloh or Shiloh Season by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

After completing one of the required books, students should independently write a brief, handwritten summary (no more than one page in length) about what the book was about so you can share and discuss when you return to school.

Happy Reading!

Summer Reading Assignment
Team D Humanities
Biography or Auto-biography

Name _____

- I. **Welcome to your summer reading assignment! You get to choose a 150+ page biography or auto-biography to read, however there are some caveats. None of the *Who Is?* biography series would be eligible for this assignment. You MUST avoid people who are merely well-known in pop culture. Think of those who stepped beyond pop culture in order to have a lasting influence on Americans and their cultural institutions. (i.e. **Mohammad Ali vs. Steph Curry; Bob Dylan vs. Ariana Grande**)**

Choose 3 of the following prompts to address in a minimum of one 5-7 sentence complete, thoughtful paragraph for each, unless there is a specific requirement requested.

1. Choose three adjectives that would describe the character or personality of the person your book is about. Do not use physical characteristics. For each adjective you use, find an example from the book that supports the adjective you selected, and explain why you think so.
2. Describe an important decision made by this person. Describe the situation, the choices, the decision, and the outcome of the choice.
3. During what historical time period did this person live? Describe the place(s) where he/she lived.
4. Do you admire or respect the subject of your book? Explain your answer.
5. Did the author of your book make the person seem interesting to you? If so, how was that done? If not, what would you have wanted to read or what might the author have done that might have helped the subject “come alive” for you?
6. Compare and contrast this person’s life to your own in a variety of ways. You might consider the following categories: family life, historical time period, talents, problems faced, hardships, etc. Make specific contrasts and comparisons, not just general statements.
7. Did this person believe in a cause – something to live his/her life for? If so, describe the cause and the role it played in the person’s life.

8. Was there a mentor or other influential person in your subject's life? If so, describe the person and the relationship.
9. Did your subject have to deal with any obstacles, challenges, or hardships in his or her life? If so, describe the situation and the outcome.
10. If your subject had a childhood dream or aspiration, was it realized? Describe the dream and its resolution.
10. From your reading, describe some important events that were happening in the world during the lifetime of your subject. How do you think your subject was influenced by these events?
11. Choose what you think was the most significant event or moment in this person's life. Explain the event or moment and why you think so.
12. Write questions that you would want to ask this person if you could have a conversation with him/her right now. Do not ask a question whose answer you already know. Do not ask a question that can be answered by a simple "yes" or "no".
13. Can you find any information about the relationship of the biographer to the person who is the subject of the biography? If so, how did this relationship possibly influence how the book was written?
14. Which three character traits (inquirer, thinker, communicator, knowledgeable, principled, caring, open-minded, well-balanced, and reflective) do you think your biography subject best exemplifies? Give specific examples to explain your thinking, and write at least one paragraph for each trait.

II. In addition, you will choose another 150+ page book to read of any genre. Be prepared to create a project around this book when you arrive to school in August.

Write the title and author of your biography/autobiography here:

Write the title and author of your choice book here:

Staple your answers to this sheet and bring it to Humanities class on your first day of school.

Team E

Summer Reading 2018/2019

Dear Student and Families,

Happy summer! You've made it through another year of middle school. As you plan your summer break, please include time to complete your summer reading assignment. Next year, we will be studying American history from the 18th century through the Harlem Renaissance. Our theme will be Triumph and Tragedy in History.

Reading Assignment: Read TWO novels. Please read one of the following novels and one of your choice. Both novels should be new to you, not something you've read before.

Writing Assignment: Do **BOTH** of the following!

- A. In no more than 250 words: Determine the central conflict of one of the novels listed below. How does it address the thematic concept of triumph and/or tragedy?
- B. In no more than 250 words: With the book of your choice, imagine that you are the author and your editor has told you that you need to change the ending of your book. This is creative. Use your imagination and pretend to email her your proposed rewritten ending.

*Write the title and the author at the top of your paper please.

**Your assignment should be complete and ready to be turned in on Monday, August 11 (the first day of school). Please do your best on the assignments and get the school year off to a great start! Let us know if you have any questions.

The Sun Is Also A Star By Nicola Yoon

It is Natasha's last day in New York City, where she has lived for 10 years. Her family, living as undocumented immigrants in a small Brooklyn apartment, are being deported to Jamaica after her father's arrest for drunk driving. Natasha is scouring the city for a chance to stay in the United States legally. She wants the normal teen existence of her peers. Meanwhile, poetic Daniel is on his way to an interview as part of his application process to Yale. He is under great pressure to get in because his parents (who emigrated from South Korea) are adamant that he become a doctor. Events slowly conspire to bring the two leads together. When Daniel and Natasha finally meet, he falls in love immediately and convinces her to join him for the day. They tell their stories in alternating chapters. Additional voices are integrated into the book as characters interact with them. Both relatable and profound, the bittersweet ending conveys a sense of hopefulness that will resonate with teens. VERDICT This wistful love story will be adored by fans of Rainbow Rowell's *Eleanor & Park* and by those who enjoyed the unique narrative structure of A.S. King's *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*. —Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

A National Book Award Finalist for Young People’s Literature. Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down in this first electrifying novel in a new series from Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award–winning author Jason Reynolds. Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. Running. That’s all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

From School Library Journal: After Starr and her childhood friend Khalil, both black, leave a party together, they are pulled over by a white police officer, who kills Khalil. The sole witness to the homicide, Starr must testify before a grand jury that will decide whether to indict the cop, and she's terrified, especially as emotions run high. By turns frightened, discouraged, enraged, and impassioned, Starr is authentically adolescent in her reactions. Inhabiting two vastly different spheres—her poor, predominantly black neighborhood, Garden Heights, where gangs are a fact of life, and her rich, mostly white private school—causes strain, and Thomas perceptively illustrates how the personal is political: Starr is disturbed by the racism of her white friend Hailey, who writes Khalil off as a drug dealer, and Starr's father is torn between his desire to support Garden Heights and his need to move his family to a safer environment. The first-person, present-tense narrative is immediate and intense, and the pacing is strong, with Thomas balancing dramatic scenes of violence and protest with moments of reflection. The characterization is slightly uneven; at times, Starr's friends at school feel thinly fleshed out. However, Starr, her family, and the individuals in their neighborhood are achingly real and lovingly crafted. VERDICT Pair this powerful debut with Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely's *All American Boys* to start a conversation on racism, police brutality, and the Black Lives Matter movement.—Mahnaz Dar, School Library Journal

Call of the Wild by Jack London

Jack London's novels and ruggedly individual life seemed to embody American hopes, frustrations, and romantic longings in the turbulent first years of the twentieth century, years infused with the wonder and excitement of great technological and historic change. The author's restless spirit, taste for a life of excitement, and probing mind led him on a series of hard-edged adventures from the Klondike to the South Seas. Out of these sometimes harrowing experiences — and his fascination with the theories of such thinkers as Darwin, Spencer, and

Marx — came the inspiration for novels of adventure that would make him one of America's most popular writers. *The Call of the Wild*, considered by many London's greatest novel, is a gripping tale of a heroic dog that, thrust into the brutal life of the Alaska Gold Rush, ultimately faces a choice between living in man's world and returning to nature. Adventure and dog-story enthusiasts as well as students and devotees of American literature will find this classic work a thrilling, memorable reading experience

***Audacity* by Melanie Crowder:**

A gorgeously told novel in verse written with intimacy and power, *Audacity* is inspired by the real-life story of Clara Lemlich, a spirited young woman who emigrated from Russia to New York at the turn of the twentieth century and fought tenaciously for equal rights. Bucking the norms of both her traditional Jewish family and societal conventions, Clara refuses to accept substandard working conditions in the factories on Manhattan's Lower East Side. For years, Clara devotes herself to the labor fight, speaking up for those who suffer in silence. In time, Clara convinces the women in the factories to strike, organize, and unionize, culminating in the famous Uprising of the 20,000. Powerful, breathtaking, and inspiring, *Audacity* is the story of a remarkable young woman, whose passion and selfless devotion to her cause changed the world.

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . . ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . . MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

Happy reading!

-Ms. Harmon, Mrs. Kessler, & Mr. Steiner