

# 6th-8th Grade Honors Summer Reading Initiative



Dear Honors Student,

Congratulations on your decision to take Honors English next year! As we look forward to a productive 2019-2020 school year, we want our students to be as prepared as possible to transition into middle school reading. While we are in the process of winding down one school year and looking forward to a break, we are also excited and busy preparing for the upcoming year. Summer is a time for fun and relaxation, but also a time for consistent practice to keep your reading skills sharp. Reading and writing should be a daily habit, both in and out of school.

Summer reading assignments maintain and polish skills learned during the last year, as well as prepare you for new challenges with opportunities to dialogue with peers about your chosen book.

The reading selections on the list provided are a wide variety of genres in order to give you choice and freedom in what you truly enjoy to read. All of the book titles on the list match the themes on the unit curriculum guides for the 2019-2020 school year, thus allowing you to make connections that tie back to your summer reading all year long.

Please read each handout very carefully. It is imperative that you allow yourself enough time for a close reading of your chosen novel to complete your Reflective Critical-Thinking Log. Be prepared to discuss your selected text within the 1<sup>st</sup> few weeks of school.



Happy Reading,  
JISD ELAR Team

“Today a Reader; Tomorrow a Leader”



### JISD Summer Reading for Grades 6-8

**Summer Reading Novel Selection:** Students are encouraged to purchase their own copies of the novel in order to allow them to make notes in the text and annotate while they read. A student may elect to read a digital copy of the novel, on a Kindle or similar device. Copies of some of the novels may also be available from a campus ELAR department, and public or school library. Appropriate grade level is provided in parentheses for each text. We highly recommend parents preview any texts with an asterisk beforehand due to the content. Descriptions of each text can be found either on [teenreads.com](http://teenreads.com), [kidsreads.com](http://kidsreads.com), and [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com).

**Suggested Titles are listed below:**

| Non-Fiction   | Historical Fiction   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous</b> by Georgia Bragg (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>Bird and Igloo: A Polar Adventure</b> by Samantha Seiple (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>*Bad Boy</b> by Walter Dean Myers (7, 8)</p> <p><b>*Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science</b> by John Fleischman (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>I Am Malala</b> by Malala Yousafzai (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>*Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon</b> by Steve Sheinkin (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>*Trapped</b> by Marc Aronson (7, 8)</p> <p><b>*Red Scarf Girl</b> by Ji-li Jiang (8)</p> <p><b>*An Unlikely Warrior: A Jewish Soldier in Hitler's Army</b> by George Rauch (8)</p> <p><b>We Were There, Too!</b> by Phillip Hoose (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>*With Their Eyes: September 11<sup>th</sup>-The View from a High School at Ground Zero</b> by Annie Thoms and Taresh Batra (8)</p> | <p><b>*The War That Saved My Life</b> by Kimberly Brulkaker Bradley (7, 8)</p> <p><b>The Lions of Little Rock</b> by Kristin Levine (7, 8)</p> <p><b>*A Long Walk to Water: A Novel Based on a True Story</b> by Linda Sue Park (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>Walking Home</b> by Eric Walters (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>*I Lived on Butterfly Hill</b> by Marjorie Agosin (7, 8)</p> <p><b>The Midwife's Apprentice</b> by Karen Cushman (6, 7)</p> <p><b>*The Devil's Arithmetic</b> by Jane Yolen (7, 8)</p> <p><b>Fever, 1793</b> by Laurie Halse Anderson (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent</b> Thomas B. Allen (7, 8)</p> <p><b>*At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess In Victorian England</b> by Walter Dean Meyers (8)</p> <p><b>*The Glory Field</b> by Walter Dean Meyers (7, 8)</p> <p><b>*Refugee</b> by Alan Gratz (7, 8)</p> <p><b>*Uncle Tom's Cabin</b> by Harriet Beecher Stowe (8)</p> <p><b>Al Capone Does My Shirts</b> by Gennifer Choldenko (6)</p> <p><b>Chains</b> by Laurie Halse Anderson (7, 8)</p> <p><b>*Lincoln's Grave Robbers</b> by Steve Sheinkin (7, 8)</p> <p><b>*A Night Divided</b> by Jennifer Nielsen (8)</p> <p><b>A Thousand Never Evers</b> Shane Burg (8)</p> <p><b>The Inquisitor's Tale</b> by Hatem Aly (6)</p> <p><b>The Birchbark House</b> by Louise Erdrich (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</b> by John Boyne (7, 8)</p> <p><b>Esperanza Rising</b> by Pam Munoz Ryan (6)</p> |
| <p><b>Novels in Verse or Narrative Poetry</b></p> <p><b>*Brown Girl Dreaming</b> by Jacqueline Woodson (7, 8)</p> <p><b>House Arrest</b> by K.A. Holt (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>Under the Mesquite</b> by Guadalupe Garcia McCall (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>All the Broken Pieces</b> by Ann E. Burg (7, 8)</p> <p><b>Enchanted Air</b> by Margarita Engle (7, 8)</p> <p><b>Forget Me Not</b> by Ellie Terry (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>Inside Out and Back Again</b> by Thanhha Lai (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>Once Crazy Summer</b> by Rita Williams-Garcia (6, 7, 8)</p> <p><b>The Crossover</b> by Kwame Alexander (6, 7, 8)</p>  |  |



| Fiction (Realistic, mystery, fantasy, sci-fi, sports)             | Fiction (Realistic, mystery, fantasy, sci-fi, sports)         |
|---|---|
| <b>Firegirl</b> by Tony Abbot (6, 7)                              | <b>Full Tilt</b> by Neal Shusterman (8)                       |
| <b>The Thing About Jellyfish</b> by Ali Benjamin (6, 7)           | <b>Tuck Everlasting</b> by Natalie Babbitt (6)                |
| <b>Walk Two Moons</b> by Sharon Creech (7, 8)                     | <b>Among the Hidden</b> by Margaret Peterson Haddix (6, 7)    |
| * <b>The Wave</b> by Todd Strasser (8)                            | <b>The Pearl</b> by John Steinbeck (7, 8)                     |
| <b>Freak the Mighty</b> by Rodman Philbrick (7, 8)                | <b>Tangerine</b> by Edward Bloor (6, 7, 8)                    |
| <b>The Bridge to Terabithia</b> by Katherine Paterson (6)         | <b>Heat</b> by Mike Lupica (6, 7, 8)                          |
| <b>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</b> by C.S. Lewis (6)    | <b>Tunnels</b> by Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams (6, 7,8) |
| <b>The Egypt Game</b> by Zilpha Keatley Snyder (6, 7)             | <b>Jacob I Have Loved</b> by Katherine Paterson (8)           |
| * <b>The Face on the Milkcarton</b> by Caroline B. Cooney (7, 8)  | <b>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh</b> by Robert O'Brien (6) |
| <b>The City of Ember</b> by Jeanne DuPrau (6, 7, 8)               | <b>Ender's Game</b> by Orson Scott Card (8)                   |
| <b>Artemis Fowl</b> by Eion Colfer (6, 7)                         | <b>The War of the Worlds</b> by H.G. Wells (7, 8)             |
| <b>Kid Owner</b> by Tim Green (6, 7, 8)                           | <b>The Hobbit</b> by J.R.R. Tolkein (6, 7, 8)                 |
| <b>Heat</b> by Mike Lupita (6, 7, 8)                              | <b>Becoming Naomi Leon</b> by Pam Munoz Ryan (6, 7)           |
| * <b>Bystander</b> by James Preller (7, 8)                        | <b>Awaken</b> by Katie Kacvinsky (6, 7)                       |
| <b>Story Thieves</b> by James Riley (6, 7, 8)                     | <b>Out of My Mind</b> by Sharon Draper (6, 7)                 |
| <b>Flipped</b> by Wendelin Van Draanan (6, 7, 8)                  | <b>Rules</b> by Cynthia Lord (6, 7)                           |
| <b>Eight Keys</b> by Suzanne LaFleur (6, 7)                       | <b>Forged by Fire</b> by Sharon Draper (8)                    |
| * <b>The Stars Beneath Our Feet</b> by David Barclay Moore (7, 8) | * <b>Drive-by</b> by Lynne Ewing (6)                          |
| <b>The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano</b> by Sonia Manzano (7,8)    | <b>Stargirl</b> by Jerry Spinelli (6)                         |
| <b>Piecing Me Together</b> by Renee Watson (7, 8)                 | <b>Things That Surprise You</b> by Jennifer Maschari (6, 7)   |
| <b>Amina's Voice</b> by Hena Khan (7, 8)                          | <b>Something In Between</b> by Melissa De La Cruz (6, 7, 8)   |
| <b>As Brave as You</b> by Jason Reynolds (6, 7, 8)                | <b>Long Way Down</b> by Jason Reynolds (8)                    |
| <b>The Phantom Tollbooth</b> by Norman Juster (6)                 | <b>Z for Zachariah</b> by Robert O'Brian (6, 7, 8)            |
| <b>Somewhere Among</b> by Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu (6,7,8)       | <b>Counting by 7's</b> by Holly Goldberg Sloan (6, 7, 8)      |
| <b>The Selection</b> by Kiera Cass (7, 8)                         | <b>The Lottery Rose</b> by Irene Hunt (8)                     |
| <b>The Ugly One</b> by Leanne Statland Ellis (6, 7, 8)            | <b>Life as We Knew It</b> by Susan Beth Pfeffer (6, 7, 8)     |

| Barnes and Noble Locations   | Public Library Locations                                     |   | Websites   |
|--|--|---|--|
| 18030 Hwy 281N #140<br>San Antonio, Tx 78232<br>210-490-0411                                       | Universal City Library<br>Universal City, Tx<br>210-659-7048 | Julia Yates Semmes Library<br>San Antonio, Tx<br>210-207-9110                 | <a href="http://www.barnesandnoble.com">www.barnesandnoble.com</a><br><a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a><br><a href="http://www.alibris.com">www.alibris.com</a><br><a href="http://www.halfpricebooks.com">www.halfpricebooks.com</a><br><a href="http://www.thriftbooks.com">www.thriftbooks.com</a> |
| <b>Half Price Books Locations</b><br>20821 US Hwy 281 N<br>San Antonio, Tx 78258<br>(210) 545-3836 | Converse Public Library<br>Converse, Tx<br>210-659-4160      | Molly Pruitt Library<br>5110 Walzem Rd. San Antonio, Tx 78218<br>210-650-1122 |  |
| 125 N. W. Loop 410<br>San Antonio, Tx 78216<br>210-349-1429  |  |   |  |



## Honors Summer Reading Goal and Reflection

**Summer Reading Goal:**

Explain your reading goals for this summer in a few sentences below.

**After Reading Reflection:**

In the space below, reflect on whether or not you met your reading goals for the summer. What helped you meet your goal? What was interesting about your chosen text? Why did you choose that particular text? What did you like or connect with regarding your chosen text?



## Critical Thinking Reflection Log

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Choose 15 Quotes throughout the text that you find interesting or important. Put the quote on the left with the p. # you got it from and then your ideas/thoughts on the right hand side.

Put your chart on separate sheets of paper. Must be handwritten.

| Quote from text   | Response/Thoughts to quote   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Example:</b><br/>From <i>The Outsiders</i></p> <p>"I'm not sure how you spell it, but its an abbreviation for the Socials, the jet set, the Westside rich kids. It's like the term "greaser," which is used to class all us boys on the East Side. We're poorer than the Socs and the middle class. I reckon we're wilder, too (2).</p> | <p>It's so hard to believe that people really do judge each other based on money and social status. Even though this book was set in the 1960's, conflict like this still goes on even today. I can connect with this because.... (add personal story or other connection here).</p> |

### How do I respond to each text entry? (Options)

- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences, or write about what it makes you think/feel
- Agree or disagree with a character or the author in what they say or do
- Notice or comment on devices or techniques the author is using
- Make connections to a different text, current event in the world, or movie, show, song, etc...
- Discuss the importance of a certain passage or section of the text

### Great sentence stems to use/begin entries with (Options)

- This seems important because...
- I really like/dislike this idea because...
- I think the author is trying to say that...
- This passage reminds me of a time in my life when...
- If I were (name of character) at this point I would...
- This part doesn't make sense because...
- This character reminds me of (name of person) because...
- This character...
- I can infer from this that...
- I think...
- I predict that...
- This highlights the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- The author uses a \_\_\_\_\_ to show \_\_\_\_\_.
- This foreshadows...



**Assignment/Student Accountability**

- Students will complete a Reading Goal Sheet and a Reflective Critical-Thinking Log.
- Bring the Goal Sheet and Reflective Critical-Thinking Log with you to your English class the 1<sup>st</sup> week of school. It is the student's responsibility to turn them in to their teacher.
- Please return this sheet with signatures to your current English teacher before May 31, 2019.

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature

(Printed Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name:

\_\_\_\_\_



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