

St. John's Episcopal School

7th Grade English Summer Reading 2019

Summer reading for 7th grade includes reading three (3) novels: *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt, a novel from the attached suggesting reading list, and a novel of your choosing.

REQUIRED READING:

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

This novel will be discussed at the beginning of the school year, so I suggest you read it in August so it is fresh in your mind. You are encouraged to highlight and take notes as you read. **Please answer the Required Reading Questions on the attached form and bring it on the first day of school.**

You must complete a reading log of the three books read this summer, which your parents will initial. The list should include titles, authors, and dates when reading began and ended for each book. Titles enjoyed that are beyond the summer reading requirements should be added to the log as well. **In addition to the Required Reading Questions form, you will turn this log in on the first day of school.**

Read, read, read and enjoy your summer.

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SUGGESTED READING (you must choose one of these):

Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover*. 2014.

A novel told in verse about fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan. The boys wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court while their father ignores his declining health.

Carter, Ally. *Not if I Save You First*. 2018.

Six years ago Maddie lived in Washington D.C. with her father, a Secret Service agent assigned to the President's family, and her best friend was Logan, the President's son. After her father

was wounded in an attempted kidnapping, the two of them moved to a remote cabin in Alaska. Logan never replied to her letters, but now he has suddenly turned up on her doorstep. While she doesn't intend to forgive him for his silence, she soon realizes that she has to save him from the winter wilderness and the men who are pursuing him.

Hoose, Phillip. ***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club***. 2015. The true story of a group of boy resistance fighters in Denmark after the Nazi invasion during World War II.

Khoury, Jessica. ***Kalahari***. 2015.

Deep in the Kalahari Desert, a Corpus lab protects a dangerous secret. But what happens when that secret takes on a life of its own? When an educational safari goes wrong, five teens find themselves stranded in the Kalahari Desert without a guide.

Lu, Marie. ***Warcross***. 2017.

When teenage coder Emika Chen hacks her way into the opening tournament of the Warcross Championships, she glitches herself into the game as well as a sinister plot with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire.

Menon, Sandhya. ***From Twinkle, With Love***. 2018.

Told through letters, aspiring filmmaker and wallflower Twinkle Mehra learns a lesson about love while directing a movie for the Midsummer Night arts festival, in which her longtime crush and his twin brother are also participating.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***Resistance***. 2018.

In 1942 sixteen-year-old Chaya Lindner is a Jewish girl living in Nazi-occupied Poland, a courier who smuggles food and documents to the isolated Jewish ghettos in southern Poland, depending on her forged papers and "Aryan" features--but when a mission goes wrong and many of her colleagues are arrested she finds herself on a journey to Warsaw, where an uprising is in the works.

Rhodes, Jewel Parker. ***Ghost Boys***. 2018.

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing.

Saeed, Aisha. ***Amal Unbound***. 2018.

In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.

Sepetys, Ruta. ***Between Shades of Gray***. 2011.

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp

while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family, includes a historical note.

Sheinkin, Steve. ***Lincoln's Grave Robbers***. 2012.

An account of how counterfeiter Benjamin Boyd's gang stole the body of Abraham Lincoln and demanded Boyd's release from jail and two hundred thousand dollars as ransom and the efforts of the Secret Service to recover the remains.

Shusterman, Neal. ***Scythe***. 2016.

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.

Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

Stead, Rebecca. ***Goodbye Stranger***. 2015.

Long ago, best friends Bridge, Emily, and Tab made a pact: no fighting. But it's the start of seventh grade, and everything is changing. Emily's new curves are attracting attention, and Tab is suddenly a member of the Human Rights Club. And then there's Bridge. She's started wearing cat ears and is the only one who's still tempted to draw funny cartoons on her homework.

It's also the beginning of seventh grade for Sherm Russo. He wonders: what does it mean to fall for a girl—as a friend?

By the time Valentine's Day approaches, the girls have begun to question the bonds—and the limits—of friendship. Can they grow up without growing apart?

Tolkein, J. R. R. ***The Hobbit: Or, There and Back Again***. 1966.

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to share in an adventure.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Brown Girl Dreaming***. 2014.

The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.

St. John's Summer Reading **Required Book** Questions

Name: _____

Novel: _____

Please provide as much detailed information as possible about the **required novel** using complete sentences. Return this sheet (along with your signed reading log) to your English teacher on the first day of school.

Describe the **setting**.

Briefly summarize the **plot**.

Identify and describe the **main characters**.

Describe the main **conflict** or **problem** in the novel as well as the **resolution** or **solution**.

Would you recommend this book? **Using specific examples from the book, explain why or why not.**

