

St. John's Episcopal School

8th Grade English Summer Reading 2019

Summer reading for the 8th grade requires reading three (3) novels: ***Animal Farm*** by George Orwell, one from the attached suggested reading list, and one of your own choosing.

REQUIRED READING:

Animal Farm by George Orwell

A political satire in which the animals take over running the farm, but find their utopian state turning into a dictatorship.

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 I look forward to seeing all of you in August.

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8th grade English
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SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS (you must choose one of these):

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Speak***. 1999.

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Haddon, Mark. ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***. 2003.

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Kaufman, Amie and Jay Kristoff. ***Aurora Rising***. 2019.

Told in separate voices, eighteen-year-old Tyler Jones, top graduate of Aurora Academy, and a group of misfits and troublemakers embark on their first mission with Auri, a stowaway from the distant past.

LaBan, Elizabeth. ***The Tragedy Paper***. 2013.

While preparing for the most dreaded assignment at the prestigious Irving School, the Tragedy Paper, Duncan gets wrapped up in the tragic tale of Tim Macbeth, a former student who had a clandestine relationship with the wrong girl, and his own ill-fated romance with Daisy.

Lockhart, E. ***We Were Liars***. 2013.

Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

Lowry, Lois. ***Son***. 2014.

Companion book to: ***The Giver***, ***Gathering Blue***, and ***Messenger***. Unlike the other Birthmothers in her utopian community, teenaged Claire forms an attachment to her baby, feeling a great loss when he is taken to the Nurturing Center to be adopted by a family unit.

Moore, David Barclay. ***The Stars Beneath Our Feet***. 2017.

A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death in this outstanding debut novel that celebrates community and creativity.

Nielsen, Jennifer E. ***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.

Schmidt, Gary D. ***Okay for Now***. 2011.

Fourteen-year-old Doug Swieteck faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer, he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library.

Schwab, Victoria. ***City of Ghosts***. 2018.

Ever since her near-fatal drowning, Cassidy has been able to pull back the "Veil" that separates the living from the dead and see ghosts, not that she wants to, and she was really looking forward to a ghost-free summer at the beach; however her parents are going to start filming a TV series about the world's most haunted places, starting with Edinburgh with its graveyards, castles, and restless phantoms--and Cass and her personal ghost companion, Jacob, are about to find out that a city of old ghosts can be a very dangerous place indeed.

Shusterman, Neal. ***Dry***. 2018.

A lengthy California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, turning Alyssa's quiet suburban street into a warzone, and she is forced to make impossible choices if she and her brother are to survive.

Sepetys, Ruta. ***Salt to the Sea***. 2016.

As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

Sheinkin, Steve. ***Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon***. 2012.

Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

Thomas, Angie. ***The Hate U Give***. 2017.

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does--or does not--say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

Zusak, Markus. ***The Book Thief***. 2007.

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 story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

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.**

