

## Grade 8 2020 Summer Reading List

### Required Summer Reading for all students:

*Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly (Young Readers Edition)

Students will select one or more other texts from the reading list below:

### Fiction:

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*I Am the Messenger* by Markus Zusak

*Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus

*Elephant Run* by Roland Smith

*The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

### Fantasy:

*The Raven Boys* by Maggie Stiefvater

*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

*Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo

*The Divergent Series* by Veronica Roth

*The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey

*Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

*The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer

### Classics:

*The Once and Future King* by T.H. White

*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain

*Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

*The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay

*Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

### Non- Fiction:

*Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick (there is also an adult version called *In the Heart of the Sea*)

*Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser

*In Defense of Food* by Michael Pollan (if students enjoyed *The Omnivore's Dilemma*)

*Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long Distance Swimmer* by Lynne Cox

*Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition* by Karen Blumenthal

*Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant* by Daniel Tammet

## **Eighth Grade Required Summer Reading**

During the summer, students are expected to read *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. We will be using this novel to launch a discussion of the main themes within the novel when school begins in September.

As you read, think about which of the characters in the novel has the most (and least) progressive thoughts.

## **Grade 8 *Hidden Figures* Summer Essay Assignment**

Please write a five-paragraph essay and outline in which you explore and analyze one of the themes you have encountered in *Hidden Figures* (e.g. social inequality, racism, civil rights, confidence, education, social progression etc.).

Please take some time to organize your thoughts and write the outline first. Make sure the outline contains your thesis, main points, and evidence. The outline must be stapled to your essay.

Your essay must include:

An introduction with:

1. A clear hook/lead
2. The title and author of the text you are discussing
3. A well formulated thesis statement: the thesis statement must state the theme you wish to analyze and explore.

Three Body Paragraphs with:

1. Topic Sentences
2. Explanation and logic
3. Textual evidence in MLA format “.....” (Shetterly 12)
4. Explanation of the evidence
5. Transitional Words
6. Concluding statements

A Conclusion with:

1. A restatement of the thesis in different words
2. Implications/Observations/Questions

This essay format should look very familiar to all you. Take this opportunity to think about the text, formulate a clear argument, and utilize strong textual evidence for support. I look forward to reading your analysis in September!

## **Grade 8 Secondary Reading Assignment**

Please write 3-4 paragraphs in which you present a summary and opinion of the book you selected from the reading list (five sentences per paragraph).

This second piece of writing should be formatted as follows:

An introduction with:

1. A clear topic/leading sentence.
2. The title and author of the book.
3. A brief summary of the book.

One or two supporting paragraphs with:

1. Your opinion/reflection on the book – likes, dislikes, commendations, critiques, etc.
2. Evidence from the book to support your opinion.

A conclusion with:

1. A statement reinforcing your topic sentence from your introduction.
2. Any reflections or conclusions you have made throughout reading the book that you would like to reinforce to your reader.