MacArthur Middle School Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Principal
Mr. Camron Nystrom
Assistant Principal
Mr. Chris Alms

June 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Research shows that children benefit greatly from continual practice of academic skills over long breaks, so reading over the summer gives students the opportunity to practice important skills. In order to facilitate a smoother transition from summer vacation to classes in the fall, we are asking that all incoming 7th grade students select **ONE**** book from our summer reading list to read during the summer. Of course, students are welcome to read more than one of the books on the list, and we encourage students to read frequently during the summer from a variety of other mediums (magazines, newspapers, fiction, nonfiction, etc.).

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**Note: Students who are in Accelerated Reading are required to read one additional book. They must read <u>Woods Runner</u> by Gary Paulsen in addition to a book of their choice from the list provided. Accelerated English students must choose a written response from the Accelerated English prompt section. You only need write 1 essay response that covers both books, but it must be one of the two Accelerated English Comparison Prompt Options.

Once you have read one of the books, select ONE of the options at the end of this packet to report on. The responses will not only serve as a way for us to see that students have read the book, but it will also prepare your child for classroom discussions relating to the summer books.

Note: A deduction of 25% will be assessed if you do the incorrect written format for the type of book you read. Be sure to double check that you are answering a fictional response if you read a fiction book, OR that you are writing a non-fiction response if you read a non-fiction book.

All reflections must be TYPED in a non-cursive font which is no larger than 14. In addition, your essay must be double-spaced and the font color must be black. Save your essay to your Google Drive and you will submit it **Tuesday**, **August 29**, **2019** to your assigned English teacher. She will tell you exactly how to turn it in at that time.

Thank you and happy summer reading!

7th Grade Summer Reading List (2018-2019)

FICTION TITLES

(* indicates potential advanced content)

The Great Trouble: The Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel*

Author: Deborah Hopkinson 660 Lexile Victorian England 1850s Eel is on the run from his villainous stepfather and is hiding a secret while trying to earn enough money to survive and pay a mysterious debt. While working, he encounters a doctor who is researching the cause of cholera, a major medical problem of the time. *Some villains in the story are abusive and consume alcohol.

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse*

Author: Joseph Marshall 620 Lexile Native American History This book takes place in the present, but it tells the story of a Lakota boy named Jimmy, who is searching for his identity while traveling with his grandfather one summer. On the journey, Jimmy and his grandfather retrace the steps of one of Jimmy's famous ancestors. The ancestor was Crazy Horse. *The book goes back in forth in time, and there are descriptions of massacres in one or two scenes.

Johnny Tremain

Author: Esther Forbes 840 Lexile American Revolution
Johnny Tremain is a 14-year-old silversmith who injures his hand in an accident. While looking for work, he encounters famous colonial figures who are helping to free the colonies from England.

Little House on the Prairie

Author: Laura Ingalls Wilder 780 Lexile American Pioneers
Based on the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder, this is a fictional account of growing up in the mid to late 1800s.
This is the second book in the series and portrays what it was like to move away from family and friends to the prairie in Kansas.

The Ransom of Mercy Carter*

Author: Caroline B. Cooney 790 Lexile American Colonial Period Based on a real event known as Queen Anne's War, this story takes place in 1704. Mercy Carter, a Puritan, is living in Massachusetts when she is awakened to sounds of an attack by Native Americans. She and dozens of others are forced to march 300 miles in the dead of winter toward an unknown fate. Fearful of what will happen to her, Mercy grapples with a new language and culture. *Several colonists, including children, are killed and there are references to religion, both Catholic and Puritan, while Mercy struggles to find her identity while living with the Native Americans.

Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution

Author: Avi 730 Lexile American Revolution Sophia is horrified when she witnesses the hanging of Nathan Hale, an American spy, at the beginning of this novel about the American Revolution. Meanwhile, her brother is being held in deplorable conditions on a British prison ship. In order to help her brother and advance the American cause, she becomes a spy in the home of a British general.

Turn Homeward Hannalee

American Civil War

Author: Patricia Beatty 830 Lexile

Hannalee is a southern textile worker during the American Civil War who is sent north to keep her from helping the Confederacy. Will she be able to escape and make it home?

Washington City is Burning*

Author: Harriet Gillem Robinet 690 Lexile War of 1812

Virginia is a slave who works for President Madison during the War of 1812. While working, she becomes part of a group helping slaves to escape. *There are a few religious references.

Who Comes With Cannons?*

Author: Patricia Beatty 760 Lexile American Civil War

Truth is a Quaker living in the south during the American Civil War. Quakers are a religious group who believe in non-violence even in times of war. *Since the protagonist is a Quaker, there are religious references.

NON-FICTION TITLES

The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr*

Author: Judith St. George 1040 Lexile Early American History
This book compares the lives of Hamilton and Burr and shows how eerily similar they were. *Hamilton's
mother was not married to his father, so language from the time is used to describe him.

George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War

Author: Thomas B. Allen 1100 Lexile American Revolution

A spellbinding account of the tactics that Washington used to spy on the British during the American Revolution.

Great Fire

Author: Jim Murphy 1130 Lexile Chicago History 1871 Murphy tells the real story about what happened in Chicago during the great fire of 1871. The book combines survivor accounts with Murphy's research to show us that the disaster was much more complicated than the story of the O'Leary's cow.

Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery

Author: Steve Sheinkin 990 Lexile American Revolution
Biography of the American turned British spy during the Revolutionary War. It tells of his upbringing, married life, and exploits.

Washington at Valley Forge

Author: Russell Freedman 1210 Lexile American Revolution
This is a detailed account of conditions and the historical figures who helped the American colonists survive a brutal winter 5 years before the end of the Revolutionary War.

Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland*

Author: Sally Walker 1140 Lexile American Colonial Times New discoveries are changing what we know about colonial Maryland and Jamestown. Fascinating pictures and scientific study offer new insights into how people lived and the hardships they suffered. *There are pictures of human skeletons.

After you have read the novel you selected, **CHOOSE** <u>ONE</u> <u>AND</u> <u>ONLY</u> <u>ONE</u> of the following prompts to answer. Please do not summarize the book. Read the prompt carefully and answer what is being asked. Please note the amount of sentences for which each prompt asks. In addition, make sure that your first and last name are on the response. Also include the title of the book, author, and the prompt you chose to write about. Finally, make sure to proofread your essay for grammar mistakes, spelling errors, and typos. This is your first chance to make a good impression! Save the essay to Google Drive and wait for instructions when you return to school.

It will be due Tuesday, August 28, 2019.

HEADING example:

Ann Adams

<u>Johnny Tremain</u> by Esther Forbes

Option 3

REGULAR ENGLISH – FICTION RESPONSE OPTIONS

FICTION OPTION #1 – Character Study

In a short essay, name the protagonist and three qualities about him or her, along with an example of each character trait. {Ex: Harry Potter is smart (he can figure out how to conquer Voldemort, he is kind (he helps others in trouble), and he is athletic (great at playing Quidditch).} THEN explain how the story would change if a different character (name him or her) would switch places with the main character. Be specific and describe at least one event and tell how it would differ. (15-sentence minimum)

FICTION OPTION #2 – Setting Study

In a short essay, describe in detail three different settings or locations that are visited in the novel. THEN pick a different location (say...downtown Chicago, or a dairy farm) and explain how the story would be different in three different ways. Would it affect the characters or the plot? In what ways? (15-sentence minimum)

FICTION OPTION #3 – Theme Study

In a short essay, give a brief summary of the story (2-3 sentences), and then name three possible themes or messages that the author might want the reader to learn by the conclusion of the novel. Give an example or two for each theme or lesson demonstrating how that lesson was shown. (15-sentence minimum)

REGULAR ENGLISH - NON-FICTION RESPONSE OPTIONS

NON-FICTION OPTION #4

In a short essay, answer all of the following questions. First, tell why you decided to read a book on this topic. Secondly, describe a part of the book you had to read twice and why. Thirdly, what careers might use his information and in what way? Fourth, how might the content in the book affect your own life? Finally, what problems and solutions does the author pose? Do you agree with his or her findings? (15-sentence minimum)

NON-FICTION OPTION #5

In a short essay, please answer the following questions. 1) Of the information you learned, what would you be most likely to share with someone else? 2) What kind of research do you think this author had to do in order to write this book? 3) Which questions would you ask the author if you had the chance to meet him/her? 4) Would the book be different if it had been written 10 years ago? Why or why not? 5) What did you discover anything that could help you outside of school?

ACCELERATED ENGLISH – RESPONSE OPTIONS

Accelerated English – Comparison Prompt 1:

Write at least sixteen (16) sentences explaining how the title of each book relates to the story or topic. For example, does the title represent the theme or main idea of the book? How and why? Does the title relate to a character or the setting? How and why? Explain one title and then use a transition to move onto the second title. Use at least one quote for each book to explain your argument. Finally, write approximately 8 sentences for each book using correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

In addition, write 4 more sentences (total of 20 altogether) telling which book you preferred and why. You might talk about the characters, setting, plot, climax, resolution, or author's writing style to help you pinpoint what it was that drew you in more than the other book.

Accelerated English – Comparison Prompt 2:

Write at least sixteen (16) sentences comparing how the books are similar and how they are different. Be very specific and talk about the way the books are the same before using a transition word to move onto how the books are different. Use at least one quote for each book to explain your point of view. Finally, use about 8 sentences for similarities and 8 sentences describing the differences using correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

In addition, write 4 more sentences (total of 20 altogether) telling which book you preferred and why. You might talk about the characters, setting, plot, climax, resolution, or author's writing style to help you pinpoint what it was that drew you in more than the other book.