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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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.).

**\*\*Note: Students who are in Accelerated Reading are required to read one additional book. They must read Woods Runner 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!

## 7<sup>th</sup> 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***

Author: Patricia Beatty                      830 Lexile                      American Civil War  
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.



HEADING example:

Ann Adams

Johnny Tremain 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)

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**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?

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## ACCELERATED ENGLISH – RESPONSE OPTIONS

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### **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.