

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

The English Department is pleased to present its summer reading program for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Each Middle School student (6-8) **must read ONE mandatory summer reading book** and **one selected summer reading book** before the school year begins.

Each Upper School student (9-12) **must read ONE mandatory summer reading book** and **one selected summer reading book** before the school year begins.

Students should annotate their selected books as they read. Students should be prepared to write about their selections once they return in the fall; they will also be asked to discuss these books in class.

So that students might have a clearer sense of each choice, teachers have included short descriptions of the books for their respective classes.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

ENGLISH 6th grade

Mandatory: **The Giver**, Lois Lowry

Choose one from the following:

Turtle in Paradise, Jennifer L. Holm

Set in the Florida Keys during the Great Depression, an eleven-year old girl named Turtle is sent to live with distant relatives when her mother is forced to take a housekeeping job for an employer who doesn't like children. While adjusting to new people and surroundings, Turtle experiences adventures particular to Key West involving lost pirate treasure, a hurricane, and a meeting with a famous literary figure. Combining rich description, humor, and historical detail, this selection also explores the importance of family and what that means to different people.

A Single Shard, Linda Sue Park

When Tree-ear, a thirteen-year old boy living in 12th century Korea, is apprenticed to The artisan Master Min, he learns how to create the highly prized and exquisite celadon pottery. Hoping to be awarded a commission from the royal court, Tree-ear encounters unanticipated challenges and dangers as he journeys from his village to the palace, eventually arriving with no more than a small broken fragment of the original celadon creations to show the king's emissary.

A Long Way From Chicago, Richard Peck

Set in the 1930s, Joey and his younger sister Mary Anne travel from their home in Chicago each summer to stay with their eccentric Grandmother Dowdel “down state” in rural Illinois. More a series of short stories than a novel, each chapter of the book recounts a humorous episode revolving around a most interesting and highly opinionated grandmother and a cast of characters from the small community in which she lives. Interesting situations and plenty of humor characterize this reading selection.

When You Reach Me, Rebecca Stead

In 1979, Miranda is a middle school student living with her mother in New York City. One day, she receives a strange note from an unknown person. The notes continue to come, leaving Miranda confused and intrigued. Who is sending the notes? Why? Around the same time, other strange events start to occur in Miranda’s life. Full of mysteries, this novel also has themes of identity, friendship, and even a bit of time travel.

The Pitcher, William Elliott Hazelgrove

Ricky Hernandez is a fourteen year old boy who dreams of being a major league pitcher. He has a great fastball, but he is unable to control it. While he dreams of going pro, there’s no guarantee he’ll even be able to make the high school team. Ricky’s mom, Maria, wants to help him while she struggles with her own health problems. She convinces a retired major league pitcher to work with Ricky, but he also faces personal challenges. This inspirational story takes on the issues of growing up, family, and following your dreams.
