

T.W. Hunter Middle School
8th Grade Summer Reading: Fall 2018

In order to prepare students for the rigor of 8th grade, all students are required read at least one book this summer. Students may choose either a Fiction or Nonfiction book from the list below.

At the beginning of 8th grade, students will be required to submit a Reading Analysis for their book. The book and appropriate Reading Analysis should be completed by **August 24th, 2018**. You may download the document from twh.sumnerschools.org and click on “Summer Reading” if you choose to complete it electronically.

Fiction

Title	Synopsis	Genre	Level
<i>The River Between Us</i> By Richard Peck	The year is 1861. Civil War is imminent and Tilly Pruitt's brother, Noah, is eager to go and fight on the side of the North. With her father long gone, Tilly, her sister, and their mother struggle to make ends meet. Then one night a mysterious girl and her companion arrive on a steamboat bound for St. Louis. Mrs. Pruitt agrees to take them in as boarders. No one in town knows what to make of the two strangers, and so the rumors fly. Is Delphine's companion a slave? Could they be spies for the South? Are the Pruitts traitors? A masterful tale of mystery and war.	Historical Fiction	Lexile - 740L Grade Level Equivalent – 4.9
<i>Between Shades of Gray</i> By Ruta Sepetys	Lina is just like any other fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941. She paints, draws, and gets crushes on boys. One night, Soviet officers barge into her home, tearing her family from the comfortable life they've known. Separated from her father, forced onto a crowded and dirty train car, Lina, her mother, and her young brother are taken north to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia. Under Stalin's orders, they are forced to dig for beets and fight for their lives under the cruelest of conditions. It is a long and harrowing journey, spanning years and covering 6,500 miles, but it is through incredible strength, love, and hope that Lina ultimately survives.	Historical Fiction	Lexile – 490L Grade Level Equivalent 3.6
<i>Paperboy</i> By Vincent Vawter	An 11-year-old boy living in Memphis in 1959 throws the meanest, fastball in town, but talking is a whole different ball game. He can barely say a word without stuttering. When he takes over his best friend's paper route for a month, he knows he'll be forced to communicate with the different customers. He has a run-in with the neighborhood junkman, a bully and thief that stirs up real trouble - and puts the boy's life in danger.	Historical Fiction	Lexile - 940L Grade Level Equivalent – 5.1
<i>The Wednesday Wars</i> By Gary D. Schmidt	Holling, a seventh-grader must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling - he's sure of it. But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. Holling's father wants him to be on his best behavior because the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble? He has to contend with a bully, angry rats, and wearing yellow tights! Holling finds motivation in the most unexpected places and finds courage to trust his destiny.	Historical Fiction	Lexile - 990L Grade Level Equivalent – 5.9
<i>Star Girl (Stargirl #1)</i> By Jerry Spinelli	From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High, the hallways hum with the murmur of “Stargirl, Stargirl.” She captures Leo Borlock's heart and she sparks a school-spirit revolution. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her. This is an emotional tale about the perils of popularity.	Realistic Fiction	Lexile - 590L Grade Level Equivalent – 4.2

<p><i>Million-Dollar Throw</i></p> <p>By Mike Lupica</p>	<p>If a million dollars were at stake, could you make the throw? Nate Brodie is nicknamed “Brady,” not only for his arm, but also because he’s a huge Tom Brady fan. He wins the chance for something he’s never dreamed of—to throw a pass through a target at a Patriots game for one million dollars. Nate should be excited, but things have been tough lately. His dad lost his job and his family is losing their home. A million dollars could make a difference! All Nate feels is pressure, and just when he needs it most, his golden arm begins to fail him. Even worse, his best friend Abby is going blind, slowly. Yet Abby never complains, and she is Nate’s inspiration. He knows she’ll be there when he makes the throw of a lifetime.</p>	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>Lexile - 960L</p> <p>Grade Level Equivalent – 7.5</p>
<p><i>The Face on the Milk Carton</i></p> <p>By Caroline B. Cooney</p>	<p>The face on the milk carton looks like an ordinary little girl: hair in tight pigtails, a dress with a narrow white collar, a three-year-old who was kidnapped more than twelve years ago from a shopping mall in New Jersey. As fifteen-year-old Janie Johnson stares at the milk carton, she feels overcome with shock. She knows that she is that little girl. But how could it be true? Janie can't believe that her loving parents kidnapped her, until she begins to piece together clues that don't make sense. Something is terribly wrong, and Janie is afraid to find out what happened more than twelve years ago. The reader will unravel the twisted events that changed the lives of two families forever.</p>	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>Lexile - 660L</p> <p>Grade Level Equivalent – 4.8</p>
<p><i>Bruiser</i></p> <p>By Neal Shusterman</p>	<p>When Brontë starts dating Brewster “Bruiser” Rawlins – the guy voted “Most Likely to Get the Death Penalty” her twin brother, Tennyson, isn’t surprised. But then strange things begin to occur. Tennyson and Brontë’s scrapes heal unnaturally fast, and cuts disappear before their eyes. What, at first, seems like their good fortune turns out to be more than they bargained for...much more.</p>	<p>Fantasy Fiction</p>	<p>Lexile - 820L</p> <p>Grade Level – 5.4</p>

Nonfiction

Title	Synopsis	Genre	Level
<p><i>Chasing Lincoln’s Killer</i></p> <p>By James Swanson</p>	<p>Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the man-hunters, this book is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth... a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.</p>	<p>Historical Nonfiction</p>	<p>Lexile - 980L</p> <p>Grade Level Equivalent – 8.3</p>
<p><i>Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story</i></p> <p>By Lila Peri and Marion Blumenthal Lazon</p>	<p>Marion Blumenthal Lazan’s unforgettable and acclaimed memoir recalls the devastating years that shaped her childhood. Following Hitler’s rise to power, the Blumenthal family - father, mother, and her brother - were trapped in Nazi Germany. Eventually they were taken to Holland, but soon thereafter it was occupied by the Nazis. For the next six and a half years the Blumenthals were forced to live in refugee, transit, and prison camps. Their story is one of horror and hardship, but it is also a story of courage, hope, and the will to survive.</p>	<p>Autobiography</p>	<p>Lexile - 1080L</p> <p>Grade Level Equivalent – 7.3</p>
<p><i>The PACT</i></p> <p>By Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, Lisa Frazier Page</p>	<p>Chosen by <i>Essence</i> to be among the forty most influential African Americans, the three doctors grew up in the streets of Newark, facing city life’s temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attaining that dream.</p>	<p>Biography</p>	<p>Lexile - 940L</p> <p>Grade Level Equivalent – 11.0</p>

T.W. Hunter Middle School
8th Grade Summer Reading - FICTION

YOU MAY WRITE THIS DOCUMENT ELECTRONICALLY OR USE A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER INSTEAD, SHOULD YOU SO CHOOSE. ANSWERS SHOULD BE THOROUGH AND IN COMPLETE SENTENCES. CAPITALIZATION, USAGE AND PUNCTUATION WILL BE ASSESSED.

Title:

Author:

Overview:

Minimum of 2-3 sentences.

Point of View:

Is a character telling the story (1st person) or does a narrator tell it (3rd person)? If 3rd, what kind (Limited, Omniscient? Objective, Subjective?)?

Plot Summary:

Given more time and space, how would you explain the bulk of the story? How does it end?

Setting:

Where does the majority of the story take place? Approximately when does the story take place?

Conflict:

Describe a memorable example of conflict in the story. Would it be considered Person vs Self, Person vs Person, Person vs Nature?

Climax:

What is the highest point of the major conflict? How is it the last big decision the protagonist makes, and how does he/she grow as a result? Cite the page number along with textual evidence

Protagonist:

Who is the main character of the story? Which one person goes through the most profound change as a result of the action in the story?

Antagonist:

Who is the villain of the story? What one character is responsible for the primary conflict of the text? Who is the protagonist facing off against?

Recommendation:

Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

**** On a separate piece of paper, illustrate and color an important event from the text. Explain why you chose this event.**

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8th Grade Summer Reading - **NONFICTION**

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Title:

Author:

Event:

What is the primary happening that is the heart of the text?

WHO is it about?

Who is the focus of the text? Describe the person.

WHAT happened?

Explain the event(s) that occurred. Be specific and detailed.

HOW did it happen?

What were the circumstances involved in the event(s)?

WHY is it important?

Explain the effects of the event(s).

WHERE did it happen?

Where do most of the events occur? Describe the location.

WHEN did it happen?

In what year, season, etc. do most events occur?

**** On a separate piece of paper, illustrate and color an important event from the text. Explain why you chose this event.**