$=$ **2021 Middle School Summer Reading Project**

Students: It’s going to be another long, hot summer, and if there’s any quarantine restrictions still in place, there won’t be much to do. Let’s do some reading…

Select one (1) of the following titles from the grade level you will enter next fall. There’s no need to buy a book; all titles are in PDF format. Just Google search with the title of the book and ‘pdf’. Browse through any of the titles before making your selection. A list of projects is at the end of this document.

The Summer Reading Project comes due Friday, August 27.

**6th grade (Class of 2024**)

*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

At the start of the Revolutionary War, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight … for freedom.

*Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

Seventh grader “Ghost” Cranshaw joins a track team, and struggles to deal with his past and his present.

*Holes* by Louis Sachar

A boy is wrongfully sent to a brutal camp, where the warden and her staff force the children to dig holes all day in the desert. Something sinister is involved.

*Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbit

Winnie Foster longs for a life outside the control of her domineering mother. One day she meets the Tuck family, and learns a powerful secret about their youth and vitality.

**7th grade (Class of 2023)**

*The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin

A murder mystery, set in Wisconsin in the 1970’s. A diverse group of unconnected people, including families and individuals, lives in the apartment complex called the Sunset Towers. Then a body is discovered …

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry

Jonas lives in an idyllic world of conformity and contentment. After he meets The Giver, he takes on a powerful knowledge of his community’s secret past, and realizes he has no choice but to escape.

*The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton

It’s the 1950’s in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and as events unfold between two clashing social groups; they ultimately realize they have much in common.

*The Sea of Trolls* by Nancy Farmer

Set in Anglo-Saxon England and Scandinavia, Jack Crookleg is trained to be a skald (bard) after he and his sister Lucy are kidnapped by Viking raiders.

**8th grade (Class of 2022)**

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

A novel of childhood and coming of age in a sleepy Southern town during the Great Depression and the crisis of conscience that rocks it when a black sharecropper is accused of harming a white woman.

*That Was Then, This is Now* by S. E. Hinton

Another coming-of-age novel, about two friends who find their relationship evolving and deteriorating.

*Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli

Set in Warsaw during World War II, this tale is about a boy with no identity who fights to survive the horrors of war.

*Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis

A black youth flees an orphanage to search for the father he’s never met.

*Now that you’ve finished the book, it’s time to select a project. Choose any one (1) of the following.*

**Project #1: Sandwich Book Report**

To do this project, go to the website 123Homeschool4Me.com. Download the template, and follow directions as given on the website.

**Project #2: Character Therapist**

Therapists work to uncover their clients’ fears, based on their words and actions. When we read books, we must use a character’s words and actions to infer his or her fears. Many plots revolve around a character’s fear and the work it takes to overcome that fear.

Write a document in paragraph form. First identify the character’s fear, then name 8-10 scenes from the novel that illustrate that fears exists. For each scene, describe how the character did or didn’t overcome that fear. In your final paragraph, describe what that character might have done differently.

**Project #3: Public Service Announcement**

A Public Service Announcement, or PSA, is commonly something you see on television or hear on the radio. A PSA is a short, and usually community-based message put out by an organization to raise awareness to a problem. You will create a PSA based on a situation in your novel.

For example, if your novel touches on some social injustice like homelessness, create a video of 1-2 minutes in length about homelessness. Use an assortment of images, appropriate music, and your own voice narrative to speak about homelessness, and advocate for change. You would, for instance, create a fictional organization like the National Homeless Initiative, and call for volunteers or donations. Be sure that the issue is mentioned directly in your novel.

**Project #4: Podcast**

If you’re not familiar with podcasts, you need to listen to a few on sites like Youth Radio or Story Corps to get a sense of their content and form.

You will create a 3-5 minute podcast about the novel. The only visual you will need is a picture of the book cover. The rest is audio. Use your time to give a synopsis of the plot. Touch on major occurrences so someone who hasn’t read the book will be familiar with its content.

This project can be completed on a laptop or a smart phone; use an audio editing app like Audacity or GarageBand to edit your recording and introduce music elements, as appropriate. You do not need to appear on camera.

**Project #5: Scrapbook**

You may choose to do this one on Google Slides, or go traditional with colored paper, glue, glitter, etc.

The scrapbook is a collection of images and items related to the novel, and arranged in their chronological sequence. You must give indication that you’ve read the book, so choose wisely.

**Project #6: Comic Strips**

Please do not attempt to draw this freehand! Use a storyboard template online to create an eight panel (minimum) summary of the novel. Some templates allow for you to create digital images, so you really don’t need any art skills for this one!