

# 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 25.

## 6<sup>th</sup> grade

*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 Babbitt

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.

## 7<sup>th</sup> grade

*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.

## 8<sup>th</sup> grade

*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 Choice #1: Character Art**

Your task is to create a puppet, sculpture, digital graphic or painting of a major character from your novel. Your work must be homemade and original. Do not use store-bought toys/dolls, and do not copy your character's likeness from the cover nor from another artist's rendition.

If you work on a digital graphic or painting, it should be no larger than 8" x 10". The paint may be acrylic, water color, or enamel.

Once you create the art, write a one-page speech (typed, 12 point Times Roman, 100-150 words). The speech should be based on an important part of the novel, and depicts what the character might say if given the chance. It must be written in 1<sup>st</sup> person.

### **Project Choice #2: Character Facebook Page**

Create a "Fakebook" page for any major character.

There are several websites with "Fakebook" templates you can download. Fakebook templates have sections you fill with images and posts. The posts between characters should reflect events of the novel. All sections must be filled in with information accurate to the novel.

### **Project Choice #3: Character Correspondence**

This project is an exchange of letters between two characters from the novel. Write a series of six (6) letters. Each letter must be typed (12 point Times Roman), and include the typical format of a friendly letter: date, salutation, body, closing, and signature.

The body of each letter is a two paragraph minimum; the content is a reaction to events from the novel. Your name appears on the **backside** of each page.

## **Project Choice #4: Character Karaoke**

Write lyrics to a favorite karaoke song, then perform it. The lyrics can be a description of a character's traits, or a summary of the plot. Lyrics must not be offensive or crude

Make an audio recording. Be prepared to play the song for the class.

## **Project Choice #5: Storyboard**

Find an eight-panel storyboard template on the internet. Some sites allow you to work digitally, so you don't have to draw each cell by hand.

The storyboard illustrates an important occurrence in the novel. Use captions or conversation balloons for communicating dialogue. Think of this as a mini comic book. Cells must be full color. No stick figures!

## **Project #1: Sandwich Book Report**

To do this project, go to the website [123Homeschool4Me.com](http://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!