

Upper School Required Reading 2021

All 5-8 graders are required to read a minimum of three books over the summer. Each of the two required from the list below, and others of their own choosing. In addition, students are required to fill out the appropriate graphic organizer for both of the required books.

Incoming 5th

- 1) ***Locomotion* by, Jacqueline Woodson:** In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school. *National Book Award Finalist*
- 2) ***Hazardous Tales: Lafayette!* by Nathan Hale:** A major general by 19 years old, Lafayette was eager to prove himself in battle. When he heard about the Revolution going on in America, he went overseas and fought for America's independence.

Incoming 6th

- 1) ***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by, Mildred Taylor:** A black family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand. *Newbery Medal Winner*
- 2) ***El Deafo* by, CeCe Bell:** In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid. *Newbery Honor Book*

Incoming 7th

- 1) ***Brown Girl Dreaming* by, Jacqueline Woodson:** From the author: "Brown Girl Dreaming tells the story of my childhood, in verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, I always felt halfway home in each place. In these poems, I share what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and my growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement." *National Book Award Winner, Newbery Honor Book*
- 2) ***American Born Chinese* by, Gene Luen Yang:** Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in popular culture. Presented in comic book format.

Incoming 8th

- 1) ***Chose one these fiction books: The Hate U Give* by, Angie Thomas:** After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Kahlil died. *National Book Award Longlist, Printz Honor Book*
OR *All American Boys* by, Jason Reynolds: When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints. *Coretta Scott King Award, Printz Award*
- 2) ***Chose one of these non-fiction books: Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961* by, Larry Brimmer:** For twelve history-making days in May 1961, thirteen black and white civil rights activists, also known as the Freedom Riders, traveled by bus into the South to draw attention to the unconstitutional segregation still taking place. Despite their peaceful protests, the Freedom Riders were met with increasing violence the further south they traveled. *Robert Sibert Book Award Winner for Nonfiction*
OR *The Freedom Summer Murders* by, Don Mitchell: In June of 1964, three idealistic young men were trying to register African Americans to vote as part of the Freedom Summer effort to bring democracy to the South. Their disappearance and murder caused a national uproar and was one of the most significant incidents of the Civil Rights Movement, and contributed to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. *Robert Sibert Book Award Winner for Nonfiction*

Name: _____

Summer Reading Graphic Organizer for Fiction/Graphic Novels

Title/Author	
Main Characters	Brief Description of Main Characters: physical and personality traits
<p>Describe the setting (time and place). Be sure to include at least one supporting detail from the text and explain how it relates to the story.</p>	

Explain briefly the main conflict in the story and how it was solved or resolved. Be sure to include at least one supporting detail from the text.

Incoming 5th: Explain the theme of the story. Be sure to include supporting details from the text.
Incoming 6-8 Explain how the theme of racial discrimination was handled in the novel. Be sure to include supporting details from the text.

Optional: On the back side of this paper draw an illustration of a scene or the setting or of anything you visualized as you read the story.

Name: _____

**8th Graders Only
Summer Reading Graphic Organizer
for Non-fiction Books**

Purpose (Why did the author write this book?)
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Main Idea	Main Idea	Main Idea

<p>Supporting Detail/Text Evidence</p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>	<p>Supporting Detail/Text Evidence</p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>	<p>Supporting Detail/Text Evidence</p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>
<p>Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?</p>		