

7th Grade Required Summer Reading 2020

Note to Parents

At Pittsgrove, we believe that reading is one of the main keys to academic success; it expands the imagination, enhances vocabulary, and introduces students to new and exciting ideas.

One of our district's primary goals is to develop lifelong readers and learners. For this reason, we like to offer students a variety of books from which to select.

Over the summer, **students are required to choose at least one book from his/her grade level's summer reading list.** Each student should read the book for enjoyment while recording evidence from the text using the attached graphic organizers. This will help your child be prepared to write and speak about the text upon his/her return to school in September.

Enclosed are the graphic organizers that must be completed as students read the text. Please print the documents before students begin reading so he/she can complete the work while reading. **Students are required to turn in the completed graphic organizers to their ELA teacher on the first day of school.**

Thank you for encouraging your child's reading. We look forward to building on the foundation you have helped establish during the summer.

You can find the books at these locations:

Access FREE eBooks and audiobooks

Visit our district website or our media center website to download a list of websites to access eBooks and audiobooks.

Pittsgrove Township Middle School Media Center
Summer Hours:
http://ptms.pittsgrove.net/media_center

Salem County Library • www.mysalemlibrary.org
Salem Branch – (856) 935-0526

Elmer Library: elmerlibrarynj.org
(856) 358-2014

Barnes & Noble • www.barnesandnoble.com
Deptford Township – (856) 232-3123
Glassboro – (856) 881-5960

Amazon • www.amazon.com

Book Choices: Select one book from the list below.

The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel James Brown: This book tells the tale of the 1936 U.S. men's Olympic eight-oar rowing team— nine working class boys who stormed the rowing world, transformed the sport, and galvanized the attention of millions of Americans. At the center of the tale is Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, whose personal quest captures the spirit of his crew and his generation. With rowers who were the sons of shipyard workers and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander: Twin brothers Josh and Jordan Bell are awesome on the court. But, Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious novel of family. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

Island on Bird Street by Uri Orlev: When the entire Warsaw Ghetto is evacuated during World War II, one boy still remains hidden, waiting in obedience for his father to return as he told him he would. The young boy must struggle to survive in the midst of fear and danger.

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park: The *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed: Life is quiet and ordinary in Amal's Pakistani village, but she had no complaints, and besides, she's busy pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher one day. Her dreams are temporarily dashed when—as the eldest daughter—she must stay home from school to take care of her siblings. Amal is upset, but she doesn't lose hope and finds ways to continue learning. Then the unimaginable happens—after an accidental run-in with the son of her village's corrupt landlord, Amal must work as his family's servant to pay off her own family's debt.

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt: Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities.

Or any other book APPROVED by your teacher.

READING RESPONSE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Student's Name: _____ Book Title: _____

7th Grade Thematic Topic: *Life's Journey*

Guiding questions:

- In what ways can personal challenges help people develop courage and wisdom?
- How do life experiences influence the way people understand, and interpret the world around them?
- How do people find meaning and purpose in the personal challenges faced along life's journey?
- In what ways are personal choices influenced by the society/culture of an individual and the age in which he/she lives?

Directions: The book you have chosen to read this summer will help you to learn about the personal challenges faced in life's journeys. Consider how resiliency is exemplified through character, setting, and/or plot development as you read your book. Complete the double-entry journal below with textual evidence and reasoning. Be sure to include examples from the beginning, middle and end of the book. Feel free to use an extra sheet of paper if you run out of room to write.

Textual Evidence <i>Textual evidence of an event or challenge that is important in the character's life journey.</i>	Reflection & Analysis <i>Explain what the character learned from the event or personal challenge he/she experienced. Explain how the evidence in the text relates to the theme of life's journey.</i>
<p><i>"... I stared at him and realized that he and I were dressed alike. But he was pulling a cleaning trolley, not luggage with wheels that have a 360-degree rotating option. And then I had the distressing thought: It was possible that the girl believed I was some kind of maintenance worker."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page(s) # <u>31-32</u></p>	<p><i>Willow planned to wear a gardening outfit and hat for the first day of middle school, to show her peers her personality and get a fresh start. She was hopeful she would make new friends, but instead she was again outcast by them. Willow realizes that it is harder to fit in than she thought, and she spends her time in class studying how her peers dress and act.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page(s) # _____</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Page(s) # _____</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">Textual Evidence</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Textual evidence of an event or challenge that is important in the character's life journey.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reflection & Analysis</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Explain what the character learned from the event or personal challenge he/she experienced. Explain how the evidence in the text relates to the theme of life's journey.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page(s) # _____</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">Textual Evidence</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Textual evidence of an event or challenge that is important in the character's life journey.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reflection & Analysis</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Explain what the character learned from the event or personal challenge he/she experienced. Explain how the evidence in the text relates to the theme of life's journey.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page(s) # _____</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Page(s) # _____</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Page(s) # _____</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Page(s) # _____</p>	