



Monsignor Clarke School

Summer ELA Assignment

For students entering 7th & 8th Grade

Summer 2016



Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

- Students will be required to read a minimum of 2 books from their grade appropriate lists. After completing that requirement, students are free to read additional books of their choosing.
- Students will conduct “book talks” on one of the books when they return to school, the other book that they choose to read will be the first independent reading project within the first two weeks of school.
- Guidelines below for students to follow as they prepare for their book talks.

➤ Giving a good book talk:

- Plan to speak for about 3-5 minutes
- Briefly summarize the plot of the book and identify the genre, but do not give away the ending. Think about what you would and would not have wanted to know before reading.
- Prepare what you are going to say about the book. You do not need to memorize, but you need to know the points you are going to make. Practice until you are comfortable with your material.
- Optional topics to focus on:
 - The theme of the book
 - The major conflict
 - A brief description of the main characters and their relationships
 - Setting and how it relates to the plot and characters
 - Mention if the book reminds you of another book you have read or a movie you have seen
 - Identify what you think the author would have wanted readers to take from the experience of reading the book
 - Tell the audience if you recommend the book and why or why not. Remember that if you did not enjoy the book, that doesn't mean that someone else won't.
 - If you come across a significant or powerful passage, you may read it aloud. This should be short and leave the listener wanting more.
- Use the “How to Rock a Book Talk” handout to help you put together your presentation.

Middle School Summer Writing Assignment:

- Students will complete grammar practice assignments using NoRedInk. Students will join their appropriate class using the following class codes :
 - **Summer Work Grade 7: f38xcv7x**
 - **Summer Work Grade 8: a4cw7ec8**
- All work will be due prior to the first day of school. Each assignment is completed online and submitted online.

How to Rock a Book Talk

The No-Pain Way to Give a Presentation

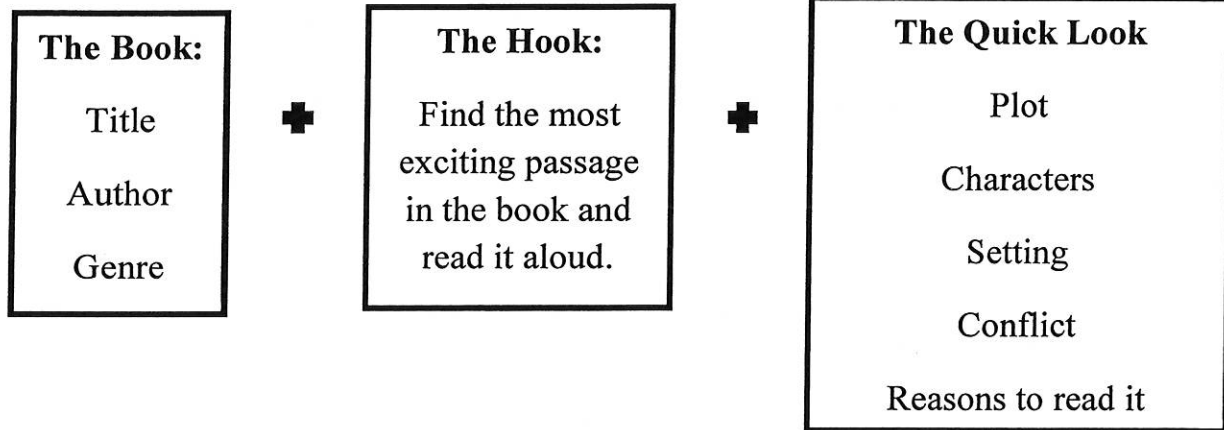
Do:

Choose a worthy book.
Intrigue your listeners.
Read a passage aloud.
Draw attention to the best parts.
Show the book.

Don't:

Spoil the ending.
Book talk a book that you didn't like.
Book talk a book you haven't read.
Summarize the entire plot.
Talk too much...leave them curious!

The Formula



Tips for Great Presentations:

Be calm. Try to speak in a natural and friendly voice.

Be honest. Book talks are about sharing great books. Tell your audience what you liked best about your book! And don't share one you didn't like or haven't read.

Be resourceful. Ask your teachers, parents, or librarian to help with ideas.

Be prepared. Practice your presentation! You can make notes to help you remember what you want to say.



Suggested Books & Authors for Summer Reading Sixth Grade into Seventh Grade – Summer 2016



REALISTIC FICTION



Draper, Sharon

Out of My Mind

Considered by many to have a cognitive disability, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy is trapped inside her body, determined to make a mark in the world in spite of her physical limitations. (Publisher)



Erskine, Kathryn

Mockingbird

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father. (Publisher)



Green, Tim

Unstoppable

If anyone understands the phrase "tough luck," it's Harrison. As a foster kid in a cruel home, he knows his dream of one day playing for the NFL is a long shot. Then Harrison's luck seems to change. He is brought into a new home with kind, loving parents—his new dad is even a football coach. Harrison's big build and his incredible determination quickly make him a star running back on the junior high school team. In no time, he's practically unstoppable. But Harrison's good luck can't last forever. (Publisher)



Harrington, Karen

Sure Signs of Crazy

Twelve-year-old Sarah writes letters to her hero, *To Kill a Mockingbird's* Atticus Finch, for help understanding her mentally ill mother, her first-real crush, and life in her small Texas town, all in the course of one momentous summer. (Publisher)



Lord, Cynthia

Rules

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic. (Publisher)



Schmidt, Gary D.

The Wednesday Wars

Seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood, stuck in Mrs. Baker's classroom during the 1967 school year while his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, learns much of value about the world in which he lives from the study of the plays of William Shakespeare. (Publisher)



Stead, Rebecca

Liar & Spy

Seventh-grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. His assignment...tracking the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: How far is too far to go for your only friend? (Publisher)

HISTORICAL FICTION



Kelly, Jacqueline

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery. (Publisher)



Levine, Kristen

The Lions of Little Rock

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism. (Publisher)



Hopkinson, Deborah

The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel

Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spread through water, and not poisonous air, when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood in 1854. (Publisher)



Avi

City of Orphans

In 1893 New York, thirteen-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works. (Publisher)



Blackwood, Gary L.

Curiosity

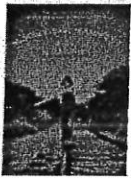
In 1835, when his father's put in a Philadelphia debtor's prison, 12-year-old chess prodigy Rufus Goodspeed is relieved to be recruited to secretly operate a chess-playing automaton named The Turk, but soon questions the fate of his predecessors and his own safety. (Publisher)



Timberlake, Amy

One Came Home

In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha, presumed dead when remains are found wearing the dress she was last seen in, and before the end of the year gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters. (Publisher)



Vanderpool, Clare
Moon Over Manifest

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past. (Publisher)



Gantos, Jack
Dead End in Norvelt

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses. (Publisher)

ADVENTURE / SCIENCE FICTION / MYSTERY



Child, Lauren
Ruby Redfort Look into My Eyes

Ruby Redfort is a genius code-cracker, a daring detective, and a gadget-laden special agent who just happens to be a 13-year-old girl. She and her slick side-kick butler, Hitch, foil crimes and get into loads of scrapes with evil villains, but they're always ice-cool in a crisis. (Publisher)



Chainani, Soman
The School for Good and Evil

Best friends Sophie and Agatha discover what it is to be a student at the fabled School for Good and Evil where ordinary boys and girls are trained to be fairy tale heroes and villains. When the two girls are swept into the Endless Woods they find their destinies reversed. (Publisher)



Cody, Matthew
Powerless

Daniel Corrigan and his parents have just moved to Noble's Green, Pennsylvania, when Daniel (who's a big fan of Sherlock Holmes and therefore a careful observer) notices something odd about his neighbor Mollie and her friends. While they may look like ordinary kids, all of them have super-human abilities that they use to keep the town safe. (Publisher)



Columbus, Chris
House of Secrets

Cordelia, Brendan, and Eleanor Walker, aged fifteen to eight, must rely on a mysterious book to face the Wind Witch and her father, the Storm King, who have kidnapped Dr. and Mrs. Walker and brought them to a strange world of magic. (Publisher)



Gaiman, Neil

The Graveyard Book

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard. The threat of the evasive Jack hunting for Nobody adds to the suspense of the story. (Publisher)



Riordan, Rick

The Heroes of Olympus: The Lost Hero - Book 1 (Any book in the series)

Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. (Publisher)

GRAPHIC NOVEL



Kibuishi, Kazu

Amulet: The Stonekeeper's Curse

After the tragic death of their father, Emily and Navin move with their mother to the home of her deceased great-grandfather, but the strange house proves to be dangerous. Before long, a sinister creature lures the kids' mom through a door in the basement. Em and Navin, desperate not to lose her, follow her into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals. Eventually, they enlist the help of a small mechanical rabbit named Miskit. Together with Miskit, they face the most terrifying monster of all, and Em finally has the chance to save someone she loves. (Publisher)



Brown, Don

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans

Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Property damage topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage—and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. The kinetic art and as-it-happens narrative capture both the tragedy and triumph of one of the worst natural disasters in American history. (Publisher)



Gownley, Jimmy

The Dumbest Idea Ever!

What if the dumbest idea ever turned your life upside down? Jimmy was popular, at the top of his class, and the leading scorer on his basketball team. But all that changed when chicken pox forced him to miss the championship game. Things got worse when he got pneumonia and missed even more school. Before Jimmy knew it, his grades were sinking and nothing seemed to be going right. How did Jimmy turn things around, get back on top at school, and land a date with the cutest girl in class? (Publisher)

NONFICTION



Morgan, Alex

Breakaway

As a talented and successful female athlete, Alex Morgan is a role model to thousands of girls who want to be their best, not just in soccer, but in other sports and in life. The story of her path to success, from playing in the 2011 Women's World Cup, to winning gold in the 2012 London Olympics, to ranking as one of the National Team's top scorers, will inspire everyone who reads it. (Publisher)



Bryant, Howard

Legends: The Best Players, Games, and Teams in Baseball (or football version)

This is no traditional almanac of mundane statistics, but rather a storyteller's journey through baseball's storied game. Told in fun, accessible chapters and accompanied by iconic photos, a slew of Top Ten lists for kids to chew on and debate, and a Timeline of the 40 Most Important Moments in Baseball History. This is the perfect book for young fans eager to learn more about the sport that will stay with them for a lifetime. (Publisher)



Evans, Bill

It's Raining Fish & Spiders

Bill Evans (ABC New Weatherman) discusses all things weather for younger readers, addressing myths and facts about weather, and covering such topics as tornadoes, hurricanes, lightning, different kinds of snowflakes, and more. Includes instructions for simple weather experiments. (Publisher)



Fleming, Candace

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart

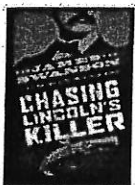
In alternating chapters, Fleming deftly moves readers back and forth between Amelia's life (from childhood up until her last flight) and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself—plus informative sidebars tackling everything from the history of flight to what Amelia liked to eat while flying (tomato soup). (Publisher)



Schanzer, Rosalyn

Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem

The riveting, true story of the victims, accused witches, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt that took over a dozen people's lives and ruined hundreds more unfolds in chilling detail. (Publisher)



Swanson, James

Chasing Lincoln's Killer

This fast-paced thriller recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him. (Publisher)

CLASSICS



Stevenson, Robert Lewis

Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson's high-seas adventure tale of an orphaned boy, a mysterious map, a devilish island, buried treasure, and the peg-legged, parrot-toting, cut-throat of a pirate who befriends him, Long John Silver.



Verne, Jules

Journey to the Center of the Earth

German professor Otto Lidenbrock who believes there are volcanic tubes going toward the center of the Earth. He, his nephew Axel, and their guide Hans descend into the Icelandic volcano Snæfellsjökull, encountering many adventures, including prehistoric animals and natural hazards, before eventually coming to the surface again in southern Italy, at the Stromboli volcano.



Johann David Wyss

The Swiss Family Robinson

Following a wild and raging storm, the Robinson family is stranded at sea. But the thundering waves have swept them off to a tropical island, where a new life awaits them. Their ship is laden with supplies and the island is packed with treasures, so they soon adapt and discover new dangers and delights every day.