

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Congratulations on your completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade! We are excited for next fall as you prepare to graduate from YEMS! In order to start the year off on the right foot, we ask that all upcoming students complete both the reading and writing tasks listed below. The reading assignment will wrap into our reading work during the year

### **READING ASSIGNMENT:**

Choose **2 of the following books**, to read and jot about.

For the entries:

- Write **4 entries** about the characters using all you know about character analysis from 7th grade. You can discuss the development of complex traits, the impact of relationships and setting. **Be sure to use evidence from the novel to support your ideas. Each entry should be about 1 page long--You can find some examples on the last pages of this packet.**
- Write **1 entry** at the end of the book about why you think people should read this book. Discuss how it impacted your thinking, if it changed your viewpoint or confirmed a viewpoint you already had. **This should also be 1 page long.**

### **WRITING ASSIGNMENT:**

**Write a letter to your 8th grade teachers in which you:**

- Describe how you've changed since the beginning of 7th grade. Give specific examples/describe specific events that highlight these changes.
- Share how recent events in our country and world have impacted you and your learning (quarantine, protests, etc.)
- Describe your personal goals and hopes for 8th grade and explain why they are important to you.

**\*\*All assignments are due on the first day of school!**

A Note to Families about selecting reading materials: The books in the book list vary in maturity level of content. If you have concerns about content with your child, please use sites like commonsensemedia.org to look up what kind of content the books may contain. Help your child select a book that will be appropriate for them in reading and maturity level. I have marked books with intense content with Trigger Warnings (TW) that will allow students to avoid books that may be upsetting reads for students experiencing trauma. Additionally, many of these books may bring up complex thoughts and feelings for students about current events and American history. Though we will be talking about this in ELA when we return to school, we encourage you to begin the conversation at home with your child as they read. Thank you for your support!

# Fiction Reading Book Choices

Listed by theme in order of reading level--be thoughtful about your choice and choose something at your level.

Descriptions and Reviews are linked!

## Love

[\*\*Love from A to Z by S.K. Ali\*\*](#) - On her way to Qatar to stay with family after being suspended, Zayneb meets another Muslim named Adam, who has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, as they discover what a large role they will play in each other's lives.

[\*\*I Wanna Be Where You Are by Kristina Forest\*\*](#) - Chloe is forced to drive cross country with Eli when he threatens to reveal her secret plan to go to a dance audition to her mother

[\*\*The Sun is Also A Star by Nicola Yoon\*\*](#) - Natasha and Daniel, total opposites, meet and are willing to risk everything to be together.

[\*\*The Lines We Cross by Randa Abdel-Fattah\*\*](#) - Michael and Mina fall in love across the protest lines in Australia over Muslim immigration. Will their love tear down barriers?

[\*\*The Stars and the Blackness Between Them by Junauda Petrus\*\*](#) - Audre and Mabel have been raised in different countries, but through their love, they can weather the storm of pressure against their sexuality.

## Immigration

[\*\*Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga\*\*](#) - After violence in her home of Syria, Jude and her mother move to America, which is much different than what she's seen in movies.

[\*\*American Street by Ibi Zoboi\*\*](#) - Fabiola arrives in America from Haiti, but must navigate immigration to get her mother free from detainment.

[\*\*Parachutes by Kelly Yang\*\*](#) - Dani De La Cruz's trajectory to earn her way to Yale against her wealthy classmates is disrupted when her mother rents a room to Claire Wang, a wealthy Chinese exchange student from Shanghai who seems to have all the freedom in the world. (TW: sexual assault)

## Fitting In

[\*\*Black Boy, White School by Brian F. Walker\*\*](#) - When Anthony "Ant" Jones arrives at his new, all-White prep school, he struggles to fit in as the only Black student, but also feels like he doesn't fit in at home anymore either.

[\*\*Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson\*\*](#) - Six students find solace in ARTT (a room to talk), the weekly chat they put together to help each other through their struggles (TW: racial profiling)

[\*\*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie\*\*](#) - On the reservation, Junior is a loser with one tough friend, a love of drawing, and a great sense of humor, but when he leaves the reservation to an all-white school in a neighboring farm town, he has to wonder whether they just see him as an Indian mascot.

[\*\*The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake\*\*](#) - Maleeka struggles with loving her skin, but is inspired by Miss Saunders to be tough and stand up to tough-talking Charlese.

[\*\*Who Put This Song on? by Morgan Parker\*\*](#) - Morgan struggles with fitting in and depression, until she finds a group of other outcasts with a love of music like her own.

[\*\*American Born Chinese by Gene Yuen Lang\*\*](#) - Three stories of characters trying to fit in come together in a funny, powerful modern fable.

## Identity

[Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper](#) - Melody has cerebral palsy, but she refuses to let that define her, but she must find a way in a world where most people besides her can walk and talk

[Watch Us Rise by Renée Watson and Ellen Hagan](#) - Jasmine and Chelsea come together to form a Women's Rights club in their NYC high school, but despite positive support, they also have to deal with online trolls. (TW: microaggressions)

[The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo](#) - Xiomara Batista wants to join her school's slam poetry club, but is afraid her conservative, religious mother will find out.

[With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo](#) - Emoni Santiago has to support her daughter and her grandmother while she goes to high school, but she also loves to cook. Can she balance all of her responsibilities with her passion for cooking?

[Ghost by Jason Reynolds](#) - Castle "Ghost" Cranshaw discovers he has a talent for running, but can he outrun his past and his anger?

[Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds](#) - Ten stories about the lives people live walking home from school come together when a bus falls from the sky .

[Felix Ever After by Kacen Callendar](#) - Felix worries that as a black, queer, transgender student, he is destined to be alone forever, but his experience with a transphobic classmate's messages help him work to fall in love with himself.

[When You Ask Me Where I'm Going by Jasmine Kaur](#) - Six sections explore the challenges of being a woman in a world that doesn't hear her, while telling the story of Kiran and her daughter, Sahaara, as they flee their traumatic life to America, undocumented (TW: sexual assault)

## Race and Racism

[Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson](#) - Jade is taking every opportunity available to her to use her education to get her out of her neighborhood, but when she gets selected for a mentorship program, she realizes that she has a lot to teach these successful women about the real world and making a difference in the world

[Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes](#) - When 12-year old Jerome is shot by a police officer, he becomes a ghost, and led by the ghost of Emmett Till he watches the impact of these events on his family and community (TW: police brutality)

[One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia](#) - In the summer of 1968, Delphine and her sisters go to visit their estranged mother, but end up attending a Black Panther summer camp

[I'm Not Dying with You Tonight by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal](#) - When two girls, one Black, one White, have to find their way home together as their town erupts in violence over a police shooting, they must navigate their own biases and blindspots as they search for safety (TW: violence, rioting, police brutality)

[Slay by Brittney Morris](#) - Kiera Johnson is caught in an uncomfortable secret, when the video game no one knows she developed for Black kids leads to a dispute that ends in murder (TW: violence, death)

[The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas](#) - Starr Carter moves seamlessly between the worlds of her poor neighborhood and her fancy suburban private school, but that separation is shattered when she witnesses the police shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil (TW: police brutality)

[On the Come Up by Angie Thomas](#) - Bri is an aspiring rapper and the daughter of a legendary hip hop artist who was killed in front of her, but her rapping success is complicated when she becomes the center of a media controversy that is making her out to be someone she's not (TW: police brutality, violence, death)

[Dear Martin by Nic Stone](#) - Justyce McAllister is Ivy League-bound, but all his achievements don't matter when he and his friend Manny anger an off-duty cop and shots are fired (TW: police brutality)

[All-American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely](#) - When Rashad, a Black boy, is beaten by a neighborhood cop under the accusation of stealing, Quinn, a White classmate and friend of the cop's brother, must decide whether to tell what he witnessed that day (TW: police brutality)

[Tyler Johnson was Here by Jay Coles](#) - Marvin Johnson must learn what freedom and justice mean when his twin brother Tyler is fatally shot by police at a party (TW: police brutality)

## **Family**

[\*\*Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson\*\*](#) - When Claudia's best friend Monday goes missing, she feels she is the only one trying to get her back, but it is clear Monday's family will be of no help

[\*\*Blended by Sharon Draper\*\*](#) - Torn between her life with her Black father in a fancy home and her White mother in a much less fancy home, Isabella feels torn between two worlds and two parts of herself by her parents' divorce

[\*\*Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo\*\*](#) - Camino Rios in the Dominican Republic and Yahaira Rios in NYC, suddenly find out about each other's existence when their father dies in a plane crash (TW: death)

[\*\*The Girl Who Fell to Earth by Sophia Al-Maria\*\*](#) - When Sophia Al-Maria's mother sends her to stay with her husband's family in a Bedouin Camp in Qatar, she is supposed to have a cultural awakening, but she find new freedom in the most unlikely place

## **Fantasy/Future**

[\*\*The Belles by Dhonielle Clayton\*\*](#) - Camellia Beauregard is a Belle, one of the citizens in Orléans who controls beauty, a most coveted quality, but Camellia wants to be the most favored, and for that she will have to risk her life

[\*\*Pet by Akwaeke Emezi\*\*](#) - Jam has always been told monsters don't exist, but when she meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood, she must reconsider what she's been told.

[\*\*Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi\*\*](#) - Zélie has a chance to bring magic back to the kingdom of Orïsha and strike back against the monarchy that took magic away and took her mother, but she will have to take help from an unlikely source

[\*\*A Song Below Water by Bethany C. Morrow\*\*](#) - Tavia is a siren, but must keep her identity secret to avoid persecution, but her and her best friend Effie's world is shaken when a siren murder trial rocks the nation

[\*\*Shadowshaper by Daniel José Older\*\*](#) - Sierra Santiago discovers a supernatural order called the Shadowshapers, who connect with spirits via paintings, music, and stories.

Sample Reading Log #1:

P. 199

Jots

Daiyu knows that Jason's infection is contagious but that doesn't stop her from helping him & looking after him just like a nurse.

"I know you had no family in Taipei; I wanted to make sure you were okay." & also "Daiyu was sitting at the dining table, with glass of beer on her face."

↳ glass of beer on her face

The love that holds them both together is just so strong that even Jason can't live w/out Daiyu & it's the same with Daiyu



P. 198

Jason wants to know that does Daiyu really care for her or is she just wanting to find out something about him, but Daiyu said she wanted to help him.

Jason: "It's foolish to risk getting sick." "We barely met." Daiyu: "I know you better than you know that stranger you tried to save in liberty square."

Leah Krom

All The Light We Cannot See:

2/27/20

VON RUMPEL

WERNER:

von Rumpel only thought of self-preservation at this point. ally to the future. However over time, von Rumpel became obsessed with the sea of flames because he thought it could aid to his own protection against the war and lengthen his life despite the tumors. He no longer cared about anything but saving himself by finding and using the stone. He felt that immortality was the greatest thing he could achieve which demonstrated greed and ignorance.

Previously, von Rumpel cared about the war and wished to be fit Germany with utmost loyalty. However, he became grounded because he thought it could aid to his own protection against the war and lengthen his life despite the tumors. He no longer cared about anything but saving himself by finding and using the stone. He felt that immortality was the greatest thing he could achieve which demonstrated greed and ignorance.

Etienne didn't truly think about himself or his state much; he cared more about rebellion and protecting Marie-Laure and her future. Etienne cared for Marie-Laure more than anything anyone else in the world and he knew that the war would most likely take him from her so he wanted to help her rebellion and as much as possible keeping Marie-Laure safe because those two things were his main and only purpose.

Werner was beginning to think about all his regrets in terms of leaving home and his sister and everything he knew. To keep himself grounded he kept his mind on Etienne because Etienne's brother used to broadcast when Werner was a child so this made him nostalgic. He often felt conflicted because by not turning Etienne in, he was breaking the law. How ever in reality, combining nostalgia and Etienne's broadcast lead to his main thoughts which were his conflicts about war.

MARIE-LAURE

Marie-Laure thought about her family very often and her determination to be loyal to anyone she cared for never ceased. Based on her loyalty, Marie-Laure focused on not letting anyone take the stone because she knew it had been one of her father's wishes. Marie-Laure was focused on protecting it. She discovered the stone she focused on protecting it.

pages 91-140

Leah Voron

# Again, But Better:

3/25/20

## Different Places And Their Effects On Share And Her Mentality:

America: America negatively affected Share's mentality because America correlated to Share's family and they do not provide understanding and support for her life. Share was lonely and completely isolated from others because she was introverted to a point of having no one. Share left America for a reason and America held a disappointing reputation because her family wasn't accepting and it was disappointing to know that her dreams and humanity did not matter to them. "When I scrolled down to creative writing and added it as my major, Dad jolted behind me. ..." - page 55.

London: London represented new beginnings to Share because she was getting a chance to study a topic she truly wanted, learn to form connections with people, and adapt to change more easily. London was the first place she truly called home besides America with her family and this meant that London became her way to get a chance to redo her college experience and become who she's meant to be. London impacted her mentality in a positive way because of all the parts of herself she was finding and the positive growth she was having as a person.

Paris: Paris symbolizes romance on its own and for her its symbolism remained the same. She almost kissed Pilot there and she got to see some of the places she'd been dreaming of for years. In a way Paris represented new achievements because seeing the Eiffel Tower was a milestone for her that she'd been hoping for. Paris beautified Share's way of thinking because it gave her a refreshing sense of excitement and adventure because not only was she far from her family, but she was beginning to live her own life with her own conditions.

Italy/Rome: Rome gave Share a sense of success that caused her mentality to be more positive because her family did not provide her with a sense of accomplishment so being able to see the Pope and landmarks that inspired her caused her hope and confidence to blossom. Rome introduced her to travelling more often and helped her break out of her shell to interact more with things and people outside her comfort zone. Her connection with Share also blossomed because of all the time she spent with her friends getting to know them and learning to let them in too.

Sample Reading Log #4:

November  
Linaiya  
801

English

Goal:

> Jot about why characters end up "sinning."

**MATT** - Sloth

- His parents are always fighting
- he only gets involved when they disturb his younger brother
- He's liked Olivia for years.
- He doesn't give hints, or tell her, he just treats her badly and gets mad when she sleeps with other guys.

November  
Linaiya  
801

English

Jots -

	Quote:	Analysis:
Claire:	"The solitude doesn't feel good but what does is having told them how I feel. Having laid my insecurities bare for once."	This means that she always keeps her emotions in that's why it was bottled into jealousy and paranoia. She thought it'd make things better.
Juniper	"'I know,' Juni says. 'I thought I might...' 'Knock her back to her senses? Me too."	This shows that after Juniper's alcohol incident Olivia and Juniper thought Claire would put her feelings aside, but she stood her ground.
Olly & Juni	"'It sucks because she would want to know.' 'Seven people know and it'd have to stay that way. She'd understand!'"	Even after Claire told them how she felt they still made big decisions and left her out of them.