Middle School Humanities
Summer Reading 2019
English 8

ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE

Summer reading is an opportunity for you to relax and enjoy yourself. When you get to pick your books, you are more likely to spend more time reading, not because you have to, but because you want to read. **You must read two books from the mandatory list** below. These books revolve around the theme of social issues. In addition, you are required to select and print one current news article on similar social issues that were found within your two books. Your article must come from the publications listed below. **You only need to find and print one article.** Upon returning to school, your teacher will determine which of your books you will prepare a book talk for. However, you may, and I encourage you to read more than two books this summer. Feel free to pick another book from the list below or choose other novels that interest you. Just keep in mind that you are required to read two books from the list below, select a news article from the sources provided, and prepare for a book talk once you return to school.

"There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a good book."

--Marcel Proust

- You are required to read a **minimum of 2 books from the mandatory reading list along with reading and printing out a news article on similar social issues found within your two books.** Remember, I am encouraging you to read more!
- Social Issue: is a problem that influences a considerable number of individuals within a society. (Educational equity, Immigration and Refugees, Racial Equality, etc)
- You will conduct a book talk on one of the books from the mandatory reading list when you return to school. I will select which book you will "talk" about and you will prepare for the talk during class.
- Book talks will be conducted during the first few weeks of school.
- Below are guidelines for you to follow as you prepare for your book talk.

Book Talk Guidelines:

- 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 the book.
- Prepare what you are going to say. You don't need to memorize, but you need to know the points you are going to make. Practice until you are comfortable with your material.
- Topics to focus on:

◦ The themes of the book
◦ The social issues found within your book
◦ Connections between the novel and news article
◦ Similarities and differences between the novel and article
◦ 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 that 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. It's okay if you did not enjoy the book, someone else may.
◦ If you come across a significant or powerful passage, you may read it aloud. This should be short and leave the listener wanting more.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!
Ms. Ryan

Social Issues Book List

1. **The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie**
2. **Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick**
3. **Uglies by Scott Westerfeld**
4. **See you at Harry's by Jo Knowles**
5. **Lily and Dunkin by Donna Gephart**
6. **Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Chaldenko**
7. **The Chosen by Chaim Potok**
8. **Booked by Kwame Alexander**
9. **Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card**
10. **The Red Scarf Girl by Ji-li Jiang**
11. **Tangerine by Edward Bloor**
12. **Monster by Walter Dean Myers**
13. **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith**
14. **Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates**
15. **The Help by Kathryn Stockett**
16. **All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven**
17. **The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas**
18. **Kindred by Octavia E. Butler**
19. **Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson**
20. **Milkweed by Jerry Spinell**
21. **To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**

News Article Websites
(only one article)

1. **Newsela.com**
2. **Googlenews.com**