

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Summer Reading 2020
(Incoming) 8th Grade

Summer reading affords students the opportunity to enjoy books in a relaxed and leisurely setting. In addition, numerous studies indicate that students who read regularly during their summer vacation are able to maintain their reading levels. To avoid the “summer slide,” students are encouraged to independently read numerous fiction and nonfiction texts. Additionally, all rising 8th graders will be required to complete the summer reading assignment listed below.

*A list of **recommended** books for incoming eighth grade students can be found on the next page.* The novels touch on a variety of themes, genres, and interests. Given this wide assortment, students are encouraged to take the time to select a book that appeals to their particular interests.

****If you are unable to obtain access to any of these titles, you may choose an alternative, grade-level appropriate book. If you are looking for an audiobook or ebook, click [here](#) for a list of websites where you will find a wide assortment of free and low cost titles.**

Assignment

Please choose one selection from the list on page 2 or an alternative title. After reading the book, please answer the questions included on the graphic organizer located on pages 3 and 4 of this packet. Be sure to include details from the text in each of your answers.

Responses should be written in complete sentences. Please bring the completed graphic organizer to your ELA class when you return to school in September (subject to change pending school reopening guidance from the NJ Department of Education). You may use your responses to complete a writing prompt that will be administered during the first week of school. It will receive an individual practice grade.

Summer Booklist - 8th grade

<p><i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> By Mildred Taylor</p>	<p>Cassie London, growing up in a loving family, has never had reason to suspect that anyone would wish her harm. All that changes when her community comes under constant threat from “night riders.”</p>	<p>Historical Fiction</p>
<p><i>Rebound</i> By Kwame Alexander</p>	<p>In this prequel to Newbery Medal winner <i>The Crossover</i>, Chuck Bell takes center stage, as readers get a glimpse of his childhood and how he became the jazz music worshipping, basketball star his sons look up to. Written in verse, <i>Rebound</i> goes back in time to visit the childhood of Chuck "Da Man" Bell during one pivotal summer when young Charlie is sent to stay with his grandparents where he discovers basketball and learns more about his family's past.</p>	<p>Fiction</p>
<p><i>Chains</i> By Laurie Halse Anderson</p>	<p>As the Revolutionary War begins, 13-year-old Isabel is promised freedom upon the death of her owner. However, she and her sister, Ruth, become the property of a malicious New York City couple who have no sympathy for the American Revolution. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.</p>	<p>Historical Fiction</p>
<p><i>Catherine, Called Birdy</i> By Karen Cushman</p>	<p>The year is 1290 and Catherine's father wants to see his rebellious daughter married to a proper, wealthy gentleman, ignoring what Catherine desires. But Catherine is determined to outsmart her father and goes to great lengths, drooling in her food over dinner and coloring her teeth black, to disgust her suitors. Everything seems to be going well until the oldest, ugliest, and richest suitor comes to town.</p>	<p>Historical Fiction / Diary</p>
<p><i>QB1</i> By Mike Lupica</p>	<p>Jake Cullen is a freshman quarterback playing high school football in the high-pressure land of Friday Night Lights (Texas). He is also the brother of Wyatt Cullen, who quarterbacked his team to the Texas State Championship last season, and the son of former NFL quarterback and local legend, Troy Cullen. To be a Cullen in Texas is to be royalty ... all of which leaves 14-year-old Jake in a Texas-sized shadow.</p>	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>
<p><i>Maze Runner (or any book in the series)</i> By James Dashner</p>	<p>Thomas awakens alone and confused in an elevator. He can't remember how he got there. He doesn't know anything about himself...except his name. When he gets out of the elevator, he finds other boys, 60 of them. all are trapped in the Glade, a small patch of land surrounded on all sides by a brick wall. Why are they here? And will they ever figure out how to navigate the maze that keeps them locked inside the Glade?</p>	<p>Fantasy</p>
<p><i>Chinese Cinderella</i> By Adeline Yen Mah</p>	<p>Adeline Yen Mah tells the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled.</p>	<p>Memoir</p>
<p><i>Gathering Blue (sequel to The Giver)</i> By Lois Lowry</p>	<p>Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg, lives in a world where the weak are cast aside. She fears for her future but her skill at embroidery saves her. Soon Kira realizes she's surrounded by many mysteries and secrets. And no one must know of her plans to uncover the truth about her world and see what places exist beyond.</p>	<p>Fantasy</p>

HTSD 8th Grade Summer Assignment - 2020

Name: _____ *Please be sure to write in complete sentences.*

What is the title of the book and who is the author? (Underline or *italicize* the name of the book.)

Describe the story's exposition. (Include background information on characters, setting, and early plot details, etc.)

Describe the main character's personality. Include at least three adjectives with supporting text evidence for each.

Adjective 1: _____

Text Evidence:

Adjective 2: _____

Text Evidence:

Adjective 3: _____

Text Evidence:

Name one other character and describe his or her role in the story.

Discuss the novel's point of view. Who is the narrator? Is this the best person to tell the story? Why or why not?

Describe three main events in the story. Why were each of these events important?

1.

2.

3.

Find and identify three examples of figurative language (simile, metaphor, idiom, hyperbole, etc.).

A.

B.

C.

Explain the author's message (theme) or the lesson you learned from reading this story.

