

Tewksbury Public Schools

John W. Wynn Middle School

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"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island...and best of all, you can enjoy these riches every day of your life." – Walt Disney

June, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Attached please find the Wynn Middle School **eighth grade** summer reading list and nonfiction reading journal assignment. Teachers expect each student to read a minimum of **one** book over the summer. The list is comprised of nonfiction books that are appropriate for your child's age and grade level. Please contact your child's English teacher or guidance counselor before June 14 if you believe he or she will need to be directed to an accommodated version or alternate book. Books should be available at the town library as well as local bookstores.

The nonfiction reading journals will be due upon return to school in late August. The final date for passing in reports will be **Tuesday, September 3, 2019**. The assignment your child completes will be used in class as a tool to learn how to develop his or her responses to literature and counted toward their first term grade.

The ability to read is crucial to an individual's success in school and on the job. Reading is a life-long skill that opens doors and experiences to children. The English Department recommends you help your child discover books of interest, as avid readers make skilled writers and critical thinkers. We would like to say thank you in advance for your support of this program. Remember, **one** book by **September 3rd**. Your child's teachers look forward to discussing the adventures experienced through reading upon return to school. Enjoy your summer!

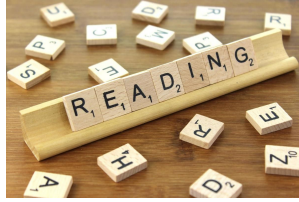
Sincerely,

John Weir
Wynn Middle School Principal

Teachers of the English Language Arts Department

8th Grade Summer Nonfiction Reading Options

Please choose from one of the following books:



***Irena's Children*, by Tilar Mazzeo**

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Widow Clicquot* comes an extraordinary and gripping account of Irena Sendler – the “female Oskar Schindler” – who took staggering risks to save 2,500 children from death and deportation in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.

***She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall*, by Misty Bernall**

In this memoir about Cassie Bernall, a victim of the Columbine High School shooting, her mother tells the story of the problems her daughter struggled with as a teenager and how she turned her life around prior to the tragedy.

***Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter*, by Adeline Yen Mah**

After her mother died giving birth to her, Adeline was rejected by her siblings, her father, and her stepmother. She finds escape through a play-writing contest and education at an English university.

***Into Thin Air*, by Jon Krakauer**

A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more--including Krakauer's--in guilt-ridden disarray, provides the inspiration for Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

***Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*, by Susan Kuklin**

Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young adults and used her considerable skills to represent them thoughtfully and respectfully before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference. Each honest discussion and disclosure, whether joyful or heartbreaking, is completely different from the other because of family dynamics, living situations, gender, and the transition these teens make in recognition of their true selves.

***Throw Like a Girl*, by Jennie Finch**

The evidence is overwhelming: sports help girls grow into strong women. Jennie Finch fills the role of girlfriend, big sister, team captain, and mentor. A smart, credible, and accomplished voice from an athlete who is strong and feminine. Jennie's message to readers: “Believe in yourself. Go for it, girls.”

Part I: Summer Reading Paragraph Response

Each of these books focuses on an individual who overcomes a challenging circumstance. Please answer the following questions related to this theme in paragraph form. Be sure to include all of the essential elements of a well-developed paragraph: topic sentence, supporting details, evidence from the text in the form of a quote, explanation of evidence, and concluding statement.

Please complete the following on either lined paper or a Google Doc.

1. Describe the individual's challenging circumstance and explain how this character overcomes this challenge. How does the character grow as a result of overcoming this challenge?

2. In what ways can you relate to this individual or the circumstances that individual overcomes? Use specific examples and events from the novel in your response.

Part II: Summer Reading Dialectical Journal



Directions: Each student should keep a journal of important quotations from their summer reading novel. Look for passages that seem significant, powerful, thought-provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- ★ Effective &/or creative use of literary devices
- ★ Passages which illustrate characterization
- ★ Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before
- ★ Suspenseful events or turning points in the plot
- ★ A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- ★ Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, or symbols
- ★ Events you find surprising or confusing
- ★ Excerpts related to the theme, or lesson, the text is trying to teach the audience

Quote from the Text	Pg. #	Significance: Why is this quotation meaningful?
1.		
2.		

Quote from the Text	Pg. #	Significance: Why is this quotation meaningful?
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

Quote from the Text	Pg. #	Significance: Why is this quotation meaningful?
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		

Quote from the Text	Pg. #	Significance: Why is this quotation meaningful?
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

Quote from the Text	Pg. #	Significance: Why is this quotation meaningful?
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		