

June 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Attached please find the Wynn Middle School summer reading list and link to the accompanying assignment. Teachers expect each student to read a minimum of **one** book over the summer. The list is comprised of fiction and nonfiction books that are appropriate for varying grade and ability levels. Links to online resources have been provided for several book options due to the limited access to libraries and bookstores during this time.

The reading assignments will be due upon return to school in late August. The final date for passing in reports will be **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**. 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 8th**. Your child's English teacher looks 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

[Click here to access your assignment. You will be prompted to make a copy to complete.](#)

Wynn Middle School Summer Reading Book Choices

Nonfiction

***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson**

Brown Girl Dreaming is a memoir written about Woodson's own experiences: It tells the story of my childhood, in verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, I always felt halfway home in each place. In these poems, I share what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and my growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. It also reflects the joy of finding my voice through writing stories, despite the fact that I struggled with reading as a child.

***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 playwriting 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 an epic account of the 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."

Historical Fiction

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul

Elijah, a boy who lives in a settlement for freed slaves on the Canadian border, sets out on a journey to find a thief.

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook helps her mother run a coffee shop in Philadelphia, the nation's capital in 1793. Her life is changed by the outbreak of yellow fever that devastates the city.

Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen

Samuel Smith lives in Pennsylvania in 1776. He knows little about the war until his parents are taken prisoner by British soldiers. He embarks on a journey to free them that takes him all the way to British headquarters.

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

This historical fiction novel tells the story of Isabel, a young girl living as a slave in New York during the Revolutionary War. Her quest to gain freedom leads her to become a spy for the Patriots.

Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two by Joseph Bruchac

The Navajo code talkers sent messages using their native language to create an unbreakable code during the war with Japan. This novel tells the story of one Navajo boy's inspiring journey as he overcomes many obstacles and saves many American lives in the process.

The Silent Boy, by Lois Lowry

Precocious Katy Thatcher comes to realize what a gentle, silent boy did for his family. He meant to help, not harm. It didn't turn out that way.

Realistic Fiction

***New Kid*, by Jerry Craft**

Seventh-grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

***The Summer I Wasn't Me* By Jessica Verdi**

Lexi has a secret. She never meant for her mom to find out. And now she's afraid that what's left of her family is going to fall apart for good. Lexi knows she can fix everything. She can change. She can learn to like boys. New Horizons summer camp has promised to transform her life, and there's nothing she wants more than to start over. But sometimes love has its own path...

***The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall**

One kid. One crime. One chance to make things right. The story of how a random act of violence brings together an angry, thirteen year old boy and a reclusive "Junk Man" in his neighborhood. When the teenager is sentenced to work for the man he injured, he begins to unravel the Junk Man's surprising secrets. Readers will be uplifted by this powerful tale of friendship, loss, art, and redemption. Can art transform lives? Find out.

***Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine**

In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, but as an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's, she doesn't know how. In her search for closure, Caitlin discovers that not everything is black and white – the world is full of colors – messy and beautiful.

***Dear Martin* By Nic Stone**

Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League – but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up – way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.

***What Lane?* by Torrey Maldonado**

When Stephen's friends dare each other to sneak into an abandoned building, he doesn't think it's his lane, but he goes. Here's the thing, though: Can he do everything his friends can? Lately, he's not so sure. As a mixed kid, he feels like he's living in two worlds with different rules--and he's been noticing that strangers treat him differently than his white friends... So what'll he do?

Science Fiction and Fantasy

The Fellowship of the Ring, by J.R.R. Tolkien

In ancient times the Rings of Power were crafted by the Elven-smiths, and Sauron, the Dark Lord, forged the One Ring, filling it with his own power so that he could rule all others. But the One Ring was taken from him, and though he sought it throughout Middle-earth, it remained lost to him. After many ages it fell into the hands of Bilbo Baggins, as told in *The Hobbit*. In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as his elderly cousin Bilbo entrusts the Ring to his care. Frodo must leave his home and make a perilous journey across Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom, there to destroy the Ring and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.

Children of Blood and Bone, by Tomi Adeyemi

They killed my mother.

They took our magic.

They tried to bury us.

Now we rise.

Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orïsha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls.

But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope.

Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good.

Danger lurks in Orïsha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for an enemy.

***In addition to the above texts, seventh graders may also choose from the following books:**

The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins

The nation of Panem, formed from a post-apocalyptic North America, is a country that consists of a wealthy Capitol region surrounded by 12 poorer districts. Early in its history, a rebellion led by a 13th district against the Capitol resulted in its destruction and the creation of an annual televised event known as the Hunger Games. In punishment, and as a reminder of the power and grace of the Capitol, each district must yield one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18 through a lottery system to participate in the games. The 'tributes' are chosen during the annual Reaping and are forced to fight to the death, leaving only one survivor to claim victory.

When 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, is selected as District 12's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She and her male counterpart Peeta, are pitted against bigger, stronger representatives, some of whom have trained for this their whole lives. , she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature.

***Divergent*, by Veronica Roth**

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue--Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is--she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.

***The Maze Runner*, by James Dashner**

If you ain't scared, you ain't human.

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers – boys whose memories are also gone.

Nice to meet ya, shank. Welcome to the Glade.

Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out – and no one's ever made it through alive.

Everything is going to change.

Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying.

Remember. Survive. Run.

[Please Complete the Following Activities on the Attached Document](#)