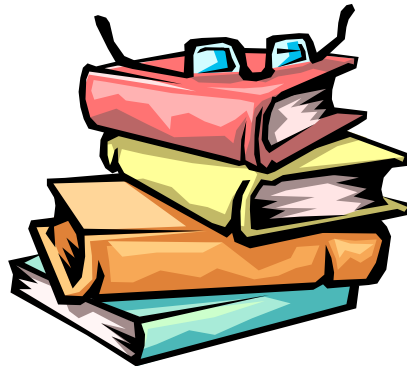


Parsippany-Troy Hills
Township Schools



2016

Middle School
Summer Reading and
Assignment Program

Introduction to Summer Assignments

Grades 6-8

The titles on the following pages have been selected as required summer assignments in the designated courses. The selections were made based on the curriculum for these courses. Some reading assignments present mature subject matter and have been so identified in the annotation. Parents are encouraged to read these selections along with their child or prior to their child's reading the book. Parents who have any questions or concerns about summer assignments should contact one of the administrators listed below.

For reading assignments, students may choose to borrow the books at the public library or to purchase the books for themselves. If students are unable to locate the required books, they should call the principal who will assist them in acquiring them.

When students return to school in September, they will be asked to participate in activities based on the summer reading. One of the most important goals of the summer assignment program is to engage students in activities that will prepare them for upcoming curriculum in the new school year. To this end, students should complete the assignments carefully and reflect on what they are doing so that they are well positioned to reap the most benefit from their educational program.

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Grade 6

Advanced Language Arts 6

**Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Pictures of Hollis Woods*. Random House, Dell Yearling, 2002.
ISBN# 0-385-32655-6**

This adolescent novel explores the life of a troubled twelve year-old girl, Hollis Woods, who is abandoned at birth. Hollis is placed in many foster homes over the years, and often engages in truant behavior. Throughout the text Hollis longs for a sense of belonging; she expresses her feelings, desires, and observations of the world through her drawings. During many instances in the novel, Hollis reflects on her past experiences with the Regans, a doting foster family that tries to adopt her during the pleasant stay she has with them. The book addresses subjects, such as abandonment, foster care, and aging in a sensitive manner. The summer reading and extension activities integrate exercises that develop students' understanding of the author's use of flashback, foreshadowing, and figurative language.

REGULAR Language Arts 6

**Babbit, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*. Square Fish, 2009.
ISBN# 978-0312369811**

This adolescent novel explores the life a family who drank from a fountain that gave them eternal life. When a young girl, Winnie, discovers their secret, she quickly discovers that living forever might not be as desirable as it seems. The summer reading and extension activities integrate exercises that develop students' understanding of the author's use of foreshadowing and figurative language.



Grade 7

Advanced Language Arts 7

Schlosser, Eric and Charles Wilson. *Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2007.

ISBN #978-0618593941

What is in those chicken nuggets? This book is filled with interesting stories about what is in your fast food and what it might be doing to your bodies. Exploring the ingredients, the authors argue that this food can not only be dangerous to young people, but certain companies target young people through advertising. Authors also speak to the impulsivity of eating fast food, and give suggestions on what you can do to make healthier choices. As the title indicates, this reading will surprise you, make you think, and hopefully inspire you to “chew” on this important American Controversy.

REGULAR Language Arts 7

Palacio, R.J. *Wonder*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2012.

ISBN #978-0375869020

This novel will have you choosing kindness and liking it. August is a multi-faceted character, whom we can all relate to in some way. “Auggie” was born with a craniofacial deformity and despite his twenty-seven surgeries, still looks different from everyone else. His relationships with his family members, friends, and “enemies” are all explored through multiple narrators in this book. Home-Schooled for his entire elementary school life, Auggie enters a real school for the first time. This book shares the pain and joy of a young man in a unique situation.

Grade 7

Social Studies

Introduction To American Studies – Advanced

Central Middle School and Brooklawn Middle School

Paulsen, Gary. *Sarny*. Delacourt Press, 1997.

ISBN# 0-385-32195-3

Sarny tells the fictional story of the narrator's life, a woman who began her life as a slave and lived well into her 90's into the 20th century. The story continues to follow the life of her character as introduced in the book *Nightjohn*, written by the same author. Her story begins with her life as a slave during the Civil War, and follows her experiences during Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era. It addresses the issues she had to face as she lived her life, married, raised her children, and struggled against prejudice and discrimination throughout her lifetime. This book helps students make the transition in the curriculum from the Reconstruction Era into the 20th century as it includes topics such as the role of women in American society, Civil War and Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and civil rights.

Grade 8***Language Arts Pre-Honors 8*****Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*. Ballantine, 1953.**

ISBN# 978-0-7432-4722-1

This dystopian novel, which is set in the futuristic 24th century, follows protagonist, Guy Montag, who is a fireman that burns illegally owned books as well as their possessors' homes as part of his occupation. Even though he initially finds his profession satisfying and pleasurable, he soon questions everything he knows after meeting and formulating a friendship with his seventeen year old insightful neighbor, Clarisse McClellan. As the novel progresses, Montag battles with the purpose of his life, and his own existence. He soon realizes that the satisfaction and happiness that he was missing in life could be found through reading books. As a result of this newfound discovery, he ultimately escapes his censored civilization and becomes an active member of a secretive group of intellectuals, who are so passionate about sustaining the existence of books that they each memorized an entire literary work so that they would someday be able to reconstruct these novels from remembrance. With this group of friends, Montag observes obliteration of his city, from an atomic bomb, and dedicates his life to fostering a society where books and the ability to think in a liberating, uncensored manner, are embraced.

REGULAR Language Arts 8

(LA8 Students will be required to read one of the following titles)

Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*. Harper Tempest, 1999.

ISBN# 0-064-40731-4

Sixteen year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for his participation in a convenience store robbery that results in the owner's death. Using a combination of personal journal entries and a movie screenplay, Meyers conveys Harmon's struggle between his wavering conscience and his role in that night's events. By hearing the sounds of prison life, seeing the evidence presented in the trial, and feeling the fear and confusion in the heart of the teenage boy, the reader becomes a member of the jury. Is Steve Harmon guilty or innocent? This book presents the opportunity for team-building to foster character development.

Grade 8 Cont.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Slam!* Scholastic, 1996.

ISBN# 0-590-48668-3

Greg "Slam" Harris is an ace on the basketball court with dreams of playing in the NBA. The problem Slam has is that he can't seem to figure out how to transfer that level of competence on the court to the other areas of his life including school and relationships. Slam is quick to fly off the handle at his teachers and his coach, jeopardizing his future and his standing on the basketball court. He experiences difficulties in his relationship with his girlfriend Mtisha, and his best friend, Ice, who has gotten himself into trouble. With some advice and guidance from the team's assistant coach, perhaps Slam will become a winner in all areas of his life.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *If You Come Softly.* Penguin, 1998.

ISBN# 0-698-11862-6

Two teenagers bump into each other in their unfamiliar, new high school. Both Ellie and Jeremiah dream about seeing each other again, and by chance, Jeremiah is transferred into one of Ellie's classes. While their love continues to grow, this interracial couple's relationship later faces opposition from family, society, and friends. Will they ever be accepted?

Grade 8***Social Studies Pre-Honors***

**Cushman, Karen. *Catherine, Called Birdy*. Turtleback, 1995.
ISBN# 0-785-76149-7**

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman is a vivid firsthand account of everyday life on a medieval English manor during the 13th century. Through her diary entries, the fourteen-year-old Catherine describes the importance of family, religion, health, entertainment, and marriage during the Middle Ages. As Catherine attempts to avoid a string of unwanted suitors, she presents us with a rich history of European feudalism and all its societal trappings. *Catherine, Called Birdy* provides an in depth look at medieval feudal society and compliments our secondary text and resources. Catherine's commentary constitutes an age appropriate perspective for Middle School students on a plethora of subjects concerning the Middle Ages. The overarching plot of arranged social marriage gives students an accurate depiction of gender roles and inequalities during this time period while the ongoing activities of the English manor house brilliantly showcase the effusiveness of Europe's cultural history.

