

Middle School Summer Reading Assignment (2021-2022)

"Character Development"

How does the protagonist or main character develop or change throughout your novel?"

I. Why do we require summer reading?

This school year has been like no other and the students of Douglas have tried their best in these extraordinary circumstances. We are in "history in the making"! The Douglas Middle School ELA teachers believe that the more a person reads, the better they will become at reading comprehension, inferencing, fluency, accuracy, and overall problem-solving skills. Summer reading encourages students to **maintain skills** learned during the previous year. Through their reading, students will be **observing how authors create characters that develop and change throughout a novel** and **learn lessons** that connect to the novel's overall theme. **Analyzing a character's development** throughout a story will enable students to remember key points of their reading and will **assist them in the writing activity** that will take place at the beginning of the school year. We believe, especially this year, that all students **MUST** be able to **read and write effectively** to prepare for the upcoming school year and to become lifelong learners.

II. Assignment for ALL Middle School Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8

Choose an **appropriate** novel (either from the **Suggested Book List OR one of Your Choice**) that is **within your reading level**, describes a **strong protagonist (main character)**, and is **NEW** to you (**Do not read a book that you have read before**). As you read, pay attention to how the events propel the protagonist to **develop and change** throughout the novel. It is important to note **lessons learned and the overall development** of that person.

*****Incoming 8th graders are required to choose a novel based on History (Fiction or Nonfiction), either from the given list or of your choosing. The *items on the list are considered historical based novels.**

Attached are **two-character development graphic organizers**. You may choose whichever organizer appeals to you. It **must be completed in detail** and will be taken as a grade in your ELA classes. It's important to take your time, be **detailed and thoughtful in your written responses**, and write neatly. Feel free to **TYPE** the **character development information** and attach it to the graphic organizer on return to school in the fall. This organizer will also be **used as a reference for an in-class assignment** within the first month of school.

*****Optional: Please join the "Middle School Summer Reading Google Classroom" with the code for students to see posted instructions and recommended readings to encourage enthusiastic readers this summer.**

Classroom Code: **je6o42z**

A List of "Suggested" Character Development Titles

Fiction	*Nonfiction*
<p><i>Hunger Games (series)</i> <i>Maze Runner (series)</i> <i>Divergent (series)</i> <i>Twilight (series)</i> <i>Hatchet</i> <i>Among the Hidden</i> <i>Call it Courage*</i> <i>Robinson Crusoe*</i> <i>The 5th Wave</i> <i>Fever 1793*</i> <i>The One and Only Ivan</i> <i>City of Ember</i> <i>Ender's Game</i> <i>Where the Red Fern Grows*</i> <i>Old Yeller*</i> <i>The Yearling*</i> <i>Tangerine</i> <i>Out of the Dust*</i> <i>Wringer</i> by Jerry Spinelli <i>Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander <i>El Deafo</i> by Cece Bell <i>Bomb: the Race to Steal the World's Most Dangerous</i> <i>by Steve Sheinkin*</i> <i>If I Stay</i> by Gayle Forman <i>Salt to the Sea</i> by Ruta Sepetys* <i>Rumble Fish</i> by S.E. Hinton <i>That Was Then, This is Now</i> by S.E. Hinton * <i>So Far from the Bamboo Grove*</i> <i>The Bonesetter's Daughter*</i> <i>The Clay Marble*</i> <i>Alone Together</i> by Sarah Donovan <i>Dreams of Gold</i>-Anne O'Neil <i>Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII</i> by Joseph <i>Bruchac*</i> <i>The Breadwinner*</i> <i>The Storm in the Barn</i> <i>Rules</i> <i>A Break with Charity*</i> <i>A Long Way from Chicago*</i> <i>Mockingbird</i> <i>Sixth Grade Secrets</i> <i>Prisoner-B-3087*</i> <i>The Boy Who Dared*</i> <i>Refugee</i> by Alan Graz* <i>Letts from Cuba</i> by Ruth Behar * <i>Lizard's Tale</i> by Weng Wai Chan * <i>Show Me a Sign</i> by Ann Clare LeZotte * <i>Prairie Lotus</i> by Linda Sue Park * <i>Echo Mountain</i> by Lauren Wolk *</p>	<p><i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> <i>A Long Way Gone</i> <i>Unbroken</i> <i>Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow</i> by Susan Campbell <i>Bartoletti--2007 Newbery Honor</i> <i>Lincoln: A Photobiography--Newbery Honor.</i> <i>The Freedom Summer Murders</i> by Don Mitchell <i>Warriors Don't Cry</i> by Melba Beals <i>Rosa Parks: My Story</i> by Rosa Parks <i>Guts</i> by Gary Paulsen <i>Three Cups of Tea</i> by Greg Mortenson <i>Alive</i> by Piers Paul Read <i>Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story</i> by Sandra NEil <i>Wallace Rich Wallace</i> <i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Woodson Jacqueline <i>Hidden Figures:The Untold True Story of Four African Women Who</i> <i>Helped Launch Our Nation into Space</i> by Margot Lee Shetterly <i>We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance</i> <i>Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler</i> by Russell Freedman <i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler:Knud Peterson and the Churchill</i> <i>Club</i> by Philip Hoose <i>Snowflake Bentley</i> by Jacqueline Briggs Martin <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> by Anne Frank <i>Trapped</i> by Marc Aaronson <i>The 57 Bus: A True Story about Two Teenagers and the Crime that</i> <i>Changed their Lives</i> by Dashka Slater <i>I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed</i> <i>the World</i> by Malala Yousafzai <i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i> by James L. Swanson <i>Red Scarf Girl</i> by Ji-Ji Jiang <i>Chinese Cinderella</i>-Adeline Yen Mah <i>The Boys in the Boat</i>-Dan Brown</p>

These book titles, both content and reading level, may not be appropriate for all students. Parents, please preview your child's choice(s) before committing.

Character Development

As you read, fill out the following traits about the main character in your novel. Use specific details.
The use of extra paper is allowed if needed.

