



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1000 Weldon Road, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

Phone: 973-697-1980



Principal
Dr. Kelly Cooke

www.jefftwp.org

ELA Supervisor K-12
Jennifer Wnuk

Assistant Principal
Kathy Tobia

JTMS students,

The purpose of the 2020 JTMS Summer Reading Assignment is to encourage students to keep reading and thinking over summer break. You will get to choose a book from a list of titles generated by both teachers and students. There are two parts to the 2020 JTMS Summer Reading Assignment.

JTMS parents,

For the 2020 JTMS Summer Reading Assignment, your child will be choosing a text. The titles and overviews are attached. Sharing this information, gives you the opportunity to preview the subject matter and content of these books. Some contain more sensitive content than others. We encourage you to read along with your child and discuss the book as you do so.

2020 JTMS SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Part 1: Choose one title from your grade level list and read the book before the first day of school. We know that you may already be familiar with these titles or you may have seen the movie. Maybe you even read the book already. Remember, the goal is to keep you reading and thinking. So read the book even if you saw the movie, or read the book again even if you have read it before.

Part 2: On one of the first days of school you will engage in a book club discussion with the students in your class who read the same title as you. Be prepared to talk about theme, how the characters changed, and how the book reflects current 21st century society and/or social trends.

Total Formative Points-25

Incoming 6th Grade Book List

Title	Genre	Author	Synopsis
<u>The Bad Beginning</u>	Gothic Fiction	Snicket, Lemony	<p>After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune. It's a good thing that Violet Baudelaire has a real knack for inventing things. It's also fortunate that her brother, Klaus, has read lots of books and knows many important things, like how to tell an alligator from a crocodile and who killed Julius Caesar. It's lucky, too, that Sunny Baudelaire, the youngest sibling, likes to bite things. But most of all, it is good fortune that Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are as sturdy and resilient as they are, for ahead of these three children lies a seemingly infinite series of unfortunate events. Series- Book #1</p>
<u>Cracker: the Best Dog in Vietnam</u>	Fiction-War Story	Kadohata, Cynthia	<p>CRACKER IS ONE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S MOST VALUABLE WEAPONS: a German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. The fate of entire platoons rests on her keen sense of smell. She's a Big Deal, and she likes it that way. Sometimes Cracker remembers when she was younger, and her previous owner would feed her hot dogs and let her sleep in his bed. That was nice, too. When Cracker is paired with Rick, she isn't so sure about this new owner. He's going to have to prove himself to her before she's going to prove herself to him. They need to be friends before they can be a team, and they have to be a team if they want to get home alive.</p>
<u>Walk Two Moons</u>	Young Adult	Creech, Sharon	<p>Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle, proud of her country roots and the "Indian-ness in her blood," travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents. Along the way, she tells them of the story of Phoebe Winterbottom, who received mysterious messages, who met a "potential lunatic," and whose mother disappeared. As Sal entertains her grandparents with Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold--the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother.</p>
<u>Heat</u>	Sports Literature	Lupica, Mike	<p>Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system-or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.</p>

<p><u>The Five People You Meet in Heaven</u></p>	<p>Philosophical Fiction</p>	<p>Albom, Mitch</p>	<p>Eddie is a grizzled war veteran who feels trapped in a meaningless life of fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. As the park has changed over the years — from the Loop-the-Loop to the Pipeline Plunge — so, too, has Eddie changed, from optimistic youth to embittered old age. His days are a dull routine of work, loneliness, and regret. Then, on his 83rd birthday, Eddie dies in a tragic accident, trying to save a little girl from a falling cart. With his final breath, he feels two small hands in his — and then nothing. He awakens in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a lush Garden of Eden, but a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people who were in it.</p>
<p><u>Stormbreaker</u></p>	<p>Thriller</p>	<p>Horowitz, Anthony</p>	<p>They told him his uncle died in a car accident. Fourteen-year-old Alex knows that's a lie, and the bullet holes in his uncle's windshield confirm his suspicions. But nothing prepares him for the news that the uncle he always thought he knew was really a spy for MI6 — Britain's top secret intelligence agency. Recruited to find his uncle's killers and complete his final mission, Alex suddenly finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse.</p>

Incoming 7th Grade Book List

Title	Genre	Author	Synopsis
<u>Counting by 7's</u>	Realistic Fiction	Sloan, Holly Goldberg	Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.
<u>Locomotion</u>	Non-fiction / Poetry	Woodson, Jacqueline	Lonnie is grieving and angry about the loss of his parents in a fire four years ago and about his subsequent separation from his beloved little sister, who is in foster care. He expresses his feelings in his fifth-grade poetry-writing class, encouraged by his wonderful teacher Ms. Marcus. In a series of free-verse poems and more formal verse, such as haiku and sonnets, he writes about his life and about the writing that "makes me remember.
<u>Ruins of Gorlan</u>	Fantasy	Flanagan, John	Will hopes to become a knight; instead, he winds up as a Ranger's apprentice, joining the secretive corps that uses stealth, woodcraft, and courage to protect the kingdom. His aptitude & bravery earn the respect of his gruff but good-hearted master. When the kingdom is attacked by evil magic forces, Will helps track down and defeat a couple of particularly nasty beasts.
<u>Ender's Game</u>	Science Fiction	Card, Orson Scott	Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer games. But in reality he is being trained to be the military genius that the planet needs in its all-out war with an alien enemy.
<u>So B. It</u>	Realistic Fiction	Weeks, Sarah	Although she lives an unconventional lifestyle with her mentally disabled mother and their doting neighbor, Bernadette, Heidi has a lucky streak that has a way of pointing her in the right direction. When a mysterious word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi's thirst for the truth leads her on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past.
<u>Stranger with my Face</u>	Horror/ Mystery	Duncan, Lois	Laurie Stratton finally has everything a sixteen-year-old could ever want. But just as her perfect summer comes to a close, things start to unravel when her boyfriend insists he saw her out with another guy-when Laurie was really home sick! More mysterious sightings convince Laurie someone very real is out there, watching her. . . The truth reveals a long-lost sister who has spent the years growing bitter and dangerous. She has learned how to haunt Laurie, but the visits soon become perilous. She wants something from Laurie-her life!
<u>They Never Came Back</u>	Thriller/ Young Adult Fiction	Cooney, Caroline B.	Five years ago, 10-year-old Murielle Lyman's wealthy mother and father fled the country after being accused of embezzlement, and their plans to take her with them fell through. Now 15, going by the name Cathy Ferris and living with a kind foster family, she starts summer school in Greenwich, CT, hoping to get news of her

			<p>parents and possibly reconnect with her extended family. But she never expected that her cousin Tommy would recognize her, or that the FBI agent assigned to their case would reappear and want to use her as bait to catch her parents.</p>
<p><u>Travel Team</u></p>	<p>Sports Literature</p>	<p>Lupica, Mike</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court — but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured.</p>

Incoming 8th Grade Book List

Title	Genre	Author	Synopsis
<u>Between Shades of Grey</u>	Historical Fiction	Sepetys, Ruta	When teenager Lina and her family are ripped from their home in 1940s Lithuania, it's only the beginning of a terrible journey that will take her to a labor camp in Siberia as part of Stalin's forced relocation program. Moving, edifying, and quietly beautiful, Sepetys's well-researched novel is an exquisite look at a devastating atrocity.
<u>Matched</u>	Science Fiction	Condie, Allyson	The Society controls every aspect of its citizens' lives. Their food is delivered at set times. All but 100 songs, poems, and historical moments have been purged. Through matching, the Society even selects a person's mate. Somehow, though Cassia sees not one face but two when she is Matched.
<u>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</u>	Biography	Swanson, James	This volume is an adaptation of Swanson's Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer. Divided into 14 chapters and an epilogue, the sentences are shorter and chapters are condensed from the original but the rich details and suspense are ever present
<u>We Were Liars</u>	Young Adult	Lockhart, E.	<p>A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth.</p> <p>Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.</p>
<u>Cover-up: Mystery at the Super Bowl</u>	Mystery	Feinstein, John	THE SUPER BOWL. America's biggest sports spectacle. More than 95 million fans will be watching, but fledgling fourteen-year-old sports reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson know that what they'll be watching is a lie. They know that the entire offensive line of the California Dreams have failed their drug tests and that the Dreams' owner is trying to cover up the test results. These two teens are sitting on the biggest sports scandal of the decade. What they don't know -yet - is how to prove it.
<u>The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...</u>	Memoir	Leyson, Leon	In 1938, Leon Leyson moved with his mother and four older siblings from a small village to join his father, who was working in the city. But soon after, everything changed as the Nazis "tightened their grip on Krakow." Through luck, skill, and tenacity, Leyson's father became one of Oskar Schindler's first Jewish workers and managed to secure a place on his notorious list for his wife and children. Leyson describes growing up in Poland, being forced from home to ghetto to concentration camps by the Nazis, and being saved by Oskar Schindler.

Summaries from Follett:

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Book Club Discussion Rubric	Score Point 5 The student response	Score Point 3 The student response	Score Point 1 The student response
Thinking and Talking like Experts Total Possible Points-5	Interprets themes & applies to life; Connects to characters & other texts- critiques and analyzes the character's actions; Critiques texts and author's techniques; Uses literature terms & academic expression	Provide some interpretations and applications to life; Use some literature terms & academic expressions; Shows some deep thinking	Remains at retell level; Gives few or no interpretation; Fails to extend conversation; Avoids literature terms & academic expressions
Building On and/or Challenging Ideas Total Possible Points-5	Generates logical theme(s); Stays on topic; Builds on one another's comments.	Mostly stays on topic with a few tangents; Demonstrates some building of an idea.	Rarely connects or builds on ideas; Uses disconnected, random ideas; Goes off on many tangents.
Supporting Ideas with Explanations & Examples Total Possible Points-5	Supports ideas and opinions with examples from text, life, and previous discussions; Clearly explains and elaborates on ideas.	Provides some support of ideas with examples and clarifications; Uses some prompts to encourage support.	Provides little or no support of ideas and themes; Fails to use appropriate prompting.
Paraphrasing Total Possible Points-5	Paraphrases partner ideas to clarify, deepen, and stay focused; Synthesizes key points	Offers some paraphrasing and synthesizing of key ideas	Offers little or no paraphrasing and synthesizing.
Communicating Behaviors Total Possible Points-5	Actively listens, takes turns, values and respects partner comments.	Uses some appropriate listening and turn-taking behaviors.	Fails to focus on partner; interrupts; Dominates conversation or does not contribute at all.

Total Possible Points-25