

NYACK MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADES 7 – 8



SUMMER READING 2018

**Information for Students Entering Grades 7 – 8
In September, 2018**



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June 1, 2018

Dear Students/Parents of Nyack Middle School:

The purpose of summer reading is twofold: one, to enjoy the activity of reading, and two, to maintain comprehension skills, fluency, and stamina during the summer months. We strongly encourage students to read as many books as possible, but **all students entering grades 7-8 are required to read at least two books (fiction or nonfiction).**

To earn summer reading credit in September, students must complete a note-taking form for each book they read, and turn them into their English teachers in September. The note-taking forms are enclosed in this packet. A copy of this packet is also available on the district's homepage and on Nyack Middle School's homepage. Copies are also available at local libraries and area bookstores.

To help students decide what books to read, a suggested reading list is included in this packet. However, students do not have to select books from this list.

TO EARN EXTRA CREDIT:

Students who register and participate in the Summer Reading Program at either the Nyack Public Library or the Valley Cottage Public Library will earn extra-credit for summer reading and also will be eligible for great prizes. For information, click "Teen Services" on the Valley Cottage Library website (http://vclib.org/index.asp?area_id=3) and the Nyack Public Library website (<http://www.nyacklibrary.org/teen-summer-reading.html>)

I wish you a restful, enjoyable, and literate summer with your families and friends, and I look forward to joining my colleagues in welcoming you back to school in September!

Sincerely,

John Joyce
English Department Chairperson, Grades 6-12

NOTE-TAKING FORM – GRADES 7-8 – BOOK 1

YOUR NAME: _____

TITLE OF BOOK: _____

AUTHOR: _____

DIRECTIONS: Respond to each item in the space provided. Use additional sheets of paper if necessary.

PLOT SUMMARY

In the space provided, write down what the book is about - what happens? Who is involved? What is the conflict? How does the conflict get resolved?

DISCUSSION QUESTION(S)

In the space provided, write down at least one really good question - it could be a thought-provoking, open-ended question for the class, or it could be about something that doesn't make sense that you would like to have answered.

NOTE-TAKING FORM – GRADES 7-8 – BOOK 2

YOUR NAME: _____

TITLE OF BOOK: _____

AUTHOR: _____

DIRECTIONS: Respond to each item in the space provided. Use additional sheets of paper if necessary.

PLOT SUMMARY

In the space provided, write down what the book is about – what happens? Who is involved? What is the conflict? How does the conflict get resolved?

DISCUSSION QUESTION(S)

In the space provided, write down at least one really good question – it could be a thought-provoking, open-ended question for the class, or it could be about something that doesn't make sense that you would like to have answered.

**NOTE-TAKING FORM – GRADES 7-8 – BOOK 2
(Continued)**

QUOTE (with citation)	REACTION / REFLECTION
<p>Write down at least TWO quotations from the novel that you feel are important. Try to find quotes that capture the larger ideas of the novel. At the end of the quote, write the author's last name and the page # in parentheses.</p>	<p>Write down your reaction or reflection about the quote. Why do you think the quotation is important? Maybe it reveals something about a character, or expresses a "big idea" (theme), or perhaps it includes a symbol. If your quote includes a symbol, try to explain what the object is symbolizing.</p>
<p><u>FIRST QUOTE:</u></p>	
<p><u>SECOND QUOTE:</u></p>	
<p><u>ADDITIONAL QUOTE (OPTIONAL):</u></p>	

SUGGESTED TITLES

From the Common Core State Standards, Appendix B

Grades 6 - 8

FICTION

Little Women

Alcott, Louisa May

Generations of readers young and old, male and female, have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel, *Little Women*. Here are talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.

The Dark is Rising

Cooper, Susan

On the Midwinter Day that is his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers a special gift — that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world from domination by the forces of evil, the Dark. At once, he is plunged into a quest for the six magical Signs that will one day aid the Old Ones in the final battle between the Dark and the Light. And for the twelve days of Christmas, while the Dark is rising, life for Will is full of wonder, terror, and delight.

A Wrinkle in Time

L'Engle, Madeleine

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks

Paterson, Katherine

A pair of mandarin ducks, separated by a cruel lord who wishes to possess the drake for his colorful beauty, rewards a compassionate couple who risk their lives to reunite the ducks.

Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad

Sutcliff, Rosemary

Sutcliff creatively retells the story of the Trojan War from the quarrel for the golden apple and the flight of Helen with Paris, to the destruction of Troy.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Twain, Mark

Mischief is Tom Sawyer's middle name. There is nothing he likes better than playing hookey from school, messing about on the Mississippi with his best friend, Huckleberry Finn, or wooing the elusive beauty Becky Thatcher. Lazy and reckless, he is a menace to his Aunt Polly, an embarrassment to his teachers, and the envy of his peers. But there is method in his badness. This novel is Mark Twain's hymn to childhood and it remains a classic account of "boys on the loose" in frontier-era America.

Dragonwings

Yep, Laurence

In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.

NONFICTION/informational***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass an American Slave*****Douglass, Frederick**

The impassioned abolitionist and eloquent orator provides graphic descriptions of his childhood and horrifying experiences as a slave as well as a harrowing record of his dramatic escape to the North and eventual freedom. Published in 1845 to quell doubts about his origins, the Narrative is admired today for its extraordinary passion, sensitive descriptions, and storytelling power.

Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad**Petry, Ann**

Petry's biography of the black woman whose cruel experiences as a slave in the South led her to seek freedom in the North for herself and for others through the Underground Railroad is a classic.

Travels with Charley: In Search of America**Steinbeck, John**

John Steinbeck, author of such American classics as *The Pearl*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*, embarks on a journey across America with his poodle, Charley, during the later years of his life. This chronicle of their trip meanders from small towns to growing cities to glorious wilderness oases. Still evocative and awe-inspiring after fifty years, *Travels with Charley in Search of America* provides an intimate look at one of America's most beloved writers in the later years of his life—a self-portrait of a man who never wrote an explicit autobiography.

A Night to Remember**Lord, Walter**

First published in 1955, *A Night to Remember* remains a completely riveting account of the *Titanic's* fatal collision and the behavior of the passengers and crew, some of whom sacrificed their lives, while others fought like animals for their own survival.

A Short Walk through the Pyramids and through the World of Art**Isaacson, Phillip**

Introduces tangible and abstract components of art, and the many forms art can take including sculpture, pottery, painting, photographs, and even furniture and cities.

The Great Fire**Murphy, Jim**

Vivid firsthand descriptions by persons who lived through the 1871 Chicago fire are woven into a gripping account... Absorbing and riveting reading.

Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist**Greenberg, Jan & Jordan, Sandra**

Vincent Van Gogh—one of the 19th century's most brilliant artists—will forever be remembered as the Dutchman who cut off his ear. But this incident only underscores the passion that consumed him—a passion that infused his work when he took up painting at age 27 and led him to pioneer a new technique and style.

Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott
Freedman, Russell

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus and give up her seat to a white man. This simple act sparked a nationwide movement for equality. Award-winning author Russell Freedman puts readers in the midst of a volatile and uplifting time. This compelling and poignant volume, illustrated with arresting black-and-white photographs from the period, is an essential addition to the Civil Rights canon.

The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure
Enzensberger, Hans Magnus

Annoyed with his math teacher who assigns word problems and won't let him use a calculator, twelve-year-old Robert finds help from the Number Devil in his dreams, who leads him to discover the amazing world of numbers. As we dream with him, we are taken further and further into mathematical theory and we wind up marveling at what numbers can do.

Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho
Katz, John

When Jesse and Eric meet John Katz, a roving journalist, their lives change forever. Inspired by Katz's belief that their geeky qualities are highly valuable, Jesse and Eric leave Idaho and bravely set out to conquer Chicago – geek-style. Told with Katz's trademark charm and sparkle, *Geeks* is a humorous, moving tale of triumph over adversity that delivers two irresistible heroes for the digital age.

The Building of Manhattan
Mackay, Donald

Meticulously accurate line drawings and fascinating text trace Manhattan's growth from a tiny Dutch outpost to the commercial, financial, and cultural heart of the world. This book explains construction above and below ground, including excavating subway lines and building bridges and skyscrapers.

The Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution
Monk, Linda R.

The United States Constitution is the basis for our most fundamental rights as Americans. But how many of us actually understand the language used by our Founding Fathers? In *The Words We Live By*, Linda R. Monk, an award-winning author and journalist, offers insight, legal expertise, surprising facts, little-known information, alternate interpretations, and historical anecdotes that breathe meaning into this provocative and hallowed document.