

# New Rochelle Middle Schools Incoming 8th Grade

## Summer 2020 Reading Assignment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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*Dear Incoming 8th Grader,*

*We are so excited to be working with you next year!*

*You may type your work or use the sheets provided for hand written work. Attached you have the rubric we will use to assess your hard work, assignment instructions, genre descriptions, and a suggested reading list.*

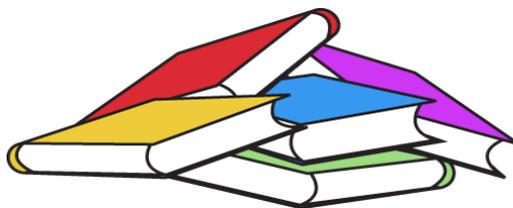
*New Rochelle students with a library card have access to the public library's Overdrive catalog of ebooks--which is actually from the Westchester Library System. Directions for getting library cards are on the New Rochelle Public Library website at:*

*<https://nrpl.org/> The link for ebooks through Overdrive from the Westchester Library System is: <https://westchester.overdrive.com/>*

*This assignment will be due to your new ELA teacher during the first week of school.*

*Enjoy your summer and we look forward to hearing about your reading and writing life when you return in September!*

Sincerely,  
Grade 8 ELA Teachers



## For the 2020 Summer Reading assignment you are asked to:

- As a review, watch the following Brainpop video and take the quiz to test your knowledge of literary genres. Use student access **username: newrochelle** and **password: nr4789** at <https://www.brainpop.com/english/writing/literarygenres/>
- In this packet, for your reference, a list of genre characteristics and a list of suggested books is provided.
- Assignment #1: Read a book of your own choosing, identify the genre of the book and analyze how your choice fits into that genre using evidence from the book to support your understanding.
- Assignment #2: Your second assignment is to read a nonfiction article related to a topic that you read about in your book and answer questions about that article.

## The following rubric will be used to grade each summer book project:

In order to help you do your best, please review the rubric below. As you can see, a strong response with thoughtful answers that demonstrate your thinking and use best examples from the text is how you do well.

Exemplary/ Exceeds Standard	Proficient/ Satisfactory	Developing/ Needs Improvement	Insufficient/ Unsatisfactory
<p>The student demonstrated that he/she read the book and article and completed all parts of the assignment and demonstrated deep understanding.</p> <p>Questions were answered thoroughly and extended with insightful examples and explanation.</p> <p>Few or no errors in mechanics.</p>	<p>The student demonstrated that he/she read the book and article completed all parts of the assignment.</p> <p>Questions were answered completely with appropriate examples and explanation.</p> <p>Few or no errors in mechanics.</p>	<p>The student completed part of the assignment demonstrating a basic understanding of the book and article.</p> <p>Answers may be too brief or insufficiently detailed.</p> <p>Errors in mechanics were noticeable.</p>	<p>The student completed few or no parts of the assignment.</p> <p>Demonstrated little or no understanding of the book or article. Answers may be left blank or hard to understand.</p> <p>Errors in mechanics impact understanding or readability.</p>

## Assignment I: The Book

Then review the list of genre characteristics attached. Using what you know about the genre characteristics, complete the questions for the book you read.

Highlight or circle all the possible genres that your book falls into:

Adventure      Autobiography      Biography      Fantasy      Graphic Novel  
Historical Fiction      Horror      Humor      Memoir      Mystery  
Nonfiction      Realistic Fiction      Romance      Science Fiction      Sports

Fill in the title and author of your chosen book.

<b>Title</b>	
<b>Author</b>	

Identify three text-based examples that support your genre claim and explain how your book fits into the genre. (Use 2 - 3 sentences for each example and explanation)

1.
2.
3.

**Identify two direct quotes from the text that demonstrate the characteristics of your genre. Explain why or how these quotes demonstrate the characteristics of that genre. (Use 2 - 3 sentences for each example)**

1.

2.

**Identify one other genre that your book fits into and explain why it fits into this genre. Use examples from the text to support your claim. (Write a complete paragraph with 2-3 text-based details to support your answer)**

## Genre Characteristics

### ADVENTURE

A story in which a series of exciting events happen.

- The main character is a hero who sets out on a journey to face a challenge
- There is physical action
- Characters are often faced with extreme situations or forced to take risks to complete their journey
- The plot is fast paced and often includes a sense of danger and obstacles to be overcome

### AUTOBIOGRAPHY

A story of a person's life written by that person.

- First-person account
- Often highly personalized
- May be supported by authentic pictures and newspaper articles

### BIOGRAPHY

A story of a person's life written by an individual with exceptional knowledge of the subject.

- Accurate history of a person's life
- Reflection of the time and place in which a person lived
- Usually chronological
- Carefully researched and authentic
- Subject may be an historical or contemporary figure
- Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You! By Marley Dias

### FANTASY

Contains elements that are not realistic, such as:

- Talking animals
- Magical powers
- Often set in a medieval universe
- Possibly involving mythical beings such as dragons or fairies

### GRAPHIC NOVEL

"A fictional story that is presented in comic-strip format and published as a book."

- Unlike comic books, graphic novels are generally stand-alone stories with more complex plots.

### HISTORICAL FICTION

A novel set in the past and based partially on an historical situation.

- A novel set in a particular historical period
- May include historical figures in addition to fictional characters

### HORROR

Novels that frighten, scare, disgust, or startle readers by inducing feelings of terror.

- Establishes an eerie and frightening atmosphere
- May include elements of the supernatural
- Builds a sense of dread or terror in both the readers and the characters

### HUMOR

Meant to make readers laugh or smile.

- The events can be strange, or events that you would not regularly see
- Takes place in either a realistic setting, or a setting that could not exist in the real world
- Can include elements of text that are funny to many readers such as irony or puns
- Can be combined with other genres such as fantasy, realistic fiction, etc.

### MEMOIR

A special type of autobiography that covers only a specific portion of the person's life.

- May emphasize a particular event, or time period
- Has a theme or focus and events are chosen relating to that focus

## **MYSTERY**

A novel involving:

- Strangeness or something unknown
- Solving a puzzling event or situation
- Solving a crime
- Centered around a person who investigates wrongdoing
- Centered around a person or persons employed to obtain secret information

## **NONFICTION**

Factual presentations of documented knowledge.

Nonfiction text dealing with an actual, real-life subject.

- Involves factual information about real elements such as animals, plants, or events in history
- The author primarily gets the information through research
- The author cites his or her sources (meaning they tell where they got the information from)
- The author's purpose would be primarily to INFORM the reader

## **REALISTIC FICTION**

Fiction that could actually have occurred in a believable setting.

- Stories that take place in modern times
- Characters are involved in events that could happen
- Realistic characters with possible problems

## **ROMANCE**

Novels of this type place their primary focus on the relationship and **romantic** love between two people.

- Must have an "emotionally satisfying and optimistic ending"

## **SCIENCE FICTION**

Fiction based on imagined future scientific or technological advances and major social or environmental changes.

- Frequently portraying space or time travel and life on other planets.
- Stories that often tell about science and technology of the future
- Settings:
  - in the future
  - in space
  - on a different world
  - in a different universe or dimension

## **SPORTS**

Events and activities within the story deal with the characters' participation in sports.

- Characters struggle with issues related to sports.
- Team sports are usually emphasized
- Plot and characterization often emphasize theses such as team play and sportsmanship

## Recommended Summer Reading Books to Consider

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### Adventure

Life of Pi by Yann Martel  
Lionboy: the first book in a trilogy by Zizou Corder (series)  
Holes, by Louis Sachar  
Summer of the Mariposas by Guadalupe Garcia McCall  
A Wolf Called Wander by Rosanne Parry

### Fantasy

Scorpion Mountain, by John Flanagan (series)  
Coraline, by Neil Gaiman  
The Grimm Legacy by Polly Shulman  
Drift by M.K. Hutchins  
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle  
Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi  
A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying by Kelly Armstrong

### Biography

You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton? By Jean Fritz  
Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science by John Fleischman  
Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph became the World's Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull  
Twenty-two Cents by Paula Yoo

### Autobiography/Memoir

Guts: The true stories behind Hatchet and the Brian books by Gary Paulsen  
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson  
I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlin Alifirenka, Liz Welch, and Martin Ganda

### Graphic Novel

Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol  
Drama by Raina Telgemeier  
Three Kingdoms by Weidong Chen (series)  
Yummy: The Last Days of Southside Shorty by G. Neri  
I am Alfonso Jones by Tony Medina

### Historical Fiction

Darby by Jonathon Scott Fuqua  
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne  
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan  
Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan  
X The Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz  
Ahima by Supriya Kelkar  
This Is Just a Test by Wendy Wan-Long & Madelyn Rosenberg  
Refugee by Alan Gratz

### Horror

Cirque du Freak: A Living Nightmare by Darren Shan (series)  
The Forest of Hands and Teeth by Carrie Ryan  
The Nightmares by Dan Poblocki  
Serafina and the Black Cloak by Robert Beatty  
Scary Stories for Young Foxes by Christian Heidicker

### Humor

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman  
15 Minutes by Steve Young  
The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket

### Mystery

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett  
Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead  
Deadly by Julie Chibbaro  
Cat Girl's Day Off by Kimberly Pauley  
The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

### Nonfiction

Forgotten Bones: Uncovering a Slave Cemetery by Lois Miner Huey  
Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose  
Heroes of 9/11 by Allan Zullo  
Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown  
What Would She Do? 25 True Stories of Trailblazing Rebel Women by Kay Woodward  
I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai

**Poetry**

Etched in Clay by Andrea Cheng

Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

**Realistic Fiction**

A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramée

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Wonder by Patricia Palacio

Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech

Amina's Voice by Hena Kahn

Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson

The Dreamer by Pam Munoz Ryan

The First Rule of Punk by Celia Perez

**Romance**

Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen

Bella At Midnight by Diane Stanley

The Sun Is Also A Star by Nicola Yoon

Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert

**Sports**

Streetball Crew: Stealing the Game by Kareem

Abdul-Jabbar

Booked by Kwame Alexander

Rebound by Kwame Alexander

One Goal by Amy Bass

Outside Shot by Walter Dean Myers

Alie: An American Champion by Barry Denenberg (also nonfiction)

**Science Fiction**

Masterminds by Gordon Korman

The Arctic Code by Matthew Kirby

The Six by Mark Alpert

Rebel Seoul by Axie Oh

Dove Arising (Dove Chronicles #1) by Karen Bao

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

## Assignment 2: Nonfiction Article

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Choose a nonfiction article that relates to your book in some way. It can be anything that piqued your interest while you were reading. Ex: If you read the *Hunger Games*, you might choose to read an article about archery. Read the article and answer the questions below. Each question should be answered in two or three sentences.

### Recommended Sources:

- Newsela at <https://newsela.com>
- PBS Newshour at <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/>
- Smithsonian Tween Tribune at <https://www.tweentribune.com/>
- Science News for Students at <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/>

Article Title:	
Author:	
Article Source:	

**Describe the most important things you learned from reading this article. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.**

1.
2.
3.

**Choose two words that you think are important in this article and explain why they matter. (Use 2 - 3 sentences for each example.)**

1.

2.

**Explain one way in which your article is related to the novel that you chose. Use evidence from both texts to support your answer. (Write a complete paragraph with 2 - 4 text-based details to support your answer)**

**Explain how and why reading your chosen article and novel can be relevant and important to others. What life lessons can we derive from this reading? (Write a complete paragraph with 2 - 4 text-based details to support your answer)**

**As a reader and writer, what would you like your new ELA teacher to know about you?**