



Today's Scholars, Tomorrow's Leaders

2018 Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Class of 2019,

Welcome to 8th grade!! With summer upon us, it's time to rev up to find those books that to be read over the summer before September 5, 2018. Below, are the details for this summer's ELA reading assignment.

All 8th graders will read two (2) books this summer. You will choose a total of 2 books – 1 each from the:
1) modern young adult reading list
2) classic young adult reading list

*These books can be checked out from the New York Public Library. You can also look online for your nearest branch (www.nypl.org). You may also purchase these books from online booksellers such as Amazon and Barnes and Noble. (www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com)

Families are encouraged to review, discuss, and decide with their scholar which titles would be best. Note: Book levels vary. Feel free to use AR Book finder to determine book level (www.arbookfind.com).

*All eighth graders will also complete 2 book reviews that are based on one of the books below—one modern the other classic. Specific details about the assignment are described in the latter part of this handout.

This assignment is due on September 5, 2018 and will contribute to your first quarter ELA grade.

Modern Young Adult Reading Book Choice 1

(You must read 1 of the books below AND complete 1 book review outline and book review paragraph for one book. **You can choose a book that is not from the list below but can be based on your reading level.**)

FICTION

The Young World by Chris Weitz Jefferson

With his childhood friend Donna, leads a tribe of teenagers in New York City on a dangerous quest to find an antidote for a mysterious illness that wiped out all adults and children. (Series)

Splintered by A.G. Howard

A descendant of the inspiration for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, sixteen-year-old Alyssa Gardner fears she is mentally ill like her mother until she finds that Wonderland is real and, if she passes a series of tests to fix Alice's mistakes, she may save her family from their curse. (Series)

Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson

Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some opportunities she doesn't really welcome, like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship

program for "at-risk" girls. Just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. I couldn't resist! (Series)

The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore

A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death in this outstanding debut novel that celebrates community and creativity.

Hoodoo by Ronald L. Smith

In 1930s Alabama, twelve-year-old Hoodoo Hatcher is the only member of his family who seems unable to practice folk magic, but when a mysterious man called the Stranger puts the entire town at risk from his black magic, Hoodoo must learn to conjure to defeat him.

The Green Bicycle by Haifaa Al Mansour

Since girls do not ride bikes in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, eleven year old Wajda has to scheme to get her own.

Dear Martin by Nic Stone

Justyce McAllister is top of his class at Braselton Prep, captain of the debate team, and set for an Ivy League school next year- but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs.

Waiting for Unicorns by Beth Hautala

After her mother dies, twelve-year-old Talia McQuinn goes to the Arctic with her father, a whale researcher. Over the course of one summer, and through several unlikely friendships, Talia learns that stories have the power to connect us, to provide hope, and to pull us out of the darkness.

Akata Warrior by Nnedi Okorafor

A year ago, Sunny Nwazue, an American-born girl Nigerian girl, was inducted into the secret Leopard Society. As she began to develop her magical powers, Sunny learned that she had been chosen to lead a dangerous mission to avert an apocalypse.

Friends for Life by Andrew Norriss Francis

Meredith is a boy who is interested in fashion and costuming, which has made him a target at school, but when he meets Jessica and Andi his life begins to change--Andi is an athletic girl with a reputation for fighting and family in the fashion business, and Jessica is a ghost who has no idea how she died.

The Tin Snail by Cameron McAllister

A thirteen-year-old French boy tries to save his father's job by inventing a special kind of car, but it isn't easy--especially when the Nazis are planning to steal his design.

Going Where It's Dark by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

A coming-of-age novel about a boy whose daily life is difficult because he stutters but who discovers enormous courage when he goes on heart-pounding cave adventures.

The Black Dragon by Julian Sedgwick

Talented magician Danny, who is half-Chinese, half-British, and dwarf strongman Zamora try to find the connection between the disastrous end of the circus Mysterium, where Danny's performer parents were killed, and the disappearance of his guardian aunt who is investigating sinister gangs in Hong Kong.

The Bamboo Sword by Margi Preus

In 1853 Japan, at the time of U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry's visit, Yoshi, a young Japanese boy who dreams of becoming a samurai one day, learns about America from Majiro and has adventures with Jack, a young cabin boy aboard one of the U.S. ships.

Seriously Wicked: A Novel by Tina Connolly

Cam's adopted mother is a wicked witch who wants Cam to be just like her, even as Cam tries to stop her plans for ruling the world, including the latest, which involves summoning a demon that now possesses one of the boys at Cam's school.

A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen

When her family is divided by the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerda harbors forbidden thoughts about freedom and reuniting with her loved ones before a coded message from her father inspires a daring plan.

Ink and Ashes by Valynne E. Maetani

When Japanese American Claire Takata finds out that her deceased father was once a member of the yakuza, a Japanese crime syndicate, danger enters her life that could end up killing someone.

Hansel & Gretel by Neil Gaiman

Two abandoned children come upon a gingerbread cottage inhabited by a cruel witch who wants to eat them.

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

When her latent supernatural powers manifest in front of a noble court, Mare, a thief in a world divided between commoners and superhumans, is forced to assume the role of lost princess before risking everything to help a growing rebellion. (Series)

30 Days of No Gossip by Stephanie Faris

Maddie is challenged by her best friend to avoid gossiping for an entire month or forfeit their friendship, a test that is complicated by Maddie's discovery of the biggest piece of gossip she has ever heard.

Elijah Dart: Angel of Death by Jonathan L. Ferrara

Before his fourteenth birthday, ordinary Elijah Dart would have never gone snooping around in a graveyard, joined an old ghost for tea, or battled Hellhounds with a scythe. If only he hadn't followed the Reapers through the graveyard on All Hallows Eve, he would have never been in training to take his father's place as the next Angel of Death.

The Hidden Oracle by Rick Riordan

After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. He must learn to survive in the modern world until he can somehow find a way to regain Zeus's favor.

Booked by Kwame Alexander

Nick Hall is the star player on the soccer team until a bombshell announcement shatters his world.

You're Welcome Universe by Whitney Gardner

When Julia finds a slur about her best friend scrawled across the back of the Kingston School for the Deaf, she covers it up with a beautiful (albeit illegal) graffiti mural.

Her supposed best friend snitches, the principal expels her, and her two mothers set Julia up with a one-way ticket to a "mainstream" school in the suburbs, where she's treated like an outcast as the only deaf student. The last thing she has left is her art, and not even Banksy himself could convince her to give that up.

NONFICTION

Iron Rails, Iron Men, and the Race to Link the Nation: The Story of the Transcontinental Railroad

by Martin W. Sandler

1850s: Two rival companies accomplished the impossible—they tunneled through mountains and constructed the highest-ever bridges to connect 1,800 miles of America by rail.

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston

Weatherford Stirring poems and stunning collage illustrations combine to celebrate the life of Fannie Lou Hamer, a champion of equal voting rights.

Hot Pink: The Life and Fashions of Elsa Schiaparelli by Susan Goldman Rubin

Shocking pink—hot pink, as it is called today—was the signature color of Elsa Schiaparelli (1890–1973) and perhaps her greatest contribution to the fashion world. Schiaparelli was one of the most innovative designers in the early 20th century. Many design elements that are taken for granted today she created and brought to the forefront of fashion. She is credited with many firsts: trompe l’oeil sweaters with collars and bows knitted in; wedge heels; shoulder bags; and even the concept of a runway show for presenting collections.

Inside Biosphere 2: Earth Science Under Glass by Mary Kay Carson

In the Arizona desert, scientists conduct studies and experiments aimed to help us better understand our environment and what sort of things are happening to it due to climate change. The location is Biosphere 2, an immense structure that contains a replica ocean, savannah, and rainforest, among other Earth biomes.

Smart and Spineless: Exploring Invertebrate Intelligence by Ann Downer

Although invertebrates usually have tiny, simple brains—or no brains at all—their unique forms of intelligence are inspiring new technologies designed to improve humans’ lives.

The Mystery of Life: How Nothing Became Everything by Jan Paul Schutten

“Yes, even Lady Gaga is made up of atoms.” Atoms are the basis of every living and non-living thing on Earth, but where and how did life begin—and how do we know?

Been There, Done That: Writing Stories from Real Life by Mike Winchell

In this original anthology, twenty-one middle-grade authors—including Gary D. Schmidt, Adam Rex, and Lisa Yee—each tell two stories: one autobiographical and another inspired by their nonfiction account.

Choosing Courage by Peter Collier

How does an ordinary person become a hero? It happens in a split second, a moment of focus and clarity, when a choice is made. Here are the gripping accounts of Medal of Honor recipients who demonstrated guts and selflessness on the battlefield and confronted life-threatening danger to make a difference.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Readers Edition by William Kamkwamba

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba’s tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season’s crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family’s life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William’s windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir by Margarita Engle

In poems, Margarita Engle depicts her school years in California, summers in her mother’s native Cuba, and how the 1961 demise of U.S.-Cuban relations affected her family.

Classic Young Adult Reading Book Choice 2

(You must read 1 of the books below AND complete 1 book review outline and book review paragraph for one book.)

1984 by George Orwell

“Winston Smith is a low-ranking member of the ruling Party in London, in the nation of Oceania. Everywhere Winston goes, even his own home, the Party watches him through telescreens; everywhere he looks he sees the face of the Party’s seemingly omniscient leader, a figure known only as Big Brother. The Party controls everything in Oceania, even the people’s history and language.”

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

This timeless story takes readers through the life and times of a young girl Scout, who during the Depression era is making her way through adolescence in Alabama. Scout alongside her brother, Jem are trying to make sense of their lives in the South as they try to find out all they can about the mysterious Boo Radley who never comes out to see the light of day and how and why the people in their town are quick to believe a black man is guilty of a crime he may not have committed.

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

“It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo’s dictatorship. It doesn’t have to. Everybody knows of Las Mariposas—“The Butterflies.””

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

“All Quiet on the Western Front is narrated by Paul Bäumer, a young man of nineteen who fights in the German army on the French front in World War I. Paul and several of his friends from school joined the army voluntarily after listening to the stirring patriotic speeches of their teacher, Kantorek. But after experiencing ten weeks of brutal training at the hands of the petty, cruel Corporal Himmelstoss and the unimaginable brutality of life on the front, Paul and his friends have realized that the ideals of nationalism and patriotism for which they enlisted are simply empty clichés. They no longer believe that war is glorious or honorable, and they live in constant physical terror.”

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

“Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife. A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity, Toni Morrison’s virtuosic first novel asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender with the subtlety and grace that have always characterized her writing.”

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

“Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local “powhitetrash.” At eight years old and back at her mother’s side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns about love for herself and the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors (“I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare”) will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.”

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

"Their Eyes Were Watching God follows the fortunes of Janie Crawford, a woman living in the black town of Eaton, Florida. The black townspeople gossip about her and -speculate about where she has been and what has happened to her young husband, Tea Cake."

Watership Down by Richard Adams

"Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society."

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

"Louisa May Alcott's story about the four March sisters who learn the hard lessons of poverty and of growing up in New England during the Civil War."

After the First Death by Robert Cormier

"After the First Death features, Miro, a Middle Eastern teenager, and a small group of his fellow countrymen who hijack a bus filled with five year old children on their way to summer day camp. These hijackers believe that they are fighting for their homeland, a country they have never seen."

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

"Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon."

2018 Mott Hall II 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment Details

As you set sail for what will hopefully be a fun and restful summer, let's take a moment to learn about the expectations for this summer's ELA assignment. You will read **TWO** books. Then, the following assignment will need to be completed by the first day of school:

****Assignment: 1 Modern and 1 Classic Young Adult Book Review** (1 modern and 1 classic book selected from the lists)

- You will use the book review outline to help you create a review for EACH of the two books you read this summer. **This means you will complete a total of two book review outlines and two book review paragraphs using the handouts found in this packet.**

Feel free to read as many books as you like so that we have many books to discuss!!!

I look forward to reading and writing with you beginning September 5, 2018.

Until September,

Ms. Julien-Ndjiki

Name_____

September 5, 2018

2018 Book Review Outline Book 1: modern/classic (circle one)

Directions: Use these two outlines to help you write a paragraph about each book – one modern and one classic title.

Book Title_____

Author_____

Genre (fiction/non-fiction)_____

Setting: (place and time period)

Characters: (Describe those characters (or people for non-fiction) who you think have an impact on the story.)

Character Name	Impact on Story (no need for full sentences)

Plot: (Explain what happens in the story **IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**)

Recommendation: (Why would you recommend or not recommend this book? Give three reasons. NO NEED FOR SENTENCES)

Reason 1_____

Reason 2_____

Reason 3_____

Name _____

September 5, 2018

2018 Book Review Outline Book 1: modern/classic (circle one)

Directions: Use these two outlines to help you write a paragraph about each book – one modern and one classic title.

Book Title _____

Author _____

Genre (fiction/non-fiction) _____

Setting: (place and time period)

Characters: (Describe those characters (or people for non-fiction) who you think have an impact on the story.)

Character Name	Impact on Story (no need for full sentences)

Plot: (Explain what happens in the story **IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**)

Recommendation: (Why would you recommend or not recommend this book? Give three reasons. NO NEED FOR SENTENCES)

Reason 1 _____

Reason 2 _____

Reason 3 _____

