

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In order to help increase reading, writing, and oral language skills, the Middle School English Department requires all 6th, 7th and 8th graders to fulfill a **2-Part Summer Reading Project** prior to the 2021-2022 School Year. The project has been discussed with all students, but for your convenience, a document with clear directions and specifics, as well as a rubric with expectations has been provided for you.

Attached please find the following:

Pg 2/3 List of books to choose from for each grade. Children should choose from the the list that refers to their grade for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Pg 4 Simplified Rubric.

Pg. 5 “What is a Booktalk” - this is a simple explanation for middle school students. It explains the difference between a booktalk, a book review, and a book report.

Pg 6 “How To Give A Booktalk” - this is a suggestion on how to give a booktalk. Use this link to see “The Dos and Don'ts” of a booktalk <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXCrlE5G2IA>

Summer Reading Project Requirements:

Part 1 - Read *and* complete a book talk

1. Each student is required to ***read at least one (1) book*** from the list provided on Pg 2. This **MUST** be a book that they've never read before. In addition to this, **a book talk must also be completed for this book** (pg 3-5 will provide information on how to write a book talk). Most middle school students have experience creating book talks and each ELA teacher reviewed this at the end of the 2020-2021 School Year. Additionally, teachers met with 5th grade students to go over this project . When your child returns in September, they will be expected to have completed a **recorded book talk** and will share it with their ELA teacher upon request at that time.

Part 2 - ReadWorks Summer Packet

1. Students are asked to ***read the five passages from the ReadWorks Summer Packet and answer the questions.*** This reading packet should be completed without assistance from parents and will be graded for **COMPLETION** when we return to school in August. The packet is designed by grade level and is intended to aid in comprehension and standardized test preparation. Students will “check” their progress with their ELA teachers in August.

Have a great summer and please continue encouraging your child(ren) to read!

Sincerely,

The English Department

Book List Per Grade Level.

Please remember to **ONLY** choose from the list that refers to the grade you will be in for
The 2021-2022 School Year.

➤ Grade 6

- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Clean Getaway* by Nic Stone
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Freak The Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *Just Henry* by Michelle Magorian
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- *PaperBoy* by Vince Vawter
- *Restart* by Gordan Korman
- *Revolution Is Not A Dinner Party* by Ying Chang Compestine
- *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *Shadow Children* by Margaret Petterson Haddix
- *Souder* by William H. Armstrong
- *Stand Up Yumi Chung* by Jessica Kim
- *The Unteachables* by Gordon Korman
- *The Losers Club* by Andrew Clements
- *The Truth as Told By Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor
- *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani
- *The Book of Boy* by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
- *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson
- *Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer* by John Grisham
- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech
- *Wringer* by Jerry Spinelli

➤ Grade 7 and 8:

- *A Long Walk To Water* by Linda Sue Park
- *A Night Divided* by Jennifer Nielsen
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D Williams
- *Grenade* by Alan Gratz
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

- *I Am Number Four* by Pittacus Lore
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Love & Gelato* by Jennifer Evans Welch
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz
- *QB 1* by Mike Lupica
- *Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez
- *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor
- *That Was Then This Is Now* by S. E. Hinton
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
- *The Raft* by S.A. Bodeen
- *The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han
- *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfield
- *Wait Till Helen Comes* by Mary Downing Hahn

Project – Book Talk Rubric

We will be giving many booktalks throughout the year. The idea is to get better and better each time. Soon you will take away what you learn from this experience, and apply it to other subjects when asked to give presentations. Yes – you will be graded but remember that your goal is to improve each time you do it. We will utilize our summer reading books first and then move on to other books. For your planning purposes, please refer to the handouts given to you (should be kept in your folder) and think back to our discussions. Don't forget to practice before presenting!

Follow the simple rubric below (we will use the same one throughout the year).

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. OPENING | _____ 10pts |
| ● Student included a Hook AND included the title and author of the book (pertinent details). | |
| 2. SUMMARY (the content, an important scene, cliffhanger) | _____ 15pts |
| ● Student summarizes the plot of the book and includes the following: | |
| · Student introduced the main character | |
| · Student identified the problem | |
| · Student leads us toward the solution without giving away the ending | |
| 3. IMPRESSION (likes and/or dislikes) | _____ 5pts |
| ● Student shares his/her opinion | |
| 4. CLOSING | _____ 10pts |
| ● Student entices his/her audience by using at least 2 techniques | |
| 5. Presentation | _____ 10pts |
| ● The student shows evidence that he/she practiced. | |
| ● He/she paces the talk nicely. He/she is able to answer any and all questions from the teacher and his/her peers. | |

NAME _____ Total Points out of 50 _____

What is a booktalk?

This link will give you an EXCELLENT example of the perfect Book Talk. It actually shares “the dos and don'ts” of a book talk.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXCrIE5G2IA>

- I like to use the analogy of a movie trailer. The purpose of a book talk is to "sell" the book.
- You want to give enough of the plot to interest the listeners but you are not giving a summary of the book. You don't want to give away the important parts of the book. You certainly never want to give away the ending.
- You want to highlight the interesting points.
- You may want to read certain passages to your listeners (this could be a Hook).
- The main purpose of a book talk is to grab the audience's interest and make them want to read the book. It's always a good idea to end the book talk with a cliffhanger.
- Booktalks are usually presented to groups of people.
- The booktalker presents the booktalks orally (or recorded) and usually has the book as a visual prop. The booktalker can also use other props that have meaning to the story.

How do book talks differ from book reviews?

- Although similar, they perform different functions.
- In a book review, the reviewer is judging the book. The book is recommended or not. Criticism is often given in book reviews. A summary of the plot may be included.
- In a book talk, a recommendation is assumed – you wouldn't be advertising it if you don't want to encourage others to read it!

HOW TO GIVE A BOOK TALK

This is the order for your presentation - don't forget to have your book visible in the video and include at least 1 prop that has a meaningful symbol in some way for the book

1. [OPENING] Hook your audience!

Read a quote from the book, ask a question of your audience, introduce the main character, vividly set the scene, or do a combination of a few of these techniques. Make sure to also give the title and author of the book.

2. [SUMMARY]

In a paragraph or two, summarize the plot of the book. Be sure that your summary introduces the main character, identifies the problem, and leads us toward the solution--**without giving away the ending!**

3. [IMPRESSION] Share your opinion!

How did you feel about the book? What did you think of the author? Would you recommend it to others? What would you rate it?

4. [CLOSING] Entice your audience!

Ask a rhetorical question, read a quote from the book, use a cliffhanger, or do a combination of these techniques.

Remember, your book talk should flow nicely, like a commercial. It should not be a giant list answering these questions! Your video can be a minimum of 1 minute 30 seconds and a maximum of 3 minutes 30 seconds (don't panic if you go over - just don't bore your audience with too many details).

You may use any format (Flipgrid, Iphone recording, chromebook, WeVideo, etc) for your video, but you must be able to share it with your ELA teacher the first week of ELA.