

April 2018

Dear Parents and Students:

Students entering Honors Literature classes in grades 7-12 are required to read a specific book or engage with literature in some capacity over the summer months. Students will be asked to locate their specific titles either in public libraries or purchase them at bookstores.

Please take a look at the following pages for your class's specific requirements.

Have a great and relaxing summer of reading!

## 7th Grade Honors Literature

Greetings! I am Mrs. Vogel, and I am the teacher for 7th Grade Honors Literature. Reading is one of my favorite things to do! In anticipation for all of the great reading we will be doing in 7th Grade Honors Literature next year, I am requiring you to read one novel over the summer. The novel is *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi. You can either purchase this book at a bookstore, Amazon.com, or you can borrow it from your local library.

While reading, please compile a list of the main characters and record two to three personality traits for each character.

After finishing the book, please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper, being sure to follow all MLA formatting guidelines.

Please make sure your answers are typed and in complete sentences. Be sure to bring this assignment with you on the first day of school in August.

Happy Reading!

1. How is a character in your book similar or different to a character in another book, movie, or someone you know? Explain how the two characters are similar and/or how they are different.
2. If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be? Why would you change it? How would you change it?
3. Choose a character and explain how the character changes throughout the story. What causes the change? What lessons does the character learn?
4. If you had to persuade someone else to read this book, what would you say? Without revealing the resolution (ending), write enough about this book to make someone else want to read it.
5. What is one conflict in the story? How was the conflict resolved? What might have happened if the conflict was not resolved?

## 8th Grade Honors Literature

Hello! My name is Ms. Luehrs, and I'm the teacher for 8th Grade Honors Literature. I'd like to tell you a couple of things about what will be expected for you throughout the year in order to explain my rationale for your summer reading.

I love reading. You're thinking... of course you do. You're a Literature teacher. And you have a point. But because I love reading and because I also know it is one of the most important skills you can have as you go forward in life, I'm very passionate about creating not only skilled readers, but *life-long* readers.

Life-long readers have many habits. They read every day (or almost every day). They often have books with them when they go places, in case they have time to read. I mean, what if your mom is late to pick you up?? They know what book they are going to read next -- in fact, they probably have a list. They have places they love to read, times of day they love to read. They talk to other readers about books. Life-long readers make reading a priority.

This summer I'm asking you to start some of these habits of life-long readers. Pay attention to how much you read, pay attention to your patterns and habits. Independent reading is a huge part of our curriculum next year.

When you come to school next fall, I would like two things:

- 1) A list of 35 books you might like to read. The list doesn't commit you to reading them, but they should be ones in which you have real interest in reading. Some can be books you'd like to re-read (life-long readers also re-read books) but more of them should be books you have not yet read.
  - a) You may type or you may hand-write your list, but please have a hard copy.
  - b) You need to write a *little* snippet about why the book looked good. Trust me, you're going to forget in two months why you ever wanted to read *Inkheart*. (See example below)

Book title	Author	Why
	(if you have it)	

2) The second thing I want you to be ready to do is to talk about 2-3 books you read over break. They can be whatever you want, but just be ready to talk about what you read and what you thought of it.

That's it! A list of 35 books, including a short reason why each looked good, and then be ready to talk about 2-3 books you read.

Below are some good places to look for book recommendations.

- 1) Friends! They are my number one place to look for book title recommendations. This is not the kind of thing where you can't have the same books as a friend. If they found a book that looks good to you, too, use it!
- 2) Family, of course
- 3) <https://www.goodreads.com/>
- 4) <http://www.whatshouldireadnext.com/>
- 5) Rest of the internet
- 6) Library shelves / recommendations
- 7) Barnes and Noble shelf recommendations

If you have any questions please contact me before the end of the year! I am not so easily available over the summer.

Happy reading. I can't wait to have class with you next year! I think we're going to have a great group of readers.

Sincerely,

Ms. Luehrs