

Grades 7 & 8 Summer Reading List

Choose **ONE** book (that you have not read before) to read this summer from the list below. You will also need to complete the questions attached. It would also be a good idea to annotate (take notes) while you read. We will use your questions and notes for various writing activities in class during the first few weeks of school.

Fiction:

Science Fiction/Dystopian - *The Hunger Games*, Susan Collins

Lexile: 810

Pages: 384

The nation of Panem is divided into 12 districts, ruled from the Capitol. As punishment for a failed revolt, each district is forced to select two tributes, one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18, to fight to the death in the annual Hunger Games until there is only one survivor.

Fantasy - *The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkein

Lexile: 1000

Pages: 304

The novel introduces Tolkien's imagined world of Middle Earth in its Third Age and serves as a prologue to *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Follow the journey of a young Hobbit as he encounters multiple adventures after leaving his home.

Historical Fiction - *Refugee*, Alan Gratz

Lexile: 800

Pages: 352

The novel follows the stories of three refugee children in three different geographic locations and points in time. Each child experiences traumatic losses and personal victories as they struggle to escape the political instability of their homelands.

Fiction/Poetry - *The Crossover*, Kwame Alexander

Lexile: 750

Pages: 256

Josh and JB are basketball legends at their school. They also happen to be identical twins, but it's easy to tell them apart if you know how to look. As the boys build up to one of the most important matches of their lives, tensions grow between them, things at home, and at school.

Nonfiction

The Diary of Anne Frank, Anne Frank

Lexile: 1080

Pages: 283

A book of the writings from the diary kept by Anne Frank while she was in hiding for two years with her family during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. Read the brave story of a young girl as she navigates adolescence through one of the most horrifying events in history.

Hidden Figures, Margot Lee Shetterly

Lexile: 1120

Pages: 368

Three brilliant African-American women at NASA serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world.

Summer Reading Questions

The questions below will help us review literary devices and concepts during the first few weeks of school. On a separate sheet of paper, please answer each of the following questions below for your book to turn in during the first week of school. Write at least 2-3 sentences per question unless noted otherwise. If you need help with the questions you may ask a parent or friend. You can also email me at rhigh@gastonday.org

1. What is a brief summary of your book?
2. What is the setting? Are there multiple settings?
3. Who is the protagonist? And why? What is the point of view?
4. Who is the antagonist? This is the rival or opponent. There can be more than one antagonist.
5. What is the main conflict in the story? Would you describe it as internal and external?
6. Does the story have a theme or lesson that can apply to everyone? Every story has a theme and there can be more than one.
7. What are two meaningful quotes in the story that support the theme including the page numbers?
8. What was the story's ending?
9. Write an alternate ending to your story (four or more sentences).
10. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?