

### **Grades 7 & 8 Summer Reading List**

1. Choose **ONE** book (that you have not read before) to read from the list below. You will need to annotate and prepare to take a comprehension quiz on one of these books. Notice there is a separate list for rising 7th Grade and 8th Grade.
2. After you have read your required reading book, you will choose **ONE** book on your reading level of your interest to read. I have attached a list of suggestions, however you are not limited to this list.
3. You will only need to answer the questions attached to this document for the book of your choice.

#### **Rising 7th Grade (pick one)**

**Option 1:** *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

*The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander is a novel in verse that follows 12-year-old Josh "Filthy McNasty" Bell, a talented basketball player, as he navigates the highs and lows of adolescence, family, and competition alongside his twin brother, Jordan.

**OR**

**Option 2:** *Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz

*Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz follows two parallel stories: Brandon, a boy experiencing the September 11, 2001, attacks firsthand in the World Trade Center, and Reshmina, an Afghan girl in 2019 caught in the ongoing war that resulted from that tragic day. As their stories unfold, both must navigate danger, loss, and difficult choices that highlight the lasting impact of 9/11.

#### **Rising 8th Grade (pick one)**

**Option 1:** *Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle\*

\*If needed, I have a limited number of copies I can provide prior to the summer.

*Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle is a memoir about his sixth-grade year, during which he struggles with poverty, hunger, and an abusive home while receiving free lunch at school.

**OR**

**Option 2:** *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins

The sequel to *The Hunger Games*, a dystopian young adult fiction novel. It continues the story of a now 17 year old Katniss Everdeen and the post-apocalyptic nation of Panem.

\*If you have not read *The Hunger Games*, you can read it for your choice book.

**Book Recommendations for Book of Choice (not limited to this list)**

These two links have great lists:

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/middle-school-nonfiction>

<https://www.weareteachers.com/best-biographies-for-teens/>

**Historical Fiction:** *Refugee*, Alan Gratz, *My Family for the War* by Anne C. Voorhoeve

**Mystery:** *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen

**Fantasy:** *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness, *The Dark Endeavor* by Kenneth Oppel, *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien(also a classic)

**Sci-Fi:** *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (also a classic)

**Romance:** *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

**Adventure:** *Jackaroo* by Cynthia Voigt

**Horror:** *Jane/Emily* by Patricia Clapp, *Doll Bones* by Holly Black, *Wait Until Helen Comes* by Mary Downing Hahn

**Comedy:** *Last Day on Mars* by Kevin Emerson, *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman

**Graphic novels:** *Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani

**Sports related:** *A Matter of Heart* by Amy Fellner Dominy

**Nonfiction:** *Brown Girl Dreaming*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Hiding Place*, *Hidden Figures*

### **Choice Book - 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 CHOICE book** to turn in during the first week of school. Write at least 2-3 sentences per question. If you need help with the questions you may ask a parent or friend. You can also email me at [rhhigh@gastonday.org](mailto:rhhigh@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 his/her 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.
10. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?