Welcome, Incoming 7th Graders!

We are looking forward to meeting you in the fall. To kick off the year, you will be sharing one great novel with your ELA class. We hope that hearing about all the books your peers read over the summer will help you find some new titles to add to your own "Books I Want to Read" list!

Why read over the summer? Reading over the summer is not only a great escape for your imagination, but it helps you to use and hold on to all the reading skills you have developed. Summer reading prepares you to be a stronger student when you come back to school.

A reminder:
Fiction is writing that describes imaginary events and people.

STEP #1

READ a work of fiction of interest to you.

If you need help finding a fiction book, try looking at the middle school library web page, or websites such as www.goodreads.com. At the end of this assignment is a list of suggested titles from The New York Times Best Sellers List. These are just suggestions—choose something of interest. Be sure your parent/guardian approves of your selection.
Step #2

CREATE a visual display about your book using a manila folder. Be creative and thoughtful in your presentation. Remember that the purpose of the activity is to persuade others to read your book!

*Instead of the manila folder, you are allowed to create an electronic version of this assignment if you prefer. Just be sure to include all of the same information, clearly labeled. You will need to share the digital version with your teacher. Your teacher will tell you how in the first week!*

Here is a model for setting up your project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Front Cover:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Back Cover:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Novel Title</strong></td>
<td><strong>Your Autobiography!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
<td>Include a picture that gives an idea of who you are.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary Paragraph** – An objective summary tells who the main character is, the setting (time and place), the conflict (problem), and how the character goes about resolving the problem.

(Do not give away the climax or resolution of the story. Do not include minor details from the plot or your personal opinion about the book.)

**Visuals** – Images that represent the novel, or a picture of the cover of the book (hand-drawn or electronic).

**Author Paragraph** – Biographical information about the author (where he/she lives, other books he or she has written, etc.).

**Your name**
ELA Teacher
ELA Class Period

**Family**
**Interests**
**Activities**
**Favorite things**
**School(s) you attended**
**Hopes and dreams for 7th grade**

**Example:** “I’m excited about...”
### Inside left page:

**Characters** – List the important characters in this novel and describe each in two or three sentences.

**Setting** – Describe the setting (time and place) and explain how it is important to the story.

**Point of view** – Tell the point of view in which the story is written and explain how you know (first person, third person, etc.).

**Theme** – Write a complete sentence identifying the subject of this novel and a theme (the big idea the writer wants to convey about this subject to the reader).

*(Example: The theme of “Little Red Riding Hood” is to be cautious of strangers.)*

Next, explain in a few sentences how you know this is a theme of the novel. Give two examples from the text that helped you identify this theme.

### Inside right page:

**Review Paragraph** – Give your opinion of the novel.

Did you like the novel? Why or why not? How hard or easy was this book to read? Were the characters interesting and well-developed? Did the plot move too slowly, too fast, or just right? How well did the story hold your interest? Did it get boring at times? To whom would you recommend this book? Why?


**Vocabulary** – List five or more new or interesting vocabulary words you encountered in this novel. Define each. Try [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) or [www.yourdictionary.com](http://www.yourdictionary.com) for definitions.

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**DUE DATE** – **Within the first few weeks of school.** Your ELA teacher will give you the exact date during the first week of school.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus/Content</strong></td>
<td>All required information included. Ideas fully developed.</td>
<td>Most required information included. Ideas clearly presented.</td>
<td>Some required information included. Ideas may be unclear at times.</td>
<td>Missing most/all required information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conventions</strong></td>
<td>Few errors in sentence formation, capitalization, and spelling.</td>
<td>Some errors in sentence formation, capitalization, and spelling.</td>
<td>Many errors in sentence formation, capitalization, and spelling.</td>
<td>Severe errors interfere with reader’s understanding of the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Style/Organization</strong></td>
<td>Product shows great attention to detail. It is visually appealing and neatly assembled.</td>
<td>Product is well-organized and neatly presented.</td>
<td>Product shows an attempt at organizing but may be messy or difficult to read.</td>
<td>Product lacks any organization. It is difficult for the reader to follow the information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Management</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>On time</td>
<td>Late</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**QUESTIONS?** — If you have questions about how to complete this assignment over the summer, please contact Dr. Ryan Monaghan at rmonaghan@ojrsm.com.

We are looking forward to meeting you and hearing about all of your great books!

~ The Seventh Grade ELA Teachers
New York Times Best Sellers – Middle Grades

1. *Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid* by Jeff Kinney

2. *Endling #2: The First* by Katherine Applegate
   Byx and friends continue their search for more dairnes as the threat of war looms.

3. *Kiss vs. Dogg* by James Patterson
   Oscar and Molly call a temporary truce while they try to find their way out of the forest.

4. *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
   The coming-of-age tale of Delsie, set in Cape Cod.

5. *Aru Shah and the Song of Death* by Roshani Chokshi
   Aru is framed for stealing the god of love's bow and arrow.

6. *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper
   Isabella lives between the two households of her divorced parents.

7. *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
   Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.

8. *Serafina and the Black Cloak* by Robert Beatty
   A brave and unusual girl named Serafina lives secretly in the basement of the grand Biltmore Estate amidst the splendor of the Gilded Age. Serafina's pa, the estate's maintenance man, has warned her to keep herself hidden from the fancy folk who live on the floors above, but when children at the estate start disappearing, Serafina and her friend Braeden Vanderbilt must work together to solve a dark and dangerous mystery.

9. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein
   When Kyle learns that the world's most famous game maker, Luigi Lemoncello, has designed the town's new library and is having an invitation-only lock-in on opening night, he's determined to be there! But the tricky part isn't getting into the library—it's getting out. Because when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route!