

Pre AP Summer Reading 2018: Grade 8
Willow Wood Junior High
Tomball ISD

Dear Students,

How delighted we are to have you in our Pre AP English/Language Arts program! We are looking forward to an enjoyable and successful 2018-2019 school year. As you are aware, reading is a skill that must be exercised, and the more we read, the better readers we become. During the summer, it is important for students to be engaged readers, and the Pre AP summer reading assignment is a requirement of students enrolled in Pre AP ELA courses in Tomball ISD. Below you will find a list of books that your campus has chosen for the summer reading assignment. Students shall select a book from this list to read during the summer. Upon returning to school in the fall, students will be engaged in inquiry circles with classmates who selected the same book. In order to be prepared to discuss the book in such a setting, students must read the book through a critical lens, make note of questions raised while reading, and be prepared to share insights and original observations discovered while reading.

We realize that changes do occur during the summer, and sometimes students find themselves switching schools due to a recent move. **Should you find that you will be attending a different Tomball ISD school, please check with that campus for their reading list, as that campus may have a different reading list than what appears on this page.** That information can also be located at http://www.tomballisd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=308191&type=d&pREC_ID=711030

Required Text: You are expected to read one of the following novels and complete the assignment.

Far Far Away

Tom McNeal (2013)



It says quite a lot about Jeremy Johnson Johnson that the strangest thing about him isn't even the fact his mother and father both had the same last name. Jeremy once admitted he's able to hear voices, and the townspeople of Never Better have treated him like an outsider since. After his mother left, his father became a recluse, and it's been up to Jeremy to support the family. But it hasn't been up to Jeremy alone. The truth is, Jeremy can hear voices. Or, specifically, one voice: the voice of the ghost of Jacob Grimm, one half of the infamous writing duo, The Brothers Grimm.

Jacob watches over Jeremy, protecting him from an unknown dark evil whispered about in the space between this world and the next. But when the provocative local girl Ginger Boultinghouse takes an interest in Jeremy (and his unique abilities), a grim chain of events is put into motion. And as anyone familiar with the Grimm Brothers know, not all fairy tales have happy endings...

The Little Prince

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

In this enchanting, allegorical tale, the narrator is a pilot who has crash-landed in a desert (similar to Saint-Exupéry's actual crash in the Sahara desert in 1935), and while trying to mend his crashed aircraft he is interrupted by a small boy who asks him to draw a sheep. Although taken aback, he does so and thus begins a series of conversations between himself and the Little Prince. The latter explains that he travels through the universe from asteroid to asteroid, each populated by only one inhabitant. The prince has also cultivated a precious rose back on his planet and is dismayed to discover that roses are so common on Earth. A desert fox convinces the prince, who is generally scornful of logic, that he is responsible for loving the rose and that this act of giving provides his life with meaning. Satisfied, the prince returns to his planet.



The 7th Most Important Thing

Shelley Pearsall (2015)

One Kid. One Crime. One Chance to Make Things Right.



It was a bitterly cold day when Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge --- he is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service...working for him.

Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart and a list of the Seven Most Important Things: glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, lightbulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. He can't believe it --- is he really supposed to rummage through people's trash? But it isn't long before

Arthur realizes there's more to the Junk Man than meets the eye, and the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine...

The following ideas are suggested in order to help students engage in **active reading**:

In his essay “How to Mark a Book,” Mortimer Adler explains that reading is a “conversation between you and the author.”

Adler writes: “Why is marking up a book indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don’t mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked book is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thoughts you had, or the thoughts the author expressed.”

“There are all kinds of devices for marking a book intelligently and fruitfully. Here’s the way I do it:

- Underlining (or highlighting): of major points, of important or forceful statements
- Vertical lines at the margin: to emphasize a statement already underlined
- Star, asterisk, or other doo-dad at the margin: to be used sparingly, to emphasize the ten or twenty most important statements in the book (You may want to fold the bottom corner of each page on which you use such marks. It won't hurt the sturdy paper on which most modern books are printed, and you will be able take the book off the shelf at any time and, by opening it at the folded-corner page, refresh your recollection of the book.)
- Numbers of other pages in the margin: to indicate where else in the book the author made points relevant to the point marked; to tie up the ideas in a book, which, though they may be separated by many pages, belong together
- Circling or highlighting of key words or phrases
- Writing in the margin, or at the top or bottom of the page, for the sake of: recording questions (and perhaps answers) which a passage raised in your mind; reducing a complicated discussion to a simple statement; recording the sequence of major points through the book. If marking your book is not a possibility, there are some other options:
- You can use sticky notes. Place these on the pages/paragraphs where you would underline or highlight and write out your thoughts or ideas on the note.
- Write out notes on paper and keep the paper inside the book. Include page numbers with comments/notations so that you will remember what prompted your thinking.

Tomball ISD endorses a summer reading program for all students enrolled in advanced English courses grades 6-12. The selections on the summer reading list have been chosen to encourage the enjoyment of reading and to prepare students for the study of literature. All students registered for Pre-AP, AP, or Dual Credit courses are required to read specific books. Students will be involved in inquiry circles and other skill-building assignments during the first few weeks of the school year. These activities will comprise the first major grade of the school year.

Should any questions arise, please contact:

Dawn Bourg, ELA Department Chairperson
dawnbourg@tomballisd.net

Dr. Katie Atkins, Director of Secondary ELA/Social Studies
katieatkins@tomballisd.net
(281) 357-3100 ext. 2094