

PAP Summer Reading 2019: Grade 7
Willow Wood Junior High School
Tomball ISD

Dear Students,

How delighted we are to have you in our PAP English/Language Arts program! We are looking forward to an enjoyable and successful 2019-2020 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 PAP summer reading assignment is a requirement of students enrolled in PAP 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 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.**

You are *required* to read one of the following texts:

The Thicket: A Path Begins

J.A. White (2014)

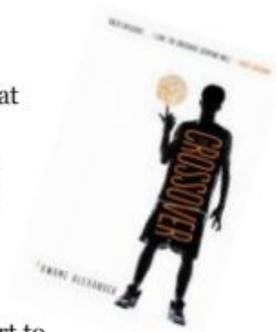


The followers of the Path have left the sinful world behind to live in the isolated community of De'Noran, which is increasingly encroached upon by the Thicket, the domain of the forest demon Sordyr. Kara Westfall's mother was executed for the crime of witchcraft, and now her family ekes out a living under the burden of the community's suspicion. It falls to 12-year-old Kara to keep her sickly younger brother and dysfunctional father alive. She negotiates the treacherous road of a pariah, attempting to persuade a proto-Puritanical society that she is harmless, even while the dangerously addictive powers she has inherited from her mother well up within her. In this darkly imaginative debut, White creates a fantasy world with creatures that are anything but sweet—a cyclopean bird, a multi-mouthed horror—and, after a deceptively satisfying resolution, he unfurls a twist that will make readers want the next chapter of Kara's story immediately.

The Crossover

Kwame Alexander (2014)

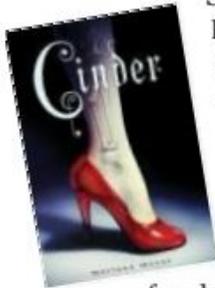
"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.



Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

Cinder

Marissa Meyer (2012)



Sixteen-year-old Cinder is considered a technological mistake by most of society and a burden by her stepmother. Being cyborg does have its benefits, though: Cinder's brain interference has given her an uncanny ability to fix things (robots, hovers, her own malfunctioning parts), making her the best mechanic in New Beijing. This reputation brings Prince Kai himself to her weekly market booth, needing her to repair a broken android before the annual ball. He jokingly calls it "a matter of national security," but Cinder suspects it's more serious than he's letting on.

Although eager to impress the prince, Cinder's intentions are derailed when her younger stepsister, and only human friend, is infected with the fatal plague that's been devastating Earth for a decade. Blaming Cinder for her daughter's illness, Cinder's stepmother volunteers her body for plague research, an "honor" that no one has survived.

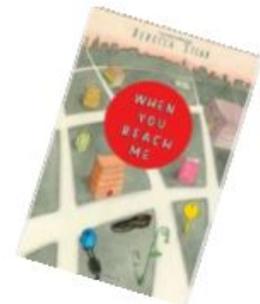
But it doesn't take long for the scientists to discover something unusual about their new guinea pig. Something others would kill for.

When You Reach Me

Rebecca Stead (2009)

Four mysterious letters change Miranda's world forever.

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, like the local grocery store, and they know whom to avoid, like the crazy guy on the corner.



But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a new kid for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then Miranda finds a mysterious note scrawled on a tiny slip of paper:

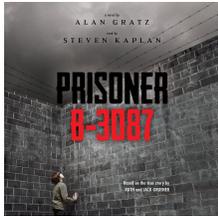
I am coming to save your friend's life, and my own.

I must ask two favors. First, you must write me a letter.

The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows all about her, including things that have not even happened yet. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late.

Prisoner B-3087

Alan Gratz (2013)

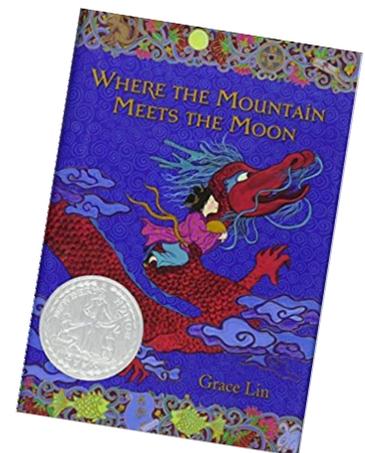


When Hitler's army entered and occupied his native Kraków, 10-year-old Yanek knew his life might change, but he had no idea of the horror that lay ahead. His remarkable survival story begins with a dramatic, emotional punch and then chronicles such moments as his secretive bar mitzvah in a warehouse basement, the systematic round up of Jews, and his deportation to the Plaszow concentration camp, the first of 10 camps he would suffer but survive. He recalls encounters with such Nazi figures as the sadistic Amon Goeth and describes acts of wanton, vicious brutality. In an appended note, Gratz explains that the novel is based on actual events in survivor Jack Gruener's life but he has "taken liberties with some times and events" to provide a better overview. The account includes basic historical information including essential aspects of WWII. A map would have been helpful, but this essentially true story is a good starting point for students unfamiliar with the Holocaust.

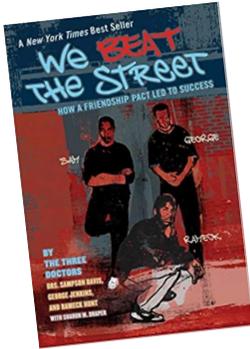
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Grace Lin (2009)

Living in the shadow of the Fruitless Mountain, Minli and her parents spend their days working in the rice fields, barely growing enough to feed themselves. Every night, Minli's father tells her stories about the Jade Dragon that keeps the mountain bare, the greedy and mean Magistrate Tiger, and the Old Man of the Moon who holds everyone's destiny. Determined to change her family's fortune, Minli sets out to find the Old Man of the Moon, urged on by a talking goldfish who gives her clues to complete her journey. Along the way she makes new friends including a flightless dragon and an orphan and proves her resourcefulness when she tricks a group of greedy monkeys and gets help from a king. Interwoven with Minli's quest are tales told by her father and by those she meets on the way. While these tales are original to Lin, many characters, settings, and themes are taken from traditional Chinese folklore. The author's writing is elegant, and her full-color illustrations are stunning. Minli's determination to help her family, as well as the grief her parents feel at her absence, is compelling and thoroughly human.—Jennifer Rothschild, Prince George's County Memorial Library System, Oxon Hill, MD



We Beat the Streets Sampson Davis (2006)



Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. It took a lot of determination—and a lot of support from one another—but despite all the hardships along the way, the three succeeded. Retold with the help of an award-winning author, this younger adaptation of the adult hit novel *The Pact* is a hard-hitting, powerful, and inspirational book that will speak to young readers everywhere.

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 PAP, 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:

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