

**PAP Summer Reading 2019: Grade 6**  
**Creekside Park Junior High**  
**Tomball ISD**

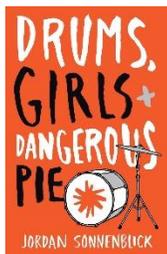
Dear Students,

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.**

**Required Text:** You are expected to read one of the following novels. Below is a list of books from which you may choose for your summer reading:

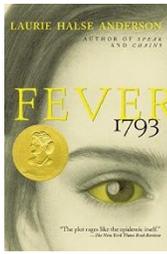
***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie***  
**By Jordan Sonnenblick**



Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost). He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band (whose members call him the Peasant), has a crush on the hottest girl in school (who doesn't even know he's alive), and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey (who is cuter than cute, which is also pretty annoying). But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie (yes, you'll have to read the book to find out what that is!).

### ***Fever 1973***

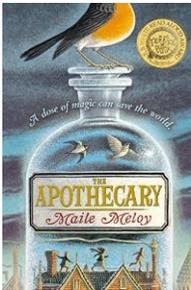
**Laurie Halse Anderson** (2011)



During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out. Disease sweeps the streets destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.

### ***The Apothecary***

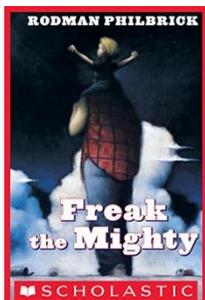
**Maile Meloy** (2011)



It's 1952 and the Scott family has just moved from Los Angeles to London. Here, fourteen-year-old Janie meets a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows - a fascinating boy who's not afraid to stand up to authority and dreams of becoming a spy. When Benjamin's father is kidnapped, Janie and Benjamin must uncover the secrets of the apothecary's sacred book, the Pharmacopoeia, in order to find him, all while keeping it out of the hands of their enemies - Russian spies in possession of nuclear weapons. Discovering and testing potions they never believed could exist, Janie and Benjamin embark on a dangerous race to save the apothecary and prevent impending disaster.

### ***Freak the Mighty***

**Rodman Philbrick** (2013)



A brilliant, emotionally charged novel about two boys. One is a slow learner, too large for his age, and the other is a tiny, disabled genius. The two pair up to create one formidable human force known as "Freak the Mighty". MAX. FREAK. BEST. FRIENDS. FOREVER. I never had a brain until Freak came along...That's what Max thought. All his life he'd been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn't help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn't help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone. At least until Freak came along. Freak was weird, too. He had a little body, and a really big brain. Together Max and Freak were unstoppable. Together, they were Freak the Mighty.

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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