

PAP Summer Reading 2018: Grade 8
Willow Wood 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 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 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.**

Below is a list a books from which you may choose for your summer reading novel:

The 7th Most Important Thing

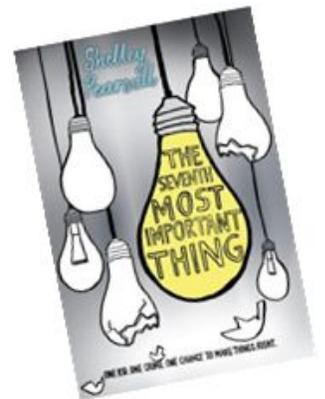
Shelley Pearsall (2015)

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 Refugee

Alan Gratz (2017)



A tour de force from acclaimed author Alan Gratz (*Prisoner B-3087*), this timely and powerful novel tells the story of three different children seeking refuge.

Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America...

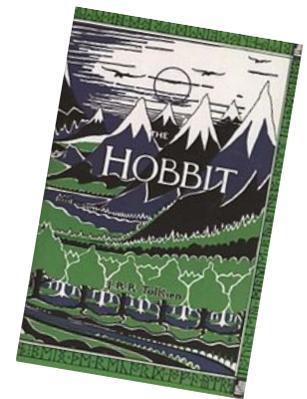
Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...

All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers, from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

The Hobbit

J. R. R. Tolkien (1937)

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.



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:

Katy Walters, Willow Wood Junior High ELA Department Chair person
kathrynwalters@tomballisd.net
(281)357-3030 x1267

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