You have been assigned to read two books this summer.

Read one book from the list below and answer the attached questions. Bring the completed questions with you on the first day of school. This assignment will be graded. A thorough knowledge of one book from this list will be crucial to success in English class this year.

Also, read any book of your choice, as long as that book is the first book in a series. It should be a series you have never read. Read this series book carefully and come prepared to demonstrate your knowledge of the plot within the first week of school. You do not have to write your answers to the questions about the series book.

Choose one (1) novel from the following:

**Warriors Don’t Cry** by Melba Pattillo Beals  
In 1957, well before Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow laws in the American South when they integrated Little Rock’s Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob’s rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, Melba acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.

**Bound** by Donna Jo Napoli  
Bound to her late father’s second wife and daughter. Bound to a life of servitude as a young girl in ancient China, where a woman is valued less than livestock. Bound to be alone, with no parents to arrange for a husband. Xing Xing spends her days taking care of her half-sister, Wei Ping, who cannot walk because of her foot bindings—the painful tradition for girls who are fit to be married. Even so, Xing Xing is content to practice her gift for poetry and calligraphy and to dream of a life unbound by the laws of family and society. But all of this is about to change as Stepmother, who has spent nearly all of the family’s money, grows desperate to find a husband for Wei Ping. Xing Xing realizes that this greed and desperation may threaten not only her memories of the past but also her dreams for the future.
**Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli
From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of “Stargirl, Stargirl.” She captures Leo Borlock’s heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo—panicked and desperate with love—urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love.

**Monster** by Walter Dean Myers
This *New York Times* bestselling novel and National Book Award nominee from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in Juvenile Detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve’s own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives. Fade In: Interior: Early Morning In Cell Block D, Manhattan Detention Center. Steve (Voice-Over) Sometimes I feel like I have walked into the middle of a movie. Maybe I can make my own movie. The film will be the story of my life. No, not my life, but of this experience. I’ll call it what the lady prosecutor called me ... Monster.

**Courage for Beginners** by Karen Harrington
Twelve-year-old Mysti Murphy wishes she were a character in a book. If her life were fictional, she’d magically know how to deal with the fact that her best friend, Anibal Gomez, has abandoned her in favor of being a “hipster.” She’d be able to take care of everyone when her dad has to spend time in the hospital. And she’d certainly be able to change her family’s secret. Seventh grade is not turning out the way Mysti had planned. With the help of a hot-air balloon, her new friend Rama Khan—and maybe even the heroes of the Texas Revolution—can she find the courage to change?

**Trouble** by Gary D. Schmidt
Henry Smith’s father told him that if you build your house far enough away from Trouble, then Trouble will never find you. But Trouble comes careening down the road one night in the form of a pickup truck that strikes Henry’s older brother, Franklin. In the truck is Chay Chouan, a young Cambodian from Franklin’s preparatory school, and the accident sparks racial tensions in the school—and in the well-established town where Henry’s family has lived for generations. Caught between anger and grief, Henry sets out to do the only thing he can think of: climb Mt. Katahdin, the highest mountain in Maine, which he and Franklin were going to climb together. Along with Black Dog, whom Henry has rescued from drowning, and a friend, Henry leaves without his parents’ knowledge. The journey, both exhilarating and dangerous, turns into an odyssey of discovery about himself, his older sister, Louisa, his ancestry, and why one can never escape from Trouble.

**A Night Divided** by Jennifer A. Nielsen
With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can’t help herself. She sees the East German soldiers with their guns trained on their own citizens; she, her family, her neighbors, and her friends are prisoners in their own city. But one day, while on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Then, when she receives a mysterious drawing, Gerta puts two and two together and concludes that her father wants Gerta and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?
Under a Painted Sky by Stacey Lee
All Samantha wanted was to move back to New York and pursue her music, which was difficult enough being a Chinese girl in Missouri, 1849. Then her fate takes a turn for the worse after a tragic accident leaves her with nothing and she breaks the law in self-defense. With help from Annamae, a runaway slave she met at the scene of her crime, the two flee town for the unknown frontier. But life on the Oregon Trail is unsafe for two girls. Disguised as Sammy and Andy, two boys heading for the California gold rush, each search for a link to their past and struggle to avoid any unwanted attention. Until they merge paths with a band of cowboys turned allies, and Samantha can’t stop herself from falling for one. But the law is closing in on them and new setbacks come each day, and the girls will quickly learn there are not many places one can hide on the open trail.

Also choose one (1) book that is the first book in a series of your choice.

Some suggested series:

- Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling
- The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
- The Lunar Chronicles by Marissa Meyer
- Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card
- The Mortal Instruments by Cassandra Clare
- The Infernal Devices by Cassandra Clare
- Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl
- The Maze Runner by James Dashner
- Divergent by Veronica Roth
- Eve by Ana Carey
- Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
- Delirium by Lauren Oliver
- Perfect Chemistry by Simone Elkeles
- The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien
- The Space Trilogy by C. S. Lewis
- Gone by Michael Grant
- Daughter of Smoke and Bone by Laini Taylor
- Matched by Ally Condie
- Legend by Marie Lu
- Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares
- Reboot by Amy Tintera
- Chaos Walking by Patrick Ness
- His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman
- The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
- The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith
- Shades of Magic by V. E. Schwab
- The Selection by Kiera Cass
- Spirit Animals by Marie Lu
- Heroes of Olympus by Rick Riordan
Summer Reading Assignment, 7th Grade English

Directions: Answer the following questions about the book you chose from the summer reading list (NOT the first book of a popular series).

- You may write your answers neatly on notebook paper or you may type and print them out.
- Your answers to all of these questions should total 1-2 double-spaced typed pages, or 2-3 pages handwritten.
- Include quotes from the book (with page numbers) in your answer to each question.
- Your answers must come from your brain and the book itself. Material taken from online summaries is considered plagiarism and will receive ZERO CREDIT.

Evaluate the ending of the book by answering the follow questions:

1. What is the main problem that the protagonist must overcome? How is this problem resolved?
2. Does this ending indicate that the protagonist(s) has/have shown growth and development over the course of the novel? If so, how? If not, what evidence indicates to you that the protagonist has not changed?
3. Were you happy with the conclusion? Why or why not?

Summer Reading Assignment Checklist:

- I answered each part of each question (including all the how? and why? questions).
- My answers include specific quotes (with page numbers) that clearly show my knowledge of the book.
- I did not look on the Internet for help. All answers came from the book and my brilliant brain.
- My handwriting is neat and large enough that another human can read it.