



## ***Collegiate School of Memphis Summer Reading List***

**Students are to read the books listed below according to their grade level over the summer break. The book review questions should be completed on each book. High school students will need to complete the book review questions as well as be prepared for a test on the required reading.**

**Parents: It is recommended that you purchase the books for your student so that they may make notes and highlight sections in the books as well as add to their personal repertoire of novels.**

**\*We have given Bookstar in the Poplar Plaza shopping center our reading list in order to have copies available for purchase.**

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### **\*6<sup>th</sup> grade students:**

#### **Required Reading (2) Both Books:**

***Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor**

The story of one African American family fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s.

***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**

For the diver Kino, finding a magnificent pearl means the promise of a better life for his impoverished family. His dreams blind him to the greed that the pearl arouses in him and his neighbors. Baring the fallacy of the American dream--that wealth erases all problems--Steinbeck's classic illustrates our fall from innocence. --

#### **Choose one of the following books in addition to the required reading:**

***Loser* by Jerry Spinelli**

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

***Under the Blood Red Sun* by Graham Salisbury**

Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

***The View from Saturday*** by E. L. Konigsburg

This is a tale about a team, a class, a school, a series of contests and, set in the midst of this, four jewel-like short stories — one for each of the team members — that ask questions and demonstrate surprising answers.

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**\*7<sup>th</sup> grade students:**

**Required Reading (2) Both books:**

***Warriors Don't Cry (unabridged version)*** by Melba Patillo Beals

Memoir. Account by one of the students who desegregated Central High School in Little Rock. Personally and powerfully told.

***The Westing Game*** by Ellen Raskin

For over twenty-five years, Ellen Raskin's Newbery Medal-winning *The Westing Game* has been an enduring favorite. It has sold over one and a half million copies. This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires-it all depends on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, a game involving blizzards, burglaries, and bombings! Ellen Raskin has created a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense.

**Choose one of the following books in addition to the required reading:**

***The Chocolate War*** by Robert Cormier

Stunned by his mother's recent death and appalled by the way his father sleepwalks through life, Jerry Renault, a New England high school student, ponders the poster in his locker - Do I dare disturb the universe? A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

***Bound*** by Donna Jo Napoli

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well.

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**\*8<sup>th</sup> grade students:**

**Required Reading (2) Both books:**

***Homecoming*** by Cynthia Voigt

The Tillerman kids' mother just left them one day in a car in a mall parking lot. Their father had left them a long time ago. So, as usual, it was up to 13-year-old Dicey, the eldest of four, to take care of everything, make all the decisions, feed them, and find places to sleep. But above all, Dicey would have to make sure to avoid the authorities who would split them up and place them in foster homes.

***Bounce*** by Natasha Friend

Evan, 13 years old, has to cope with her new stepfamily. To adapt, she speaks to her dead mother who encourages her to let negative comments “bounce” off of her. Through this she is able to build closer relationships with her father’s new family.

**Choose one of the following books in addition to the required reading:**

***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*** by John Boyne

Guaranteed to spark discussion and debate—this is a tale of two young boys experiencing the Holocaust from different perspectives and getting caught up in terrible events entirely beyond their control.

***Nothing but the Truth, A Documentary Novel*** by Avi

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story. In this remarkable Newbery Honor book, facts, people, actions, and reactions are presented in stark documentary style. The truth -- and nothing but the truth -- can be discovered by only one person: the reader.

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**\*9<sup>th</sup> grade students:** (Honors class listed below)

**Required Reading (3) All Books:**

(All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students must answer the book review questions and be prepared to take a test on each book in August.)

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** by Maya Angelou

In the first volume of an extraordinary autobiographical series, one of the most inspiring authors of our time recalls—with candor, humor, poignancy and grace—how her journey began.... Superbly told, with the poet's gift for language and observation, Angelou's autobiography of her childhood in Arkansas.

***The Old Man and the Sea*** by Ernest Hemingway

The Old Man and the Sea has proved itself to be one of the enduring works of American fiction. It is the story of an old Cuban fisherman and his supreme ordeal: a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

***Tears of a Tiger*** by Sharon Draper

The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

**\*9<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Class**

**Required Reading (3) All Books:**

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** by Maya Angelou (see above)

***The Old Man and the Sea*** by Ernest Hemingway (see above)

***Of Mice and Men*** by John Steinbeck

The tragic story of the complex bond between two migrant laborers in Central California. They are George Milton and Lennie Small, itinerant ranch hands who dream of one day owning a small farm. George acts as a father figure to Lennie, who is a very large, simpleminded man, calming him and helping to reign in his immense physical strength.

**Choose one of the following books in addition to the three required reading:**

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** by Zora Neale Hurston

American classic, is the luminous and haunting novel about Janie Crawford, a Southern Black woman in the 1930s, whose journey from a free-spirited girl to a woman of independence and substance has inspired writers and readers for close to 70 years. Initially published in 1937, this novel about a proud, independent black woman's quest for identity, a journey that takes her through three marriages and back to her roots, has been one of the most widely read and highly acclaimed novels in the canon of African-American literature.

***Speak*** by Laurie Halse Anderson

Melinda Sordino busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. Now her old friends won't talk to her, and people she doesn't even know hate her from a distance. The safest place to be is alone, inside her own head. But even that's not safe. Because there's something she's trying not to think about, something about the night of the party that, if she let it in, would blow her carefully constructed disguise to smithereens. And then she would have to speak the truth. This extraordinary first novel has captured the imaginations of teenagers and adults across the country.

***Tears of a Tiger*** by Sharon Draper (see above)

## **Required Summer Reading Book Review Questions**

*Write and answer the following questions for **each** of the summer reading books. Be sure to answer in complete sentences. Your answers may be typed or handwritten neatly on notebook paper.*

*Please bring this completed assignment to your English class on the first day of school.*

*This assignment will be your first English grade! No Exceptions!*

1. Write the names of the most important characters in the story.
2. Identify the relationships of the characters in the story to one another.
3. When and where does the story seem to take place? What clues in the story did you use to determine the place (setting) and the time the story took place?
4. What was the climax (high point) of the story?
5. What did the author want you to think about the main character? What things in the story made you think this is what the author wanted you to think? In other words, can you prove why you think as you do about the main character?
6. Choose a character from the book and tell what you think about that person. Do you like him/her? Why or why not? Would you like to have that person as a friend? Why or why not? Be specific and use examples to defend your decision.
7. What part of the story was the funniest? Most exciting? Saddest? (Answer all three)
8. Explain the title. (Why did the author choose the title?)

9. What was the author's purpose in writing the book? What idea, feeling, etc. did he want to give you about the theme?

10. Would this book make a good movie? Why or why not? What movie actors would be the characters in the book and why?