

Collegiate School of Memphis



Summer Reading List

****In coming/New Seventh Grade students:***

***Dragon Wings* by Lawrence Yep.** Historical fiction. Young Chinese immigrant comes to San Francisco at the turn of the century to join his father, whom he has never met. They experience the Chinese immigrant culture of the time (bias, gangs-brotherhoods,...) within the context of the times including the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906.

***House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros.** The life of Esperanza Cordero is revealed in the new house on Mango Street which is in the Hispanic area of Chicago. Uses poems and stories to express thoughts and emotions about her oppressive environment.

***Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Patillo Beals.** Memoir. Account by one of the students who desegregated Central High School in Little Rock. Personally and powerfully told.

****In coming/Current and New Eighth Grade students:***

***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, 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.

***Journey of the Sparrows* by Fran Leeper Buss.** Nailed into a crate in the back of a truck, 15-year-old Maria, her older sister Julia, their little brother Oscar, and a boy named Tomas endure a cruel journey across the U.S. border and then north to Chicago. There they struggle to find work -- cleaning, sewing, washing dishes -- always careful to remain "invisible" so the authorities won't arrest and deport them. Despite the family's ordeals, hope and love can be found --

***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.

**Refer to the BACK SIDE of this sheet for the Required
Summer Reading Book Review Questions.**

Required Summer Reading Book Review Questions

*Write and answer the following questions for **each** (three) 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?
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?

Refer to the FRONT SIDE of this sheet for the complete Summer Reading List.