



## Doane Academy

### 2020 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

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Dear Students:

Let's start by addressing your most pressing question: **Why have summer reading?**

Reading is vital. As we read, we test our own values and experiences with those of others. By the end of a book, we have encountered new experiences, ideas, and people. Hopefully, we know our world and ourselves a little better.

In addition, nothing develops your verbal skills like reading for pleasure! Year in and year out, the students who read with the greatest understanding, write with the greatest clarity and purpose, and excel in national testing tend to be those who read widely. Reading confers tangible benefits as well as a variety of pleasures.

In creating the assignment below, we have done our best to provide you with reading experiences of true quality. We have also sought to include a variety of books to ensure that each of you will find something of personal interest.

#### **Assignment:**

We ask that you read at least **two** books over the summer: the one listed as **required** for your grade level and one of your **choice**!

1. We've chosen a **required** book that we think you'll enjoy and that will give us a shared basis for class discussion when we get together in the fall! There will be an **assessment** (a test, short essay, or other writing assignment) on your required book in September. We recommend that you read this text in August and take detailed notes. We also recommended that you purchase a copy of this text to use in class at the start of the year.
2. Your second summer read is entirely your **choice**! Your second text may be a novel, a graphic novel, a nonfiction book, or even a substantial article (shoot for something at least 10 pages in length). Below, you'll find a list of suggestions if you're having trouble finding something that interests you. You can read your "choice" text at any point in the summer, and when we get together in the fall, you'll have a chance to **pitch** or **critique** it to your classmates; in other words, did you love it or hate it, and why? If you can't wait until school starts to talk about your book, feel free to leave a **video review** on the [7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading FlipGrid thread](#)! Your classmates will be able to see your review and reply with their own videos. You may even convince someone else to read a book you loved! Video reviews are **optional** but highly encouraged!



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#### Resources:

- Rising Middle School students are strongly encouraged to take notes on their summer reading texts. [Click here](#) to print a **reading guide** that will help you capture the key characters, settings, events, and conflicts in each story. Completion of this reading guide is \*optional\*, but it may be very helpful to you in comprehending and remembering key elements of your texts. In particular, it may come in handy when completing the assessment for your required text in the fall. Alternatively, you may choose to take notes in the format of your choice.
- [Click here](#) to view the 7th Grade Summer Reading FlipGrid thread!
- [Click here](#) to view instructions for creating a video review in FlipGrid!

#### Texts:

##### Required text:

- *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster

##### Suggestions for your choice text:

###### **If you're interested in... Adventures at Sea**

- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi
- *Shackleton's Stowaway* by Victoria McKennan
- *Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus
- *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor

###### **If you're interested in... Adventures on Land**

- *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *The Star of Kazan* by Eva Ibbotson
- *Peak* by Roland Smith
- *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne

###### **If you're interested in... Fantasy Adventures**

- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin
- *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman
- *The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien



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### A Note on Outside Sources and Academic Integrity:

- Your summer reading assignments involve reading and note-taking but no writing. Feel free to discuss your reading with friends, family, and classmates, but make sure to complete your reading thoroughly and independently. **Do not** consult websites like Sparknotes or any other outside sources; there is no substitute for reading the complete, original text! We've designed these assignments with your enjoyment, autonomy, and choice in mind, so find a cozy spot and enjoy your reading! Please remember that any notes you use in class must be your own.

Please email Ms. Brandwood at [kbrandwood@doaneacademy.org](mailto:kbrandwood@doaneacademy.org) with any questions!