



Doane Academy

2018 7th and 8th Grade Summer Reading



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 book reading. We teach grammar, usage, vocabulary, and spelling in our classes. Yet these efforts pale by comparison with what you can absorb naturally and painlessly if you read frequently on your own. 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 compiling the list 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.

Reading Requirements:

You are required to read **two** books over the summer--the one listed as **primary** for your grade level and any one from the **secondary** list for your grade level.

A Note on Outside Sources and Plagiarism:

While working on the summer reading, it is important for students to remember that all work must be their own. This means that students are to complete the work without consulting the internet or other outside sources. In addition, students are to complete work by themselves, without collaborating with peers. All English courses will begin the academic year with a discussion about plagiarism, and students will sign an academic honesty pledge in which they assert they 1) understand the concept of plagiarism and 2) are aware of the consequences that come with it. As a school dedicated to the development of strong, ethical leaders, we take plagiarism very seriously.

Before beginning your summer reading assignments, please take the time to view the video at the link below that contains a walkthrough of the definition of plagiarism by the English Department Chair, Kath Brandwood: <http://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cbhifXTVv>.

If you have any questions, please email Ms. Brandwood at kbrandwood@doaneacademy.org.



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Assignment:

1. There will be an in-class essay on your **primary** book in September. It is recommended you read this text in August and take detailed notes. It is also recommended that you purchase a copy of this text to use in class at the start of the year.
2. Complete one of the two writing assignments below for your selected **secondary** text. Your final product should include references to specific character actions, narrative events, and textual passages.
 - a. Choose a character from your selected book whom you like or dislike. Explain why. Your response should be a minimum of 400 words and contain at least two paragraphs.
 - b. Write a letter to the author in which you express your opinion of their work and ask them to answer at least two questions you have about the text. Your letter should be a minimum of 400 words and contain at least two paragraphs.

*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 completing your summer reading report and follow-up assignments in the fall. Alternatively, you may choose to take notes in the format of your choice.*

Assigned Texts:

Entering Seventh Grade:

Primary: Jack Shafer, [Shane](#)

Secondary: J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*
Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*
Thor Heyerdahl, *Kon-Tiki: Across the Pacific by Raft*
Jewell Parker Rhodes, *Ninth Ward*
Katherine Erskine, *Mockingbird*
Erin Etrada Kelly, *Hello, Universe*

Entering Eighth Grade:

Primary: Art Spiegelman, [Maus I: My Father Bleeds History](#)

Secondary:

Julia Child, [My Life in France](#)



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Alephonsion Deng, Benson Deng, and Benjamin Ajak, [*They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky*](#)
Jack Gantos, [*Hole in my life*](#)
Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen, [*The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival*](#)
Homer Hickam Jr., [*Rocket Boys*](#). (also titled *October Sky*)
Ji-Li Jiang, [*Red Scarf Girl*](#)
James McBride, [*The Color of Water*](#)
Ali Nujood, [*I am Nujood, age 10 and divorced*](#)
Zac Unger, [*Working Fire: The Making of a Fireman*](#)
Gerda Weismann Klein, [*All But My Life*](#)
Malala Yousafzai, [*I Am Malala*](#)