



Doane Academy

2019 7th 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 reading for pleasure! 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.

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 that 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 [click here](#) to view a video by the English Department Chair, Kath Brandwood; in it, Ms. Brandwood defines plagiarism and specifies how you can avoid it as you complete your summer reading assignment.

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



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Assignment:

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

*NOTE: 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.*

Required Text: [*The Phantom Tollbooth*](#) by Norton Juster

There will be an in-class writing assignment on your **required** 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.

Secondary Text: Choose your adventure!

You will make a selection from one of the categories below. For your summer reading report, you will write a response of at least 400 words that corresponds to the guided reading question listed below the category of your chosen book. Your final product should include references to specific character actions, narrative events, and textual passages.

Category 1: Adventure at Sea

Guided Reading Question: How is the main character changed by his or her adventure at sea? Throughout the book, consider the character's personality, choices, and relationships with others.

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



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Category 2: Adventure on Land

Guided Reading Question: What is one personality trait that either brings the main character success or failure on his or her adventure? Identify and describe this trait and its impact.

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

Category 3: Fantasy Adventure

Guided Reading Question: How do elements of the book's setting help or hinder the main character's adventure? Consider time, place, and the rules of imaginary world in which the character exists.

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