

OYSTER BAY HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT
ENGLISH 7
2023

Dear Seventh Graders,

We are so excited to meet you and welcome you to English 7 in the fall! There is lots to talk about once you get here, but in the meantime, you are invited to join us in an **extra credit** summer reading assignment. Research shows that the best way to become a better reader is to read A LOT and to read OFTEN! Let's keep building on all of that progress you've made in 6th grade over the summer.

Below, you will see a list of young adult novels to choose from. Each novel represents a unique perspective, and there is sure to be something for everyone. Once you have chosen and read one of the novels below, complete the summer reading assignment attached, which is to be turned in during the first week of school.

Assignment: After you read, we ask that you **CHOOSE AND COMPLETE TWO (2) OF THE RESPONSE OPTIONS BELOW**. You may choose whichever options seem most interesting to you! Your work can be done in a collection of documents kept in one folder on your Google Drive, loose leaf paper kept in a folder or binder, or even in a marble notebook. Please have your assignment done by the first day of class.

Assignment #1: Windows and Mirrors

Books are often referred to as "windows" and "mirrors." A mirror reflects our own experiences and helps us see ourselves more clearly. Windows provide a view into experiences that are different from our own. Each of the novel options provides insight into a unique perspective and lived experience. Based on your reading of the novel you selected, do you see it as a mirror or a window? Write a well developed paragraph using SPECIFIC textual evidence from the book to support your response.

If your book was a window...

- What new experiences or perspectives did you gain from reading the book?
- Did the novel challenge or change any ideas you previously had about the world or other people?
- How did the novel broaden your understanding of other cultures or ways of life?
- Were there any parts of the book you found surprising or enlightening?

If your book was a mirror...

- In what ways do you see yourself reflected in the characters, plots, or themes of the book?
- Did any of the characters or situations in the book remind you of people or experiences in your own life? How did that affect your understanding of the book?
- How did reading this book challenge or affirm your own beliefs or values? Did it make you question anything about yourself or the world around you?
- Were there any parts of the book that you found difficult to read or connect with? Why?

Assignment #2: Fan Fiction

Think about a scene in the book you read that was particularly impactful or important to the story. Now, imagine re-writing that scene from the perspective* (point of view) of a different character in the book. This could be a minor character who was present in the scene, or a major character whose thoughts or feelings we didn't get to see in the original version. In your re-write, try to focus on how the new character's perspective changes the way we

understand the events of the scene. What new information or insights do we gain by seeing things from a different point of view? Write at least one well-developed paragraph.

**Perspective - the way someone sees the world or a situation*

Assignment #3: Vocabulary

As you read, compile a list of vocabulary words that are unfamiliar to you. You must have a list of at least ten (10) words. Using those vocabulary words, create a vocabulary four square EACH that looks like the one below.

Word:	Definition in your own words:
Create a sentence of at least seven (7) words using the vocabulary term correctly:	Image that reminds you of the word:

Assignment #4: Thematic Poem

Think about the central theme or message of the novel you selected. This could be a message about love, friendship, loss, courage, or any other theme that you think is important to the story.

Now, imagine that you are a poet, and that you want to capture this theme in a poem. Your poem can be written in any style or format, and must include at least ten (10) lines. Your poem should reflect your understanding and interpretation of the overall theme, or message, of the novel.

As you write your poem, consider the following questions:

- What images can you use to convey the theme? How can you use figurative language to make your poem more powerful?
- What emotions or feelings do you want your poem to express? How can you use language and tone to create this desired emotion?
- How does your poem reflect your own personal understanding and interpretation of the theme of the book?

Assignment #5: Thematic RACER Paragraph

Write a RACER paragraph answering the following prompt:

Based on the events of your story, what is a theme, or central message, of your book selection?

Using the graphic organizer below, plan your RACER paragraph. Then, write your short response as a well-developed paragraph. Be sure to include SPECIFIC textual evidence to support your response. Proofread your work for spelling and grammar.

R (Restate the Question)	
A (Answer)	

C (Cite Quote)	
E (Explain it)	
R (Restate your Answer)	

We can't wait to see you here at OBHS! Happy reading!

With Love,
Ms. Galioto

Novel Options:

Note to Parents - Please be sure to preview each text to determine your comfortability with the content before allowing your child to read it, as some selections may contain more mature themes. A book review, along with real parent reviews, has been linked along with each text for your convenience. All texts are classified as YA (young adult). The variety of text options allows for each child to read what is right for them.

Book Title	Synopsis	Book Review
Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon	<p>My disease is as rare as it is famous...basically, I'm allergic to the world. I don't leave my house, have not left my house in fifteen years. The only people I ever see are my mom and my nurse, Carla.</p> <p>But then one day, a moving truck arrives. New next door neighbors. I look out the window, and I see him. I learn that when I talk to him, my whole world opens up, and I feel myself starting to change—starting to want things. To want out of my bubble. To want everything, everything the world has to offer.</p>	Everything, Everything Review
When the Sea Turned to Silver by Grace Lin	<p>Pinmei's gentle, loving grandmother always has the most exciting tales for her granddaughter and the other villagers. However, the peace is shattered one night when soldiers of the Emperor arrive and kidnap the storyteller.</p> <p>Determined to have her grandmother returned, Pinmei embarks on a journey to find the Luminous Stone.</p>	When the Sea Turned to Silver Book Review
The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind by Meg Medina	<p>Sixteen-year-old Sonia Ocampo was born on the night of the worst storm Tres Montes had ever seen. And when the winds mercifully stopped, an unshakable belief in the girl's protective powers began.</p> <p>Sonia's entire village believes she has a gift, but it's only in leaving home that she finds out who she truly is.</p>	The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind Review
Monster by Walter Dean Myers	<p>Sometimes I feel like I have walked into the middle of a movie. Maybe I can make my own movie. The film will be the story of my life. No, not my life, but of this experience. I'll call it what the lady who is the prosecutor called me. <i>Monster</i>.</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served at the lookout.</p>	Monster Review
The Crossover by Kwame	<p>"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks...The court is</p>	The Crossover Review

Alexander	<p>SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year-old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.</p>	
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson	<p>"I was born as the South explodes/Too many people too many years</p> <p>Enslaved, then emancipated/But not free, the people who look like me</p> <p>Keep fighting/and getting killed</p> <p>So that today--February 12, 1963/And every day from this moment on</p> <p>Brown children like me/can grow up free.</p>	<p>Brown Girl Dreaming Review</p>
Wonder by R.J. Palacio	<p>August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. <i>Wonder</i> begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others.</p>	<p>Wonder Book Review</p>
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper	<p>Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.</p>	<p>Out of my Mind Book Review</p>
Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt	<p>"Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid."</p> <p>Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher, Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia</p>	<p>Fish in a Tree Book Review</p>

	<p>is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone else—than a label.</p>	
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