

# Summer Reading 2023-2024

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Required Reading:

- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R Tolkien

"Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum." (Amazon)

### Required Reading Assignment:

As you read each chapter, look for the sentence or section that jumps out at you. Write a brief note about what is happening in the story so can remember what you were thinking. (If nothing jumps out at you by the time you have finished reading each chapter, then go back and FIND something to respond to.)

You must:

- Write 3-5 sentences to explain each connection.
- Give the page number, paragraph, or line number of the part you are responding to.
- Mention which type of connection (Text-to-Text, Text-to-Self, or Text-to-World) you are using (Types of Connections page attached as final page of summer reading list).

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### Choice Novel (select 1 from the following list):

- *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner

"When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone.

Outside the towering stone walls that surround them is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.

Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying: Remember. Survive. Run." (Amazon)

- *Divergent* by Veronica Roth

"One choice can transform you. Beatrice Prior's society is divided into five factions—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). Beatrice must choose between staying with her Abnegation family and transferring factions. Her choice will shock her community and herself. But the newly christened Tris also has a secret, one she's determined to keep hidden, because in this world, *what makes you different makes you dangerous*." (Amazon)

- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dreadlocked, 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 from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family." (Amazon)

- *Well, That was Awkward* by Rachel Vail

"Gracie has never felt like this before. One day, she suddenly can't breathe, can't walk, can't *anything*—and the reason is standing right there in front of her, all tall and weirdly good-looking: A.J. But it turns out A.J. likes not Gracie but Gracie's beautiful best friend, Sienna. Obviously Gracie is happy for Sienna. Super happy! She helps Sienna compose the best texts, responding to A.J.'s surprisingly funny and appealing texts, just as if *she* were Sienna. Because Gracie is fine. Always! She's had lots of practice being the sidekick, second-best. It's all good. Well, almost all. She's trying." (Amazon)

- *Holes* by Louis Sachar

"Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption." (Amazon)

- *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank

"In 1942, as Nazis occupied Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the secret upstairs rooms of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and amusing, Anne's account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short." (Amazon)

**\*The students will have an assignment given over the choice book the first week of school.**

## **Types of Connections:**

**1.Text-to-Self:** these are connections that we make between the text and our own life or experiences. Ask yourself the following questions to make Text-to-Self connections:

What does this remind me of in my life?  
 What is this similar to in my life?  
 How is this different from my life?  
 Has something like this ever happened to me?  
 How does this relate to my life?  
 What were my feelings when I read this?

**2. Text-to-Texts:** these are connections that we make between the text we are reading and something we have read in the past. Use the following sentence starters to make these kinds of connections:

What does this remind me of in another book I've read?  
 How is this text similar to other things I've read?  
 How is this different from other books I've read?  
 Have I read about something like this before?

**3. Text-to-World:** these are connections that we make between the text and what we know about the world around us. As you read, you may be reminded of something you saw on t.v., heard on the news, or even learned in another class. Use the following sentence stems to make text-to-world connections:

What does this remind me of in the real world?  
 How is this text similar to things that happen in the real world?  
 How is this different from things that happen in the real world?  
 How did that part relate to the world around me?