

## Summer Reading Southwick Regional School

Dear Students & Families,

Summer is fast approaching and it is time to spread the word about summer reading! In order to keep minds stimulated and attention focused, students are required to read at least one book over the summer from their grade-level list below. The books were chosen as they each connect to units of study that students will participate in next year.

When students return to school in September, they should come prepared to write about their book. They will take part in an assessment to determine their strengths and areas of growth as writers. This will help teachers target their writing instruction. **They should not complete this writing assessment at home.** It is recommended that students take notes as they read their book at home. This will help them prepare for their writing assessment that will be administered when they return to school.

Although students will not complete the writing assessment at home, we find that it helps to know the prompt ahead of time to focus their reading. Below are the writing prompts that students will be able to choose from. They will only be expected to choose one of the following prompts from their grade-level options.

### **Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

#### **Option #1**

Characters often face challenges over the course of a book. Based on your book, what challenges did the main character face and how did they overcome those challenges? Use details and evidence from the book to support your response.

#### **Option #2**

Over the course of your text, there were a series of events that took place. Describe these events and the impact they had on the people, characters, or the wider community within the text. Include details and evidence from the text to support your response.

#### **Option #3**

One of the great things about reading books is that they can transport you into another time and place with simply the flip of a page. Based on your book, describe the time period in which it took place. Is this a time period that you knew a lot about before you read this book? If so, did you learn anything new? If not, did you come away with a greater understanding of what this particular time and place in history was actually like? Please be sure to include details and evidence from the book to support your writing.

### **Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

#### **Option #1**

Often in life an individual must suffer for the greater good of society or due to society's norms. Identify how this relates to your text. Provide specific evidence.

#### **Option #2**

Authors often write a text to get their point of view on a topic across to a wide audience. Based on your book, what topics are covered and how does the author represent their point of view throughout the text? Be sure to include details and evidence from the text to support your response.

#### **Option #3**

Over the course of your text, there were a series of events that took place. Describe these events and the impact they had on the people, characters, or the wider community within the text. Include details and evidence from the text to support your response.

### **Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

#### **Option #1**

All societies have expectations for individuals to follow. These expectations can create internal conflicts for these individuals. Describe an expectation placed upon one of the characters/people in your chosen

book that created an internal conflict within them. Describe the struggle and how they attempted to resolve this struggle.

**Option #2**

Often in life an individual must suffer for the greater good of society or due to society's norms. Identify how this relates to your text. Provide specific evidence.

**Option #3**

Over the course of your text, there were a series of events that took place. Describe these events and the impact they had on the people, characters, or the wider community within the text. Include details and evidence from the text to support your response.

**Incoming 10<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

**Option #1**

Characters often face challenges over the course of a book. Based on your book, what challenges did the main character face and how did they overcome those challenges? Use details and evidence from the book to support your response.

**Option #2**

Over the course of your text, there were a series of events that took place. Describe these events and the impact they had on the people, characters, or the wider community within the text. Include details and evidence from the text to support your response.

**Option #3**

Sometimes it is difficult to keep our own, modern-day experiences from influencing the reading of a historical text. As you were reading your book, describe whether or not you were able to imagine what life was really like for the characters/people within the context of the time period and how your own experiences influenced how you viewed the book. Please be sure to include details and evidence from the book to support your writing.

**Incoming 11<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

**Option #1**

Characters often face challenges over the course of a book. Based on your book, what challenges did the main character face and how did they overcome those challenges? Use details and evidence from the book to support your response.

**Option #2**

All societies have expectations for individuals to follow. These expectations can create internal conflicts for these individuals. Describe an expectation placed upon one of the characters/people in your chosen book that created an internal conflict within them. Describe the struggle and how they attempted to resolve this struggle.

**Option #3**

One of the great things about reading books is that they can transport you into another time and place with simply the flip of a page. Based on your book, describe the time period in which it took place. Is this a time period that you knew a lot about before you read this book? If so, did you learn anything new? If not, did you come away with a greater understanding of what this particular time and place in history was actually like? Please be sure to include details and evidence from the book to support your writing.

**Incoming 12<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

**Option #1**

We often learn from events of the past. Based on the text, describe the parallels you were you able to draw between the items in the world of the book and those in your own. Explain how these items/ideas have impacted us today. Be sure to use details and evidence from the text to support your writing.

**Option #2**

All societies have expectations for individuals to follow. These expectations can create internal conflicts for these individuals. Describe an expectation placed upon one of the characters/people in your chosen book that created an internal conflict within them. Describe the struggle and how they attempted to resolve this struggle.

**Option #3**

Authors often write a text to get their point of view on a topic across to a wide audience. Based on your book, what topics are covered and how does the author represent their point of view throughout the text? Be sure to include details and evidence from the text to support your response.

We encourage parents or guardians to preview all texts prior to selection. While all of the books are teacher recommended, there may be content embedded in the books that you feel your child should not read without the direct support of an adult. All of these books deal directly with historical content and the language embedded throughout them may at times be difficult to read. Please remember that language is complex and is based on the context and time period it was used. Our hope is that parents or guardians engage in discussions as students are reading their books. We have offered multiple text choices per grade-level to provide students a choice in their text selection.

The following website is a great resource to visit if you would like to read reviews of books, thoughts from parents, and overviews of books. Not all books are listed on this website.

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/>

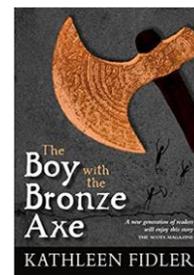
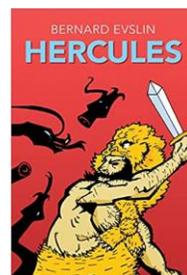
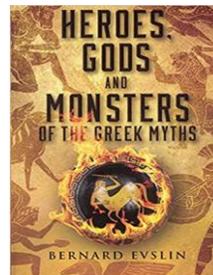
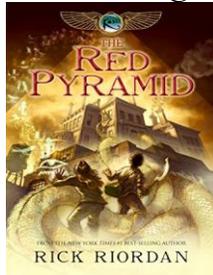
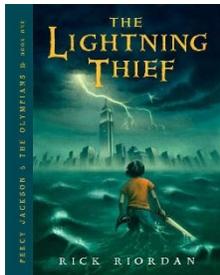
Students in **Advanced Placement** courses are expected to complete this summer reading assignment. In addition to this summer reading assignment, they will be assigned summer work from their Advanced Placement teachers.

Happy Reading!  
SRS Social Studies Department

## Summer Reading List

### Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Graders

Choose one of the following:



*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

*The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan

*Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths* by Bernard Evslin

*Hercules* by Bernard Evslin

*The Boy with the Bronze Axe* by Kathleen Fidler

### Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

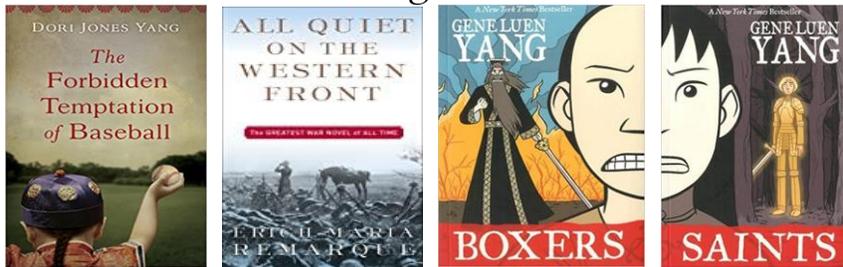
Choose one of the following:



*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins  
*Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard  
*The Wave* by Todd Strasser  
*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia

### Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders

Choose one of the following:

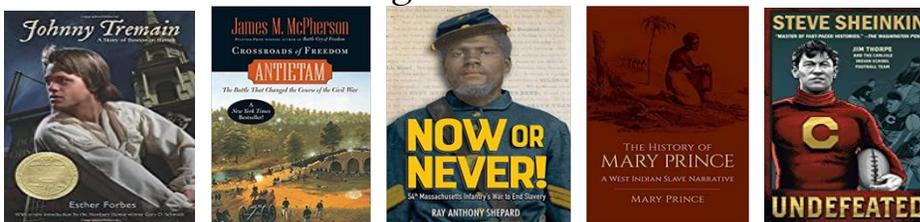


*The Forbidden Temptation of Baseball* by Dori Jones Yang  
*All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque  
*Boxers* by Gene Luen Yang (Book 1 of 2)  
*Saints* by Gene Luen Yang (Book 2 of 2)

**\*We consider *Boxers* and *Saints* as one book for the purpose of summer reading. *Boxers* and *Saints* are companion graphic novels that are intended to be read as a set. Each book shares one perspectives on the same historical event. If students choose to read *Boxers*, they also need to read *Saints*.**

### Incoming 10<sup>th</sup> Graders

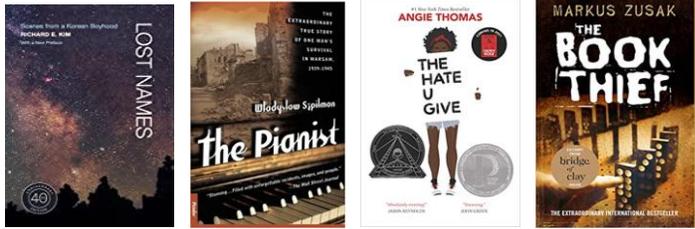
Choose one of the following:



*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Hoskins Forbes  
*Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam (Pivotal Moments in American History)* by James M. McPherson  
*Now or Never!: Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts Infantry's War to End Slavery* by Ray Anthony Shepard  
*The History of Mary Prince: A West Indian Slave Narrative* by Mary Prince  
*The Undeclared* by Steve Sheinkin

## Incoming 11<sup>th</sup> Graders

Choose one of the following:



*Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood* by Richard E. Kim

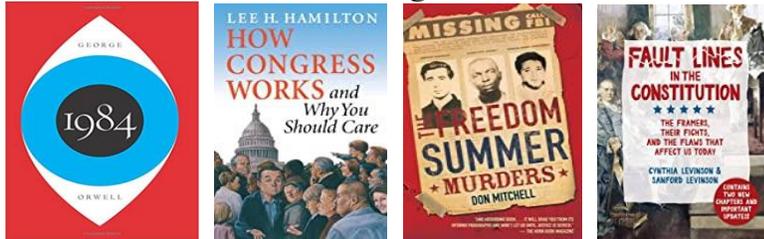
*The Pianist* by Wladyslaw Szpilman

*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

## Incoming 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Choose one of the following:



*1984* by George Orwell

*How Congress Works and Why You Should Care* by Lee H. Hamilton

*The Freedom Summer Murders* by Don Mitchell

*Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws that Affect Us Today* by Cynthia Levinson