



May 2020

Dear Incoming Seventh Graders,

Summer is a great opportunity for you to choose, read and enjoy books you may not have had time to read during the school year.

Over the summer, you will be required to read **two (2) choice** books. Try to choose books with lexiles between 925-1235. The lexile of most books can be found at <https://lexile.com>. More importantly, you should choose a book that is appropriate for your independent reading level, meaning you should be able to read the book by yourself. You can also listen to audio books, but be sure to read the print version of the book as you listen to the audio book.

Here is a brief list of books that past students have read and recommended.

**Possible 7th Grade Level Books to Read**

(Reading & Lexile levels noted in parentheses after each novel)

*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson (6-8 reading level; 780 Lexile)

*Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed (6-8 reading level; HL600 Lexile)

*The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed* by Heather Vogel Frederick (7.1 reading level; 1020 Lexile)

*The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrick (7.4 reading level; 960 Lexile)

*Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary D. Schmidt (7.2 reading level; 1000 Lexile)

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson (7.1 reading level; 1100 Lexile)

*I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade* by Diane Lee Wilson (7.3 reading level; 1010 Lexile)

While reading your two (2) choice books, you will need to complete an assignment for each book; see the assignment details below. These written or typed assignments will be collected when school begins in the fall.

Happy summer and joyous reading!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sue Summerhill

Additional sources for books:

- Ask family and friends for book recommendations; someone may have your perfect book sitting on their bookshelf at home!
- Visit a bookstore or library using their recommended guidelines for social distancing
- Online sources including:
  - ClevNet’s NoveList K-8; you’ll need to log into a ClevNet library, search for books by author, genre, “read-alikes” and then borrow/download an e-book
  - Explore book recommendations at <https://www.goodreads.com>
  - Locate a “just right” book at <https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search>
  - Free e-books at <https://www.gutenberg.org/>
  - Free audio books at <https://openlibrary.org/collections/k-12>; this site requires you create an account
  - Free books at <https://archive.org/details/nationalemergencylibrary>; this site requires you create an account and most books can be borrowed for 14 days.
- Read book reviews on:
  - <https://www.amazonbookreview.com/tag/kids-young-adult>
  - <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/discover-books/teen>

### **Choice Book #1 Reader Response Questions**

For one of your choice books, you must complete seven (7) questions from the list of *Reader Response* questions. You should try to answer questions each time you read, rather than waiting until you’ve finished reading the entire book. **Choose at least one (1) question from each section of the Reader Response questions.** Responses need to be written in complete sentences(CSRQ) , addressing all parts of the question, and follow all punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and spelling conventions; think **PEEL!** For questions that require supporting text details, be sure to record the page number in parentheses.

Responses may be handwritten neatly in a notebook or typed and printed. Be sure to clearly label the number for each response. An example of a strong response has been provided below.

**Reader Response** question example:

*Title: The Ransom of Red Chief. Author: O. Henry*

16. One character from the book I could not be friends with is Sam. He is very demanding and judgmental of his friends. He is too lazy to do his own work, so he makes his friends do it for him.

18. The characters in this book are credible. Red Chief Is a very active five year old who throws tantrums when he does not get his way, and we see that in everyday life (pg. 75). Another example is Bill and Sam demanding ransom money from Red Chief’s father (pg. 72). It is very unfortunate, but there are people who kidnap others for money.

20. An example of conflict in the story is Bill and Sam having a hard time controlling Red Chief. This is external, character vs. character conflict.

## **Grade 7 Reader Response Questions**

### **Reading Strategies**

- 1) Which part of your book are you having the most difficulty understanding or connecting with?
- 2) What have you done that is similar to what the characters experience in your book?
- 3) Which part of the story caused the most intense feelings in you? Why?
- 4) Can you empathize (relate to or understand) with one or more characters in your novel? Explain why or why not.
- 5) What event, setting or character in this book reminds you of your life and why?
- 6) What connections can you make between what you are reading and any other books or movies you have read or seen? What about any connections between everyday life, history, or current world events?
- 7) What portion/passage in the book have you had to reread because it was unclear after reading it the first time? Identify what was difficult to understand.

### **Vocabulary/Word Choice/Author's Writing Style**

- 8) Identify unfamiliar vocabulary words or phrases during your reading, explain how you determined the meaning of these words or phrases.
- 9) Choose two sentences or passages that “grabbed” your attention. Cite the sentences including the page numbers and explain with details why you chose each one.
- 10) Cite two sensory language examples in the story and what you saw, felt, heard, smelled, and/or tasted.
- 11) Describe the author's writing style. Examine sentence structure, sentence length, use of modifiers (adjectives and adverbs), mood and tone. How does the author's writing style impact or influence the story?
- 12) How has the author kept you interested in the story or sparked your imagination? Cite three specific examples from the novel.

### **Figurative Language/Literary Techniques**

- 13) Identify three examples of figurative language the author used. Explain the effect each of these examples had upon you, the reader.
- 14) Cite where the author used any foreshadowing to “hook” readers. Discuss its effectiveness.

### **Characterization**

- 15) Which character can you connect with the most in your book and why?
- 16) How does the author best develop and reveal the characters? (Through dialogue with other characters? Through how other characters view him/her? Through character behavior? Through description?) Cite two (2) examples from the novel.
- 17) Which character(s) in this book are credible, or believable? Cite three (3) examples of what makes the character(s) credible/or not credible.

### **Plot**

- 18) How realistic is the plot of your book? Cite two (2) examples to support your response.
- 19) Explain how a different setting would affect the main characters of this story.
- 20) Identify a point in the book where you just couldn't put the book down? Cite two (2) plot elements that had you hooked!

### **Conflict**

- 21) What do you believe to be the main conflict of the story? Which type of conflict is it? (External or internal? Character vs. \_\_\_\_\_?) Cite at least two (2) examples each of (external conflict and internal conflict) present in the novel.
- 22) How does one of the main characters solve his/her internal conflict?
- 23) How does the main conflict affect the main characters' actions, and their motivations?

### **Theme/Symbolism/Mood/Tone**

- 24) Nearly all stories contain a theme or implied author's message about life. Identify the theme in your novel. Support your choice of theme with a minimum of two novel events.
- 25) What are you learning about "YOURSELF" from what you're reading? (Your own values, attitudes, and beliefs)
- 26) What has the main character learned at the end of the novel based upon his or her experiences? How has he or she changed from the beginning of the novel?
- 27) Describe the mood the author created (using specific adjectives). Cite two examples of word choice(s) that have created that mood.
- 28) What symbolism was used in the novel? Identify the object(s) and what you believe they symbolize(s).

## Choice Book #2 Summer Reading Choice Board

Choose **three (3) activities** from the choice board below and create *original* content. Since some of these activities are digital and will be created using technology, you can print them OR place a digital copy in a Google folder which you can share with me when school resumes in the fall.

<b>Summer Reading Choice Board</b>		
<p>Draw a <b>visual</b> from your book based upon the setting or an important event. You may use your own art supplies or use any digital resources.</p>	<p>Create a <b>character trading card</b> for one of the main characters or historical figures in your book. Create your own or use this resource  <a href="http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/trading_cards_2/">http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/trading_cards_2/</a></p>	<p>Create a <b>word cloud</b> online. Type in words that help describe the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Title and author</li> <li>2. Setting</li> <li>3. Conflict/Problem</li> <li>4. Solution</li> <li>5. Main characters</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://www.wordle.net/create">http://www.wordle.net/create</a></p>
<p>Create a <b>crossword puzzle</b> using at least 10 difficult or interesting vocabulary words you found in the book. Create a crossword or word find using these words at  <a href="http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp">http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp</a></p>	<p>Use technology to create a <b>book review!</b></p> <p><a href="http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/swyar/">http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/swyar/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.creaza.com/verifyInvitation?type=assignment&amp;id=uguKn8M">http://www.creaza.com/verifyInvitation?type=assignment&amp;id=uguKn8M</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.capzles.com/">http://www.capzles.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Character Descriptions</b></p> <p>Choose two (2) characters from your book and create a T-Chart. Write five (5) adjectives to describe each character and cite evidence from the text to support the adjectives you've used to describe these characters.</p> <p><a href="http://www.worksheetworks.com/miscellanea/graphic-organizers/tchart.html">http://www.worksheetworks.com/miscellanea/graphic-organizers/tchart.html</a></p>
<p>Choose two <b>important quotes</b> from your book. Be sure to explain why you chose the quote and their significance.</p>	<p><b>Identify and explain</b> at least three (3) <b>text connections</b> you made while reading. These connections can be to other texts, your own life/experiences or world events.</p>	<p><b>Write a letter</b> to the protagonist or historical figure about an important decision he or she made. In your letter, be sure to explain why you believe it was or was not a good decision.</p>