

Rising Seventh-Grade Summer Reading - 2023
Meigs Magnet Academic Middle School

You are required to read **two** books over the summer. We want you to **enjoy** your summer, and we have tried to select books that are **entertaining** and **contain life-lessons**. The goal is simply to keep your **mind engaged by reading and writing** during your time off from school, not to overwhelm you! You have one choice and one required text. Read **both** novels and complete the assignments **prior** to the first day of school.

1. Required reading:

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

You may access it online here: <https://tinyurl.com/StargirlSpinelliELA>

We have physical copies of *Stargirl* that you may pick up from Meigs if you choose. (Students may ask their 6th grade ELA teacher.)

Assignment for *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli:

Students will be assessed over the contents of the book within the first two weeks of the school year.

Students are required to complete a plot diagram (attached) and maintain a list of major characters with descriptions. This will be checked at the beginning of the school year and used to aid students in their assessment.


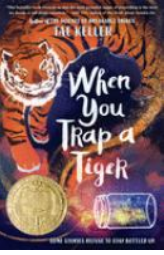
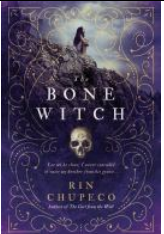
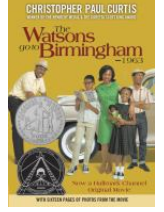
2. Choice Reading – Choose a multi-generational story from the list.


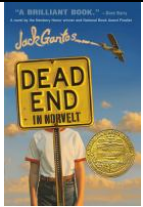
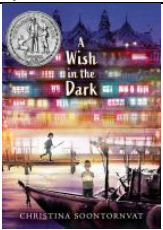
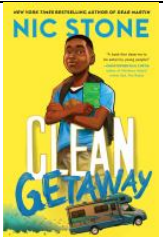
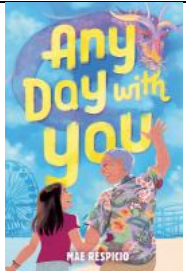
Assignment for Choice Reading:

Choose **one** of the assignment options listed below.

- Create an artistic collage representing a theme found in your novel. Write the theme on the collage. Provide a written or typed explanatory paragraph with your collage.
- Write a three- to five- paragraph paper in which you explain the specific themes the author emphasizes throughout the novel. What message does the author want to convey to the reader?
- Sketch costumes for at least three characters in the novel. For each drawing, write a brief explanation (minimum 3 sentences each) of the outfit explaining why each element (clothing, accessory, color, etc.) is appropriate to its owner. You may include how the apparel is useful in particular settings or situations.
- Choose one prominent character from the novel and describe them in three- to five- paragraphs. How did they change or grow from the beginning to the end of the book? What experiences or events played a significant role in shaping his or her actions or personality?

7th Grade Summer Reading Suggestions
Theme: Multi-Generational Stories

 <p><i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander</p>	<p>In this Newbery Medal-winning middle grade novel in verse, twelve-year-old twins and basketball stars Josh and Jordan Bell must learn to deal with problems on and off the court as they navigate homework, first crushes, family and, of course, basketball. "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 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 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.</p>
 <p><i>When You Trap a Tiger</i> by Tae Keller</p>	<p>Would you make a deal with a magical tiger? This uplifting story brings Korean folklore to life as a girl goes on a quest to unlock the power of stories and save her grandmother. Some stories refuse to stay bottled up... When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her Halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal--return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health--Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice...and the courage to face a tiger.</p>
 <p><i>The Bone Witch</i> by Rin Chupeco</p>	<p>When Tea accidentally resurrects her brother from the dead, she learns she is different from the other witches in her family. Her gift for necromancy means that she's a bone witch, a title that makes her feared and ostracized by her community. But Tea finds solace and guidance with an older, wiser bone witch, who takes Tea and her brother to another land for training. In her new home, Tea puts all her energy into becoming anasha -- one who can wield elemental magic. But dark forces are approaching quickly, and in the face of danger, Tea will have to overcome her obstacles... and make a powerful choice.</p>
 <p><i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis</p>	<p>When the Watson family--ten-year-old Kenny, Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron--sets out on a trip south to visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama, they don't realize that they're heading toward one of the darkest moments in America's history. The Watsons' journey reminds us that even in the hardest times, laughter and family can help us get through anything. Available online here: https://bit.ly/3jvKvir</p>

 <p><i>The Unsung Hero of Birdsong</i> by Brenda Woods</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Gabriel gains new perspective when he becomes friends with Meriwether, an African American World War II hero who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South.</p>
 <p><i>Dead End in Norvelt</i> by Jack Gantos</p>	<p>In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.</p>
 <p><i>A Wish in the Dark</i> by Christina Soontornvat</p>	<p>A boy on the run. A girl determined to find him. A compelling fantasy looks at issues of privilege, protest, and justice. All light in Chattana is created by one man -- the Governor, who appeared after the Great Fire to bring peace and order to the city. For Pong, who was born in Namwon Prison, the magical lights represent freedom, and he dreams of the day he will be able to walk among them. But when Pong escapes from prison, he realizes that the world outside is no fairer than the one behind bars. The wealthy dine and dance under bright orb light, while the poor toil away in darkness. Worst of all, Pong's prison tattoo marks him as a fugitive who can never be truly free. Nok, the prison warden's perfect daughter, is bent on tracking Pong down and restoring her family's good name. But as Nok hunts Pong through the alleys and canals of Chattana, she uncovers secrets that make her question the truths she has always held dear. Set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world, Christina Soontornvat's twist on Victor Hugo's <i>Les Misérables</i> is a dazzling, fast-paced adventure that explores the difference between law and justice -- and asks whether one child can shine a light in the dark.</p>
 <p><i>Clean Getaway</i> by Nic Stone</p>	<p>How to Go on an Unplanned Road Trip with Your Grandma: Grab a Suitcase: Prepacked from the big spring break trip that got CANCELLED. Fasten Your Seatbelt: G'ma's never conventional, so this trip won't be either. Use the Green Book: G'ma's most treasured possession. It holds history, memories, and most important, the way home. What Not to Bring: A Cell Phone: Avoid contact with Dad at all costs. Even when G'ma starts acting stranger than usual. Set against the backdrop of the segregation history of the American South, take a trip with this New York Times bestseller and an eleven-year-old boy who is about to discover that the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem--his G'ma included.</p>
 <p><i>Any Day With You</i> by Mae Respicio</p>	<p>A warm, tender story about a creative girl who hopes that by winning a filmmaking contest, she'll convince her great-grandfather not to move back home to the Philippines. Kaia and her family live near the beach in California, where the fun of moviemaking is all around them. Kaia loves playing with makeup and creating special effects, turning her friends into merfolk and other magical creatures. This summer, Kaia and her friends are part of a creative arts camp, where they're working on a short movie to enter in a contest. The movie is inspired by the Filipino folktales that her beloved Tatang, her great-grandfather, tells. Tatang lives with her family and is like the sparkle of her special-effects makeup. When Tatang decides that it is time to return to his homeland in the Philippines, Kaia will do anything to convince him not to go.</p>