

Middle School Summer Reading Assignment (2023-2024)

"Character Development"

How does the protagonist or main character develop or change throughout your novel?"

I. Why do we require summer reading?

The Douglas Middle School ELA teachers believe that the more a person reads, the better they will become at reading comprehension, inferencing, fluency, accuracy, writing, and overall problem-solving skills. Reading develops greater empathy, increases vocabulary, improves memory, strengthens writing, increases knowledge, and opens the mind.

II. REQUIRED Summer Reading Assignment for ALL Middle School Students:

1. Read at least one of the 5 Books below. (Feel free to read more, if you'd like)
2. Complete the Graphic Organizer attached before your return in September of 2023.
3. This assignment will be due the first week of school (Each ELA teacher will communicate specific directions in their classes).

III. The 5 Book Titles: (Choose ONLY 1 for the Assignment):

1. Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper- *A must-read for kids of any age, "Out of My Mind" is a moving story about a young girl with cerebral palsy and her fight to prove herself to everyone around her. This book touches upon sensitive topics and reminds us to not let our disabilities define us. Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.*



2. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins- *Ambition will fuel him. Competition will drive him. But power has its price. It is the morning of the reaping that will kick off the tenth annual Hunger Games. In the Capitol, eighteen-year-old Coriolanus Snow is preparing for his one shot at glory as a mentor in the Games. The once-mighty house of Snow has fallen on hard times, its fate hanging on the slender chance that Coriolanus will be able to outcharm, outwit, and outmaneuver his fellow students to mentor the winning tribute. The odds are against him. He's been given the humiliating assignment of mentoring the female tribute from District 12, the lowest of the low. Their fates are now completely intertwined — every choice Coriolanus makes could lead to favor or failure, triumph or ruin. Inside the arena, it will be a fight to the death. Outside the arena, Coriolanus starts to feel for his doomed tribute... and must weigh his need to follow the rules against his desire to survive no matter what it takes.*



3. **Ban This Book** by Alan Gratz—A fourth grader fights back when *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg is challenged by a well-meaning parent and taken off the shelves of her school library. Amy Anne is shy and soft-spoken, but don't mess with her when it comes to her favorite book in the whole world. Amy Anne and her lieutenants wage a battle for the books that will make you laugh and pump your fists as they start a secret banned books locker library, make up ridiculous reasons to ban every single book in the library to make a point, and take a stand against censorship.



4. **The Inquisitor's Tale** by Adam Gidwitz —What is a miracle? Is a miracle what happens when, faced with murderous bandits, a teenage monk rips a leg off his donkey, beats them to death with it, then restores the donkey's leg? Or is it a miracle when a cranky innkeeper is so moved by a little girl's friendliness that he risks his life to help her and her companions flee a posse of armed knights? Maybe the real miracle happens when readers attracted to the action and violence a particular author is known for find themselves strongly invested in the moral questions that plague bandit-killing monk and friendly peasant girl alike—along with every other character they encounter, from a young minstrel/pickpocket to Louis IX. Gidwitz's tale of medieval France successfully combines the epic with the personal, aiming for that heart-stopping moment when characters readers have come to care about find themselves on a collision course with one of the great wood chippers of history—the Inquisition, agents of which are in hot pursuit of three underdog characters (and one actual dog) from the very start. It is left to the titular Inquisitor to discover the truth behind the legends that quickly rise to surround these kids. He nudges it from each of the travelers at a roadside inn, the narrative tension rising as each facet is revealed. VERDICT This book appeals to the heart, to the mind, and to any reader's appetite for action: read it for the thrilling escapes, the fart jokes, the stinky cheese, and the palace intrigue. Read it for the Talmudic wisdom, commonsense philosophies, and moments of doubt. Read it for the palaces and monasteries and the unbelievable descriptions of food. But read it.



5. **Refugee** by Alan Gratz—A historical fiction. "Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together."



*Attached is a character development **graphic organizer**. **It must be completed in as much detail as possible and will be taken as a grade in your ELA classes.** It is important to take your time, be detailed and thoughtful in your written responses, and write neatly. Feel free to **TYPE** the character development information (if that's easier and neater for you) and attach it to the graphic organizer on return to school in the fall. This organizer will also be used as a reference for an in-class assignment within the first month of school.

****MIDDLE SCHOOL READING CHALLENGE--** We would like to see students read **more than one book** over the summer. Are you up for the "Reading Challenge?" **Ready, Set, READ!**

*****Attached is recommended list for further reading:**

This is a Suggested "Additional" Recommended Summer Reading Book List

Hunger Games (series)
Maze Runner (series)
Divergent (series)
Twilight (series)
Hatchet
Among the Hidden
Call it Courage
Robinson Crusoe
The 5th Wave
Fever 1793
The One and Only Ivan
One and Only Bob
Restart
Divergent
Harry Potter (series)
Rhino in Right Field
47 People You'll Meet in Middle School
Wonder
The City of Ember
Ender's Game
Where the Red Fern Grows
Old Yeller
The Yearling
Tangerine
Out of the Dust
Wringer Crossover
El Deafo by Cece Bell
Bomb: the Race to Steal the World's Most Dangerous
If I Stay
Salt to the Sea
Rumble Fish
That Was Then, This is Now
So Far from the Bamboo Grove
The Bonesetter's Daughter
The Clay Marble
Alone Together
Dreams of Gold
Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII
The Breadwinner
Parvana's Journey
The Storm in the Barn
Rules
A Break with Charity
A Long Way from Chicago
Mockingbird
Sixth Grade Secrets

Prisoner-B-3087 (any of the Alan Gratz series)
Wings of Fire
Blended
The Boy Who Dared
Refugee (Alan Gratz series)
Letters from Cuba
Lizard's Tale
Show Me a Sign
Prairie Lotus
Echo Mountain
Brown Girl Dreaming
A Long Way Gone
Unbroken
Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow
Bartoletti--2007 Newbery Honor
Lincoln: A Photobiography--Newbery Honor.
The Freedom Summer Murders
Warriors Don't Cry
Rosa Parks: My Story
Guts by Gary Paulsen
Three Cups of Tea
Alive by Piers Paul Read
Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story
Wallace Rich Wallace
Brown Girl Dreaming
Hidden Figures: The Untold True Story of Four African
Women Who Helped Launch Our Nation into Space
Shetterly
We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance
Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Peterson and the
Churchill Club
Snowflake Bentley
The Diary of a Young Girl
Trapped by Marc Aaronson
The 57 Bus: A True Story about Two Teenagers and the Crime
that Changed their Lives
I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and
Changed the World
Chasing Lincoln's Killer
Red Scarf Girl
Chinese Cinderella
The Boys in the Boat

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Character Development Organizer for Summer Reading

As you read, fill out the following traits about the **main character** in your novel.

Use specific details (i.e., citing "text evidence" with page numbers).

Please type or use additional paper to write your responses in a neat and organized fashion.

Book Title:			
Author:			
Genre:			
Main Character's Name, Age, Gender			
Type of Character Role (Circle One)	<u>Protagonist</u> <i>(Lead Character/Hero)</i>	<u>Antagonist</u> <i>(Opposes the Hero or Protagonist)</i>	<u>Supporting</u> <i>(Not the Main Character but more than a Minor Character)</i>

<p>Physical Traits <i>(What He/She Looks Like)</i></p>	<p>Personality Traits <i>(Character's Thoughts and Feelings)</i></p>
<p>Action Traits <i>(Actions to Prove His/Her Traits)</i></p>	<p>Character's Associations <i>(Character's Interactions with Others in the Story)</i></p>
<p>Problems/Challenges <i>(How Challenges are Overcome by the Character)</i></p>	<p>Major Accomplishments/Goals <i>(Accomplishments that Shaped the Character's Behavior)</i></p>