



Dallas Independent School District
Michael Hinojosa
General Superintendent

May 25, 2018

Greetings Incoming 7th Graders, Parents, and Guardians:

We are very much looking forward to working with you during the upcoming school year!

In preparation for 7th Grade Language & Literature, you will be **required** to read a **novel** from selected from the list below, and complete **one** of the **Summer Reading Assignments** for novel.

1. *The Last Mission by Harry Mazer*

In 1944, as World War II is raging across Europe, fifteen-year-old Jack Raab dreams of being a hero. Leaving New York City, his family, and his boyhood behind, Jack uses a false I.D. and lies his way into the U.S. Air Force.

2. *Unwind by Neal Shusterman*

Upon finding the contract his parents signed to have him unwound, he decides to run away from home. In his journey to survive, he meets Risa and Lev. Risa is an 'unwinder' like Connor, while Lev is a 'tithe.' A tithe is a child destined to be unwound and taught to embrace the unwinding process as a part of life.

3. *The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart*

In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day.

But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from.

4. *Among The Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix*

Among the Hidden is a dystopian young adult novel about the main character, Luke



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Handwritten initials or signature in blue ink.

Gardner, who is a third child. In the world that Luke lives in, parents are only allowed to have two children, and any additional children will be killed.

5. *Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

6. *Under the Mesquite* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

As the oldest of eight siblings, Lupita is used to taking the lead—and staying busy behind the scenes to help keep everyone together. But when she discovers Mami has been diagnosed with cancer, Lupita is terrified by the possibility of losing her mother, the anchor of her close-knit Mexican American family.

7. *Heat* by Mike Lupica

Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year old brother Carlos.

8. *The Riddle of Arandella* by J.D. McBride

You never know what life's going to throw at you – moving to a new place, making new friends . . . disappearing into a magical world! On the brink of turning thirteen, Luke McKinnon survived moving halfway across the country from the cool California coast to the flat farmlands of Indiana. He left all his friends behind, sure he would never find new ones to replace them.

Well, it took a while, but now that he's fourteen, Luke's actually made a pretty decent friend in Beth DeVere from right next door . . . but then she goes and gets herself swept up into some other world (he hadn't seen THAT coming!)

*** Note to parents - some of these books may contain controversial content. Please work with your student to choose a book that you think is most appropriate.**

The **Summer Reading Assignment** will be **due** September 4 and will count as a test grade for your Language & Literature course (instructions provided on the following page).

These novels can be checked out at your local library or purchased online or at local bookstores such as Half Price Books. You may read the print or electronic version. If you have any issues with obtaining a copy of any of these books or have any questions about the

assignment, please reach out to Ms. Frey at JFREY@dallasisd.org , Ms. C. Smith at chesmith@dallasisd.org or Ms. B. Smith at BRIANSMITH@dallasisd.org.

***** We have also listed a supply list and a novel students will need to purchase for next year for Language & Literature *****

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading! 🍌

7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment – DUE SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

CHOOSE ONE PROJECT FROM THE LIST TO COMPLETE FOR YOUR NOVEL

1. **Make a movie poster book report**

Project Description: Create a movie poster that advertises your summer reading novel.

Project Requirements:

- Must be created on a **half sheet of poster board**. Use different types of art supplies for your poster (marker, paint, glitter, color pencils, crayons, etc.). Be creative!
- **Title of novel** must be in large writing and should stand out on your movie poster.
- The **author's name** will appear on the poster as the **director**.
- **Your name** will appear on the poster as the **producer**.
- A major **illustration or collage should be the focus** of your poster. It should give the audience a good idea of the **setting & a major plot element** (significant scene) of the novel. **Do not copy the book cover.**
- A minimum of **TWO critic reviews** shall be incorporated on the poster. These can be actual quotes from actual critics) check: (www.barnesandnoble.com)
 - a) **One** review should focus on the **plot**.
 - b) **One** review should focus on the **theme** (lesson learned).
- The main characters of the novel will be the "cast" in your "movie". Choose famous movie stars or television stars and "cast" them in the **different character roles** for your "movie". The "stars" of your "movie" should be named on your poster (you may print or cut out pictures of these actors).
- The movie poster must have a **catchy line** that interests the audience and describes the **basic plot/theme** of the movie. (For example: *Shrek* used "The greatest fairy tale never told" and *Charlotte's Web* used "Help is coming from above")
- A **rating of the novel** must be on the poster. Examples:
 - *Recommended for the movie fan seeking a suspenseful and exciting adventure!*
 - *Not recommended for the movie fan that hopes to be entertained and thrilled.*

- ### 2. Write a **new ending for the book or add an additional chapter**. Your chapter should be roughly one and a half pages long.

3. Create a **6 frame comic strip** of the book. Be sure to represent the most important events of the story's plot.
4. Draw and paint or color a **portrait of a character**. Include a one paragraph description of the character you draw or paint. (What does he or she look like? How old is he or she? What type of person is she? Why is he or she important to the story?)
5. Create an **illustrated timeline** showing important events from the book. Choose at least 10 important events from the story. Write a 2 sentence description of each event, and draw & color an illustration for each event. The events must be in the order in which they occurred.
6. Rewrite the book as a 10 page **picture book**. Illustrate each page to go along with the story and write 2-3 sentences on each page. Make sure to include all major parts of the story.