

Dear TJMS Students and Families,

We've all worked very hard this year to become better readers and writers. Now that summer break is here, it's time to keep it up! As you know, good readers and writers practice DAILY. Research shows that students who do not read over the summer can lose up to three months of reading instruction. On the other hand, students who read just a few books over the summer are able to maintain their reading ability or even improve.

Here are some things you can do as a family to encourage your student to read over the summer:

- Listen to audiobooks in the car on road trips.
- Talk about books! Being a reader yourself can encourage children to read.
- Encourage students to balance screen time and reading time.
- Read ebooks and listen to audiobooks on Destiny Discover, MackinVIA, and Sora.
- Take your child to the library, or enroll them in teen programs at the library, many of which are free.
- Participate in the Arlington Public Library summer reading program.
- Read one book together as a family every few weeks.
- Take your child to a bookstore to choose a new book as a reward or treat.
- Encourage students to read the book before seeing the summer blockbuster movie- these are great books to enjoy as a family.

Below, we have provided some suggestions of books for students to read this summer. These titles will provide some background knowledge about the topics that will appear in the grade level curricula for the 24-25 school year in Science, Social Studies, or ELA. Ideally, each student will choose 2 or 3 books to enjoy over summer break. Students who read some recommended books and complete the activities from the summer reading menu attached can receive credit for doing so in their 24-25 ELA course, but students who do not complete the reading will not be penalized. While books from this list are not required, we encourage all students to read during the summer break, and these titles will help to set students up for success in the coming school year.

Please reach out to Ms. Katlyn Bennett, or Ms. Megan Detweiler if you would like support with choosing and accessing books over the summer. The Jefferson Librarians (Kirsten Wall and Jamie Zehren) can assist with accessing our many reading apps.

Thank you for all your support of student reading throughout the school year. Have a great summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Katlyn Bennett (MSRT) and Megan Detweiler (Advanced Academics Coach)

Titles recommended for Intensified ELA courses are indicated in **bold**. In addition to a book or two from the titles listed below, please encourage students to read books they are personally interested in. It's important to have students exercise their choice in reading!

Grade	Recommended Titles- Fiction	Recommended Titles- Nonfiction
Rising 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chains- Laurie Halse Anderson ● Flush- Carl Hiaasen ● Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear- Trang Nguyen ● The Witch of Blackbird Pond - Elizabeth George Spear ● Iceberg- Jennifer Nielsen ● The Wednesday Wars - Gary Schmidt ● A Rover's Story- Jasmine Warga ● I Survived the Titanic, I Survived the American Revolution - Graphic Novels ● Last Cuentista - Donna Barba Higuera ● The War That Saved My Life - Kimberly Brubaker Bradley ● Sophia's War - Avi ● The Martian- Classroom Edition, Andy Weir ● Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry - Mildred D. Taylor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chasing Lincoln's Killer- James Swanson ● Killers of the Flower Moon (Young Readers Edition) - David Grann ● Stamped: racism, antiracism, and you - Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
Rising 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clean Getaway- Nic Stone ● Watsons Go To Birmingham - Christopher Paul Curtis ● Armstrong and Charlie- Steven B. Frank ● How I Became a Ghost - Tim Tingle ● Fire From the Rock - Sharon Draper ● From the Desk of Zoe Washington - Janae Marks ● Front Desk - Kelly Yang ● The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora- Pablo Cartaya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks- Young Adult Edition, Rebecca Skloot ● Bomb: the race to build and steal the world's most dangerous weapon - Steve Sheinkin ● Warriors Don't Cry - Melba Pattillo Beals ● March (Graphic Novels 1-3)- John Lewis ● Primates: the fearless science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas - Jim Ottaviani and Maris Wicks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish- Pablo Cartaya ● The First Rule of Punk- Celia C. Perez ● Evolution of Calpurnia Tate - Jacqueline Kelly ● First Rule of Climate Club - Carrie Firestone ● Global - Eoin Colfer ● Haven Jacobs Saves the Planet - Barbara Dee ● Leviathan - Scott Westerfeld 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All thirteen: the incredible cave rescue of the Thai boys' soccer team - Christina Soontornvat ● Bomb (graphic novel): the race to build—and—steal the world's most dangerous weapon - Steve Sheinkin
<p>Rising 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number the Stars- Lois Lowry ● Resistance- Jennifer Nielsen ● Peak - Roland Smith ● The Book Thief- Marcus Zuzak ● The Devil's Arithmetic - Jane Yolen ● Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry - Mildred D. Taylor ● Journey to the River Sea - Eva Ibbotson ● Other side of truth - Beverley Naidoo ● Pashmina - Nidhi Chanani ● Gaijin: American prisoner of war - Matt Faulkner ● Heart of a samurai: based on the true story of Nakahama Manjiro - Margi Preus ● Latitude zero - Diana Renn ● Amal Unbound - Aisha Saeed ● The Milk of Birds - Sylvia Whitman ● Kimchi & Calamari- Rose Kent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stuff Matters - Mark Miodownik ● The Great Trouble- Deborah Hopkinson ● The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind - William Kamkwamba ● Family Style - Thien Pham (Graphic memoir) ● First Time for Everything - Dan Santat (Graphic memoir) ● The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Edition) - Daniel James Brown ● The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements- Sam Kean ● Farewell to Manzanar - Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston ● Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings- Rex Ogle

Summer Reading Assignment: Choose 2 of the following response prompts for each book that you read this summer. You may choose to complete this activity for *up to 3* books.

Response Choices

<p>Quotes: Copy down 3 meaningful quotes from the book and explain the significance of each quote. What does it infer, symbolize, suggest, relate to, etc.?</p>	<p>Character changes: How does the main character start out and how do they change throughout the story? Answer thoroughly, using evidence to back up your thoughts. Add two images that symbolize your character.</p>	<p>Setting: Draw or describe a background that shows knowledge of the setting of one or more important scenes for the characters.</p>
<p>Song: Find song lyrics that connect to a particular scene or to the overall story. Write the lyrics, including the song, artist, and a 2-3 sentence explanation of how the song relates to the book.</p>	<p>Lessons learned: Add images and/or words to show lessons the main character learns throughout the book. Write about what the lessons teach them. Does this teach you any lessons?</p>	<p>Timeline: Create a timeline with 10 critical events in the book (this can be a list). The timeline must be chronological. Each event must be a complete sentence.</p>
<p>Connection: Do any of the characters remind you of yourself? What advice would you give this character if you could? Answer both questions completely, and use evidence from the text to illustrate your points.</p>	<p>Author's Style: What have you noticed about how the author chooses to write this story (point of view, word choice, setting)? Explain why you think the author has made these choices. Answer both questions completely, and use evidence from the text to illustrate your points.</p>	<p>Conflict: Which conflict do you think is the most important conflict in the story? Why? Please describe the conflict and explain why you think it is important, using evidence from the text to illustrate and support your point.</p>