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Dear Charter School Parents and Students:

Greetings from the Charter School! While we all love and need to sit back and relax over the summer, we can not forget how important it is to keep reading and writing. Picking up a good book during the last month of the summer would be a great way to get ready for the new school year! Reading every day advances current reading levels and creates lifelong readers and learners. This **MANDATORY** summer assignment, we hope, will encourage our students to find a novel to enjoy this summer.

Your child must read **one** book, compose a book review following the guidelines attached, and create a visual "storyboard"; we have supplied you with a list of books we selected with a wide range of content and levels. We hope your child will select one they can't put down! Our recommendation is that they journal throughout the reading (jotting notes/thoughts about pivotal scenes and characters, questions, and vocabulary). Although this is not required, the process of journaling throughout the reading of a novel is a wonderful way to engage and increase higher order thinking. As an added benefit, doing so helps the writing process. They will be one step ahead when starting their 5-paragraph essay book review.

The reading response essay and visual display should be submitted by **Friday, September 17, 2021** and **should be handed in to their READING or WRITING teacher.**

6th Grade

DO NOT READ *Touching Spirit Bear, The Giver*

*Recommended reading: [Pax](#) by Sara Pennypacker

7th Grade

DO NOT READ *The Maze Runner, When You Reach Me, A Wrinkle in Time, Locomotion*

*Recommended reading: [Gathering Blue](#) by Lois Lowry (second book in *The Giver* series)

8th Grade

DO NOT READ *The Outsiders, Legend, Night, Among the Hidden*

*Recommended reading: [The Scorch Trials](#) by James Dashner (second book in *The Maze Runner* Series)

Remember, students can choose any age and level appropriate book, but we have listed some books in the chart below to help the search.

You can use the following link to help you search a book by reading (Lexile) level, by title, or comfort level:

<https://lexile.com/fab/>

For further information on each of the books listed below, please visit www.scholastic.com

Book Title/Page Count	Description	Guided Reading Level	Lexile Level
<i>Freak the Mighty</i> Rodman Philbrick 192 pgs.	A brilliant, emotionally charged novel about two boys. One is a slow learner, too large for his age, and the other is a tiny, disabled genius. The two pair up to create one formidable human force known as "Freak the Mighty". MAX. FREAK. BEST FRIENDS. FOREVER. I never had a brain until Freak came along. . .That's what Max thought. All his life he'd been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn't help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn't help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone. At least until Freak came along. Freak was weird, too. He had a little body, and a really big brain. Together Max and Freak were unstoppable. Together, they were Freak the Mighty.	W	930L
<i>Where The Mountain Meets The Moon</i> Grace Lin 278 pgs.	In the valley of Fruitless Mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man of the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man of the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.	T	810L
<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i> Katherine Paterson 144 pgs.	There's only one thing Jess Aarons is looking forward to in fifth grade, and that's being the fastest kid in school. He's been practicing all summer. He hasn't had much else to do, since his mom spends all her time with his four sisters and his dad is always working. But when Jess arrives at the school playground to show off his speed, his new neighbor, Leslie Burke, beats him to it. She's way faster than Jess. But instead of being jealous, Jess admires Leslie's skill, confidence, and wild imagination. The two become instant friends, spending hours in the woods by their houses creating a magical kingdom. Then tragedy strikes, and Jess is left alone. How can he ever go on?	T	810L
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> Jacqueline Woodson 368 pgs.	Jacqueline Woodson, one of today's finest writers, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.	U	990L
<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> Natalie Babbitt 160 pgs.	Winnie Foster is a ten-year-old girl who yearns to discover what's outside the fence of her home. Exploring her family's small forest one day, she comes across Jesse Tuck and the fresh-water spring that, after he and his family drank from it, turned them immortal. The Tucks have kept their secret from the outside world for the past eighty years by hiding the spring and living in seclusion. Winnie is the first person outside the family to hear their story. Fearful of the world discovering their secret, the Tucks kidnap Winnie and bring her to their home. Winnie grows fond of the Tuck family, particularly the youngest son, Jesse, as they tell her about their life, never experiencing pain or getting older.	U	770L

<i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963</i> Christopher Paul Curtis 210 pgs.	Enter the world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Momma and Dad decide it's time for a visit to Grandma, Dad comes home with the amazing Ultra-Glide, and the Watsons head South to Birmingham, Alabama... toward one of the darkest moments in America's history. A hilarious, touching, and tragic novel about civil rights and the impact of violence on one African American family.	U	920L
<i>Crash</i> Jerry Spinelli 176 pgs.	John "Crash" Coogan, a seventh-grade football star, has been an aggressive person from the time he was very young; sometimes, he is too aggressive. He enjoys his rough, macho behavior until he meets an unusual neighbor who forces him to think about his life and his way of treating others. A rare glimpse into the life of a bully in an unforgettable story about stereotypes and surprises.	V	560L
<i>Wonder</i> R.J.Palacio 320 pgs.	August Pullman is not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. Sure, he's a huge Star Wars fan, he loves his dog, and he's got a pretty good sense of humor. But August was born with a craniofacial abnormality, a genetic defect that caused his facial features to be severely deformed. His life has never been "normal." Despite his differences, August and his parents decide to transition him from homeschool to private school now that he's entering fifth grade. It's the start of middle school, they reason, so everyone will be new. But August has to deal with so much more than just being new. Will he make friends? Will he decide to stay at the school? And can the people around him learn to see past his appearance? This brilliant, sensitive story, narrated not only by August, but also by his older sister, his classmates, and other kids in his life, takes an insightful look at how one person's differences can affect the lives of so many others.	V	790L
<i>Schooled</i> Gordon Korman 224 pgs.	Since he was little, Capricorn Cap Anderson has lived on a farm commune and has been home-schooled by his hippie grandmother, Rain. When Rain breaks her hip in a fall from a tree and is hospitalized, Cap is forced to attend the local middle school. Although he knows a lot about Zen Buddhism, nothing has prepared him for the politics of public school, where students take advantage of his naivety.	V	740L
<i>Maniac McGee</i> Jerry Spinelli 180 pgs.	He wasn't born with the name Maniac Magee. He came into this world named Jeffrey Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend. Even today kids talk about how fast he could run; about how he hit an inside-the-park "frog" homer; how no knot, no matter how snarled, would stay that way once he began to untie it. But the thing Maniac Magee is best known for is what he did for the kids from the East Side and those from the West Side.	W	820L
<i>Library Card</i> Jerry Spinelli 176 pgs.	When Mongoose finds a blue library card hidden among the candy he's shoplifted, his friend Weasel tosses the card away. But the card comes back. Brenda, a television addict, must endure the Great TV Turn-Off. No more "Teen Toons." No more "Dude Feud." Then the blue card appears... On a hot summer day, Sonseray wanders into a library knowing he'll find air-conditioning - and finds much more. And April Mendez takes a ride in a bookmobile unlike any other. Mongoose, Brenda, Sonseray, and April have nothing in common...until a mysterious blue card appears as if by magic and begins to change each of their lives. None of them guesses it at first,	R	690L

	but that strange blue card will be their ticket to the past — and to a future that they never imagined.		
<i>Phantom Tollbooth</i> Norton Juster 272 pgs.	For Milo, everything's a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the Island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason. Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams!	W	1000L
<i>No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits</i> Jordan Romero & Linda LeBlanc 368 pgs.	NON-FICTION On May 22, 2010, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. At 15, he became the youngest person to reach the summits of the tallest mountain on each of the seven continents. In this energizing memoir for young adults, Jordan recounts his experience, which started as a spark of an idea at the age of nine and, many years of training and hard work later, turned into a dream come true.	W	
<i>The Boy Who Dared</i> Susan Campbell Bartoletti 208 pgs.	It is 1942 Germany. When 16-year-old Helmuth Hubner listens to the BBC news on an illegal short-wave radio, he quickly discovers Germany is lying to the people. But when he tries to expose the truth with leaflets, he's tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmuth's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.	Y	760L
<i>Milkweed</i> Jerry Spinelli 240 pgs.	He's a boy called Jew. Gypsy. Stopthief. Runt. Happy. Fast. Filthy son of Abraham. He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi some day, with tall shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody.	Y	510L
<i>Finding Audrey</i> Sophie Kinsella 304 pgs.	Audrey wears dark glasses all the time, even in the house. She almost never goes out, doesn't talk to new people, and finds making eye contact to be nearly impossible. But then one day she meets Linus. Linus is her brother's friend and a sensitive spirit with whom she can talk through her fears. He makes her laugh and doesn't leave her feeling like she's being judged. As their friendship deepens, Audrey's recovery gains momentum, and she and Linus begin to develop feelings for each other. But how can they have a future together when Audrey hasn't dealt with her past? And how could anyone ever love her once they've seen her at her worst?		540L

<i>I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives</i> Martin Ganda 416 pgs.	It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends -- and better people -- through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and your place in it.		790L
<i>An Ember in the Ashes</i> Sabaa Tahir 480 pgs.	Under the Martial Empire, defiance is met with death. Those who do not vow their blood and bodies to the Emperor risk the execution of their loved ones and the destruction of all they hold dear. It is in this brutal world, inspired by ancient Rome, that Laia lives with her grandparents and older brother. The family ekes out an existence in the Empire's impoverished backstreets. They do not challenge the Empire. They've seen what happens to those who do. But when Laia's brother is arrested for treason, Laia is forced to make a decision. In exchange for help from rebels who promise to rescue her brother, she will risk her life to spy for them from within the Empire's greatest military academy. There, Laia meets Elias, the school's finest soldier—and secretly, its most unwilling. Elias wants only to be free of the tyranny he's being trained to enforce. He and Laia will soon realize that their destinies are intertwined—and that their choices will change the fate of the Empire itself.		680L
<i>I'll Give You the Sun</i> Jandy Nelson 400 pgs.	At first, Jude and her twin brother are Noah and Jude; inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red-red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them. Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways . . . but then Jude meets an intriguing, irresistible boy and a mysterious new mentor. The early years are Noah's to tell; the later years are Jude's. But they each have only half the story, and if they can only find their way back to one another, they'll have a chance to remake their world.		740L

Leveling of Books

Guided Reading Levels are more complex than Lexile Scores. They measure the length of the book, layout, plot, repetition, illustrations, vocabulary, characters, setting, content, and theme. A **Lexile score** measures a book's difficulty level on a scale from low to high. A low Lexile score means a book will be easier to comprehend, but the content may still be advanced. The Lexile may focus more specifically on the level of vocabulary and therefore may be lower because the vocabulary is attainable at a lower level but the guided reading level may be higher due to the content.



1st-3rd Paragraphs (Summary): INCLUDE YOUR BOOK TITLE AND AUTHOR! Write about the setting, (where the story takes place, usually time and place). Introduce the main character or characters in the story. Ex. What are the character's qualities, name, etc. Discuss what conflict/problem the main character faces in the story. If you're still having trouble starting, you can answer these questions: who?, what?, when?, where?, and how?. *Minimum of 5 sentences in each paragraph.*

4th Paragraph (Opinion): Write a paragraph giving your opinion on the book. Use these guidelines. Write about why you like or dislike the book. Give details, for example: Was the book confusing? Was it too easy to read or too hard? Was it predictable/ believable? Did you like the ending? What was your favorite part? What connections did you make with your life or other books? Talk about the author's style of writing and give examples from the book. *Minimum of 5 sentences.*

5th Paragraph (Recommendation): Explain whether you would recommend this book to another student, or not? Rate the book from 1 star to 5 stars (1 being poor and 5 being excellent), and give examples why you gave it the rating you did. Examples should include a summary of the part of the book that you liked or did not like. *Minimum of 5 sentences.*

PART 2

Visual Storyboard

As we read, we should create a movie in our mind. This mind's-eye "movie" should answer questions about what the characters, clothing, setting, landscape, etc. look like. Along with the book review essay, students should create a visual storyboard. This can simply be a slideshow, but feel free to be creative and use a different format. This visual representation should reflect the movie you created in your mind as you read your chosen book.

You will be able to submit through Google Classroom once codes are given in Reading and Writing classes during the first week of school.