

Statement on Book Selection and Objectionable Material

The Runnels English faculty has as its first mission to teach novels that engage, inspire, inform, uplift, and above all educate our students. While our first consideration is always the merit of an assigned novel, sometimes those books could contain material that some may find objectionable. In fact, almost every classic novel has been challenged at some point, and modern books are even more frequently challenged because of objectionable content. As Runnels is a school that embraces those of many faiths, cultures, and value systems, content that is deemed to be offensive will vary from family to family. As educators we have made every effort to give students choices in their summer reading assignments, as we understand that student engagement strongly correlates with the ability to have ownership over reading choices. Please be aware, however, that this list includes books with language, themes, or situations that some students or families may find offensive. Therefore, in the spirit of academic freedom, we leave it up to each student and his or her family to make the reading selections that best fit their unique value system and interests.

Summer Assignments

Summer Reading is a long tradition in many schools including Runnels. Research has shown conclusively that continued reading over long breaks keeps students from falling behind in reading skills. Because students will be expected to retain key information from their summer reading, our teachers assign corresponding work to help students retain what they read and to provide guidance and scaffolding for how to read the novel closely. These assignments are mandatory. All English teachers in Junior and Senior High will require summer assignments for the summer of 2019. Additional copies of the assignments will be available through a link on the Runnels web page at www.runnels.org. Teachers will be available (via email) over the summer to answer questions concerning their assignments. English teachers will also meet with currently enrolled students before the end of the 2018-2019 school year to discuss the requirements for these assignments. Students who are new to Runnels should contact the administration and/or Norma Marsh, Dept. Head, English and Social Studies, at n.marsh@runnels.org for more information. All students will be expected to have completed these assignments upon their return to school for the 2019-2020 school year.

AP Assignments

Many AP classes require summer assignments. Please check the Advanced Placement Summer Assignment for each course for more information. For students who are new to Runnels in the 2019-2020 academic year, please contact the administration for more information concerning summer assignments. AP teachers will be available via email to answer any questions concerning summer assignments as well.

Norma Marsh
Department Head, English & Social Studies
n.marsh@runnels.org

7th grade Summer Reading
Mrs. Wilks
7th grade English Honors
(3 books total)
*Summer Assignments Required

Parents, please be aware that the list of novels provided is very broad, containing traditional classics alongside more modern works, and there may be books within this list you may find objectionable. Please work with your child to select novels within the guidelines that you find appropriate.

Required Reading:

**In the Shadow of the Sun* — Anne Sibley O'Brien

***FICTION (Choose 1 from the list below):**

- *Peak* — Roland Smith
- *The Princess Bride* — William Goldman
- *14 Hollow Road* — Jenn Bishop
- *Crossover* — Kwame Alexander
- *Hoot* — Carl Hiaasen
- *Slider* — Pete Hautman
- *Legend* — Marie Lu
- *The Lie Tree* — Frances Hardinge
- *Backfield Boys* — John Feinstein
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* — Scott O'Dell
- *Call of the Wild* — Jack London
- *Dead End in Norvelt* — Jack Gantos
- *Halfway Normal* — Barbara Dee
- *Restart* — Gordon Korman
- *Ghost* — Jason Reynolds
- *Hell and High Water* — Tanya Landman
- *Addie Bells's Shortcut to Growing Up* — Jessica Brody
- *Heat* — Mike Lupica
- *Among the Hidden* — Margaret Peterson Haddix

NON-FICTION (Choose 1 from the list below):

- *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* — Alfred Lansing
- *42 is Not Just a Number: The Odyssey of Jackie Robinson, American Hero* — Doreen Rappaport
- *Eye of the Storm: NASA, Drones, and the Race to Crack the Hurricane Code* — Amy E. Cherrix
- *Survivor's Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz* — Michael Bornstein
- *The Red Bandana* — Tom Rinaldi
- *Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral, and Getting it Done* — Andrea Gonzales
- *Rosa Parks: My Story* — Rosa Parks
- *American Pharaoh: Triple Crown Champion* — Shelley Fraser Mickle
- *Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* — Steve Sheinkin
- *Motor Girls: How Women Took the Wheel and Drove Boldly into the 20th Century* — Sue Macy

*Complete the graphic organizer for starred required reading novel and chosen fiction book (2 books). Completion of the graphic organizer is *optional* for chosen non-fiction book.

This is not a small undertaking and is not the kind of reading that can be completed the night before it is due. I will need your assistance to make sure that your child works throughout the summer in order to ensure his or her success.

7th grade English – HONORS
Summer Reading Worksheet

Your Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Please complete the following graphic organizer as thoroughly as possible using your own words. Please be aware that I am quite familiar with all of the online study aids, such as Schmoop and Spark Notes. I know what these sites say about each of the books chosen, but in this graphic organizer I want to see what **YOU THINK** about the book, in **YOUR OWN WORDS**, from **YOUR OWN READING** of the text. Please be to the point but thorough. This graphic organizer will help you to study for any tests or quizzes on the books, but will also be graded for originality (i.e. it's your own thinking, not Schmoop's) as well as completion, so please answer the questions quite thoroughly. I will be readily available throughout the summer to answer any questions you have, so please don't hesitate to contact me at s.wilks@runnels.org if you have a question or need more guidance.

Characterization

Protagonist (Name)	3 adjectives to describe the protagonist's personality and character	Physical description
Antagonist (Name)	2 adjective to describe the antagonist	Physical description

Other Major & Important Minor Characters	1 adjective to describe other characters	1 important action or characteristic that helps to define this character?	Physical description
•			
•			
•			
•			
•			

Setting: Describe the setting(s) of the book.

<p style="text-align: center;">Where (place, region, climate, buildings, etc.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">When (time period, seasons, social conditions)</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Conflict, Symbolism and Narration

Characters & Conflict:

What obstacles/struggles must be overcome by the major characters in the book?

Identify and explain the main conflict (man v. _____)

Symbolism:

Reoccurrences of symbols seen throughout the story? (For instance the color black can be symbolic of death, the sun rising can be symbolic of a fresh start, etc.)

Narration:

Who is the narrator of the story?

How is the story narrated?

(1st person - I, us, we)

(3rd person – he, she, they, character names)

Hint: Don't look at dialogue to determine

Important Quotations

Choose 5 quotations which you believed to stand out as being important to the novel. Also, record the page number it is located

1. (page _____)

2. (page _____)

3. (page _____)

4. (page _____)

5. (page _____)

Important Plot Points/ Major events (Take Notes as You Read)

Exposition (Explain Time/Place and Main Characters):

Rising action (List at least 3 events that take place):

Climax (Explain Turning Point/Highest Point of Action):

Falling Action (Action Winding Down- List at least 2 events that take place):

Resolution (Explain the end of the story):