

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, many teachers assign corresponding work to help students remember what they read and to provide guidance and scaffolding for how to read the book closely. These assignments are mandatory. All English teachers in Junior and Senior High will require summer assignments for the summer of 2017. Additional copies of the assignments will be available through a link 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 2016-2017 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 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 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 - College Prep

(2 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:

**Gregor the Overlander* — Suzanne Collins

Choose 1 book to read from either the fiction or non-fiction list below:

FICTION:

- *The Cay* — Theodore Taylor
- *Artemis Fowl* — Eoin Colfer
- *The Captain's Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe* — Roland Smith
- *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* — Elizabeth George Speare
- *Chasing Vermeer* — Blue Balliett
- *Hoot* — Carl Hiaasen
- *Alabama Moon* — Watt Key
- *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* — Tom Angleberger
- *Hatchet* — Gary Paulsen
- *Love Among the Walnuts* — Jean Ferris
- *Tangerine* — Edward Bloor
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* — Scott O'Dell
- *Legend* — Marie Lu
- *The Graveyard Book* — Neil Gaiman
- *Crash* — Jerry Spinelli
- *The Boundless* — Kenneth Oppel

NON-FICTION:

- *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer* — Irene Gut Opdyke
- *Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter* — Adeline Yen Mah
- *Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* — Steve Sheinkin
- *Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart* — Candace Fleming
- *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* — Tanya Lee Stone
- *Muhammed Ali: The Greatest* — Walter Dean Myers
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* — William Kamkwamba

*Complete the graphic organizer for required novel. This is not a small undertaking, and is not the kind of reading that can be completed the night before it is due. Parents, I will need your assistance to make sure that your child works throughout the summer in order to ensure their success.

7th grade English – College Prep
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)	2 adjectives to describe the protagonist's personality and character	Physical description
Antagonist (Name)	1 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
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Setting: Describe the setting(s) of the book.

<p>Where (place, region, climate, buildings, etc.)</p>	<p>When (time period, seasons, social conditions)</p>
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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 Quotes

Choose 5 quotes 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):