

June 2024

*Summer break is here! While we want to take time for relaxation and summer fun, we also want to include summer reading in the mix. There are many benefits to reading, some of which include building critical thinking skills, developing vocabulary and empathy, and even supporting writing skills! Additionally, reading for enjoyment can be a positive way to take a break and relax: a great goal for the summer time (if not all year long.) Thus, your seventh grade ELA teachers encourage you to make time for reading this summer, and we look forward to meeting you in September and discussing your summer reading with you!*

**All incoming seventh grade Language Arts students are required to read:**

*Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick

**\*Additionally, all Language Arts 7 Plus students are required to read a second book of choice.**

**Note:** If possible, try to select a book of interest that relates to the thematic topics of our first unit (Identity and/or Friendship.)

**Required Book Description:**

*Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost). He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band (whose members call him the Peasant), has a crush on the hottest girl in school (who doesn't even know he's alive), and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey (who is cuter than cute - which is also pretty annoying). But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie (yes, you'll have to read the book to find out what that is!)*

**Reading Expectations for All Incoming Seventh Grade Students:**

Students **are required** to read *Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie* over the summer.

- ❖ Students **are encouraged (not required)** to employ active reading strategies, such as taking brief notes on the character(s), setting, plot (events) and theme of the story during or after reading. **Students can expect to work with the required summer reading book in the first weeks of school.**

<b>Characterization</b>	Characterization is a literary technique that names the author's process of creating believable, fictional characters through the characters' speech, thoughts, effect on others, actions, and physical description (looks). Characters also have goals and motivations. <b><i>Who are the main characters, how would you describe them, and what are their motives?</i></b>
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<b>Setting</b>	Setting is a literary term used to describe where (location, environment) and when (time of day, month, year, etc.) the story occurs. <b><i>What are the important settings of this story?</i></b>
<b>Plot Development</b>	Plot is a literary term used to describe the sequence of events in a story. The structure of a novel depends on the organization of events in the plot of the story. <b><i>What are the main events of the story?</i></b>
<b>Theme</b>	Theme is a literary term used to describe the author's message or life lesson to share with readers. Authors develop and reveal theme(s) through the characters, setting, and plot. <b><i>What does this story teach readers about life?</i></b>

**Required Written Assignment for Language Arts 7 Plus Students only:**

In addition to reading two books (the required and one book of choice), choose **one of the three prompts** below and write a response, in which you use specific details from each book (direct quotes and/or paraphrases in your own words.)

Written responses may be handwritten neatly on lined paper or typed in a Google doc and shared with the teacher. **Written requirements will be submitted or shared via Google with the teacher on the second day of school.**

**Prompt #1: Characters**

Select a main character from each of your books (required and choice book.) In one paragraph, describe how these characters are alike and in a second paragraph, describe how these characters are different. Consider their physical appearance, personality traits, motives, and/or conflicts they experience.

**Prompt #2: Settings**

Select one important setting from each of your books (required and choice book.) In one paragraph describe how the required book's setting is impactful to the plot, and in another paragraph, describe how the choice book's setting is impactful to the plot.

**Prompt #3: Themes**

Decide on an important theme (life lesson) in each of your books (required and choice book.) In one paragraph, describe how the required book's theme relates to friendship and/or identity in some way. In the second paragraph, describe how the choice book's theme related to friendship and/or identity in some way. Each paragraph should include the book's theme and at least 3 details to explain how/why the book's theme relates to the thematic topic.