6th Grade Summer Reading Journal

Incoming sixth grade required reading: Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech and Refugee by Alan Gratz.

Assignment:

Reading and summer break go hand-in-hand for Saint George's students. This summer, while you read, we would like you to create a One-Pager Response. The requirements, which will be graded when you return in September, are as follows:

- 6th grade: **Complete a One-Pager** (see instructions and examples below)

A one pager is a single-page response to your reading. It is a way of making a pattern of your unique understanding. It is a way to be creative and experimental. It is a way to respond imaginatively and honestly. It is a way to be brief and compressed. The purpose of a one-pager is to own what you are reading. We learn best when we can create our own patterns. A one-pager connects the verbal and the visual; it connects the ideas in what you read to your thoughts. It connects words and images. The one-pager becomes a metaphor for the reading you have done.

- You will read **both** books! Refugee will be a topic of conversation in World Cultures, while Walk Two Moons will be what we start the year off with in English.
- **You only need to do a One-Pager for one of the books!**
- You may choose to listen to **one** of the books in an audio format if you wish!

Create a One-Pager Response:

One-pagers are a visual representation of your reading. You are provided with 11 choices of how to structure your response. **You must choose 7 and label your choices.** You must include the title and author of your novel and your full name visible somewhere ON the One-pager (not on the back of your creation). The one-pager must be in color.

Check-list:

- I have included the title and author of my novel and my full name somewhere visible on my One-Pager (not on the back)
- My One-pager is in color
- I have included SEVEN of the choice board choices and have labeled my choices
- I have shown creativity and care for my creation

This will be really hard if you wait until the last week of summer to complete this journal, so we recommend working on it throughout the

summer. **This assignment is due**: the last day of the first full (five-day) week of the school year.

ONE-PAGER *Choice Board*

Get Started: Include the title and author of the text being analyzed, as well as your full name. **You must include this box!*	**Get Artistic:** Draw one, large creative symbol that signifies a theme in the text or represents an important aspect of a central character (must be shaded or colored in).	**Get Wordy:** Using different fonts, colors, sizes, etc. write down three significant words or phrases from the text. Provide a quote that justifies each word choice.
Get Personal: In 3-4 sentences explain what this text means to you.	**Get Imaginative:** Create some original blackout poetry that loosely summarizes the plot of the text or an important takeaway that you had after reading the text.	**Get Poetic:** Create an I Am Poem from the perspective of one of the characters in the text.
Get Detailed: Draw a detailed sketch of the setting (time and place!) in the text. Include a quote that describes the setting you drew as well as 2-3 sentences explaining the importance of the setting in conjunction with the plot.	**Get Convincing:** Write a Review. In 3-4 sentences, convince other students to either read this text or not. Your review should use enticing vocabulary that grabs readers' attention and explains what makes this a good (or bad) read. Avoid clichés such as, "If you want to find out what happens, read this book."	**Get Chatty:** Using thought bubbles, write two examples of dialogue that reveal aspects of a character or provoke a decision.
Get Deep: Determine the theme or central idea of the text, and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot.	**Get Figurative:** Identify three examples of figurative language in the text. Include the exact quote (don't forget quotation marks and the page number). Next to each quote, label the type of figurative language you discovered. *Note: it must be three DIFFERENT types of figurative language.*	**Get Creative:** Your choice! Is there something you absolutely feel strongly about including? Here is your chance!

CHOOSE SEVEN OF THESE BOXES (**name does not count as a box**) TO INCLUDE IN YOUR ONE-PAGER. Label your choices.

Here are some explanations of each of the boxes:

Get Artistic Your visual representation of the text should demonstrate creativity and effort. It is NOT an opportunity to draw a picture of a character or a scene from the setting

Get Wordy After listing your three significant words or phrases, analyze the impact of these specific words the author chose based on their meaning and tone in the text. These may be words that propel the plot along, analogies or allusions to other texts, words that were unfamiliar to you and you have since looked up the definition, etc. In 2-3 sentences, explain why you chose each word/phrase and its impact on the text.

Get Personal Here are some questions to consider when writing about your takeaway from reading this text. What lesson did you learn from reading this text or was it simply entertaining? What do you think the author's main message is? Did your feelings about this text change the more you read? Explain.

Get Imaginative Section off a portion of your own page and copy a significant paragraph or two from the text (don't forget quotation marks and the page number.) Then do the following: skim the text for striking images and vibrant words; box those words with a pencil; and then, using a black marker, blackout the unnecessary words. You should have 10-20 words in total.

Get Poetic Write a poem from the perspective of the central figure of your text. The poem should highlight the figure's thoughts and/or feelings about the challenges/issues/obstacles that they face in the story. Each line should be a mini poem in and of itself and use poetic devices (metaphor, simile, personification, onomatopoeia, rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, repetition, symbols, hyperbole). The content of each line must be based on information readers are given in the text. You should not make things up, but rather draw logical conclusions based on what you learn about your figure and his/her characteristics and actions.

Choose between six and eight of the phrases to the right to include in your poem. Your poem must begin with "I am" and end with "I am." Don't forget a title for your poem!

Get Detailed When explaining the importance of the setting in conjunction with the plot, you may wish to address why you think the author chose this particular time and place. How does the setting affect the characters' actions and or/propel the plot along?

Get Convincing Check out a sample book review below to inspire your writing:

"A single mysterious note, 'I know what you did,' reunites three long-forgotten friends at their middle school fifteen years after graduation. The Unknown brings to light broken promises, bitter rivals, and one explosive secret that has the potential to ruin lives. Readers will be riveted by this fast-paced thriller about whether or not you can trust your closest friends."

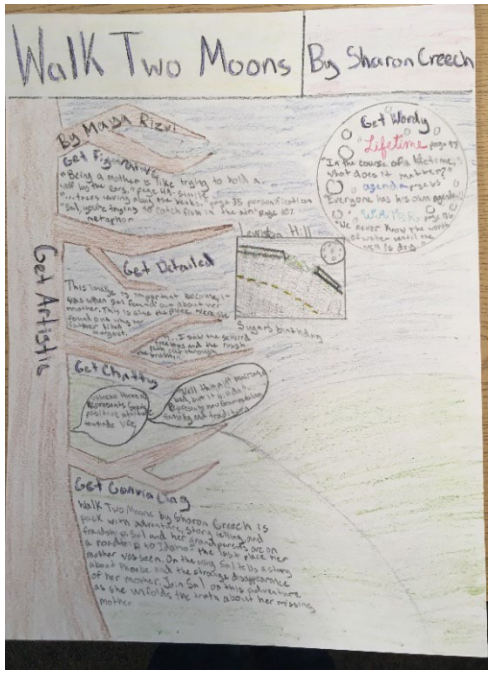
Get Chatty Choose your two examples of dialogue carefully. Is it a conversation among characters that is a turning point in the text? Is it two isolated pieces of dialogue that build on one another? Make sure to identify the character speaking and the page number, as well as include quotation marks. Right next to or underneath your thought bubbles, explain in at least 3-4 sentences how the particular dialogue you chose is significant to the text and reveals an aspect of a character or provokes a decision. Be careful not to simply summarize the dialogue!

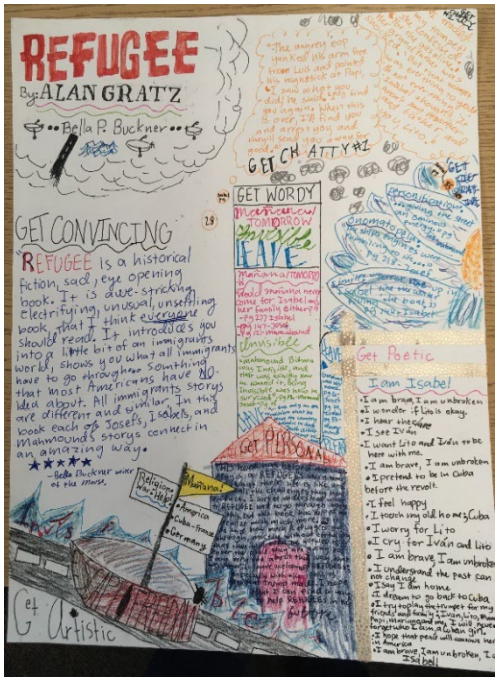
Get Deep Determine the theme and write your one-sentence thematic statement. Then using a quote from the text as well as justification (reasoning), explain why the theme you stated is appropriate for the given text in terms of characters, setting, and plot. Think of this as a well-thought-out mini paragraph.

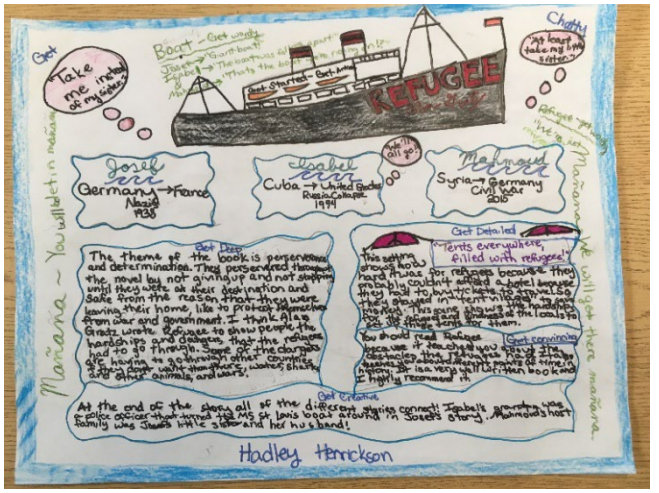
Get Figurative Use this list to help you begin brainstorming possible examples of figurative language from your text. Simile: a comparison using like or as Metaphor: a direct comparison Personification: giving human traits to inhuman objects Hyperbole: an extreme exaggeration Alliteration: repetition of initial consonant sounds Assonance: repetition of vowel sounds in nearby words Idiom: a phrase that has both a figurative and literal meaning

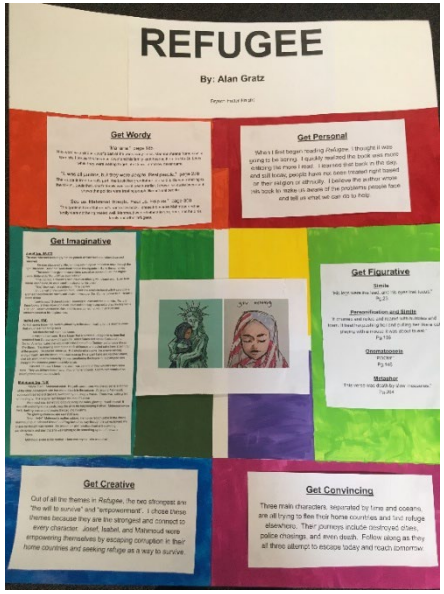
Get Creative Let your creativity free! Include another image, reflection, whatever you wish that is relevant to the text. Make sure you explain in 2-3 detailed sentences why you chose to include this particular element and its significance to your understanding of the text.

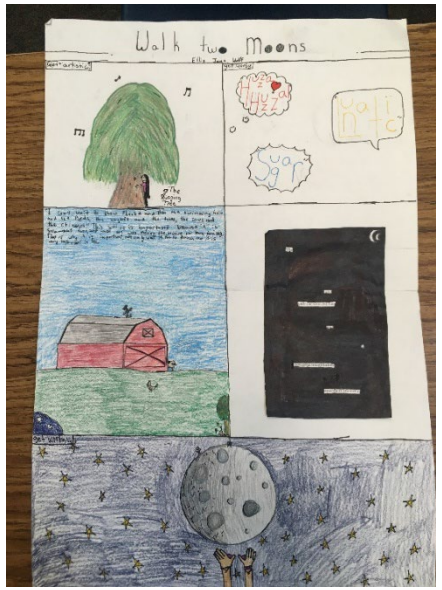
6th Grade Summer Reading One-Pager Examples:
These should help you visually see how a One-Pager can be structured. **Make sure to label your sections!**











It is suggested (but not required) that you read at least two more books over the summer. You **DO NOT** have any assignments for additional books! Please see the "Recommended Reading for Grades 6-12". You do not have to choose a book off this list, but they are books that we have enjoyed and think you will as well!

FAQ:

Will my project be graded? Yes. It is worth 25 points for time, effort, following direction, and showing that you carefully read and understood the assigned book that you chose. It will not be graded for artistic merit, but it should show it was not done in haste. There will be no extensions offered on this assignment. You are free to do more than seven choices on your One-Pager, but you'll receive credit for only seven.

Can I create this digitally? Sure! You can construct your paper by hand or digitally. It will need to be turned in as a hard copy.

Do I have to complete all seven choices for credit? You will need to complete at least seven choices to get full credit.

I feel really confused about this assignment. What should I do? Do the best you can. Make sure you answer seven of the eleven prompts in some way. Look at the visual examples given. Google One-Pagers for more visuals. Don't fret about being the best artist in the class. This is about showing you have processed the reading! Relax and enjoy the process!

How many books do I have to read this summer? Two books are assigned (read them both) but you only need to do the assignment on one. It never hurts to read more! In fact, it is recommended that you do! The more you read the better reader you'll become. You'll be reading in all of your classes next year -- even math! Besides English reading, there are extensive reading assignments both in and out of class in World Cultures, Spanish, and Science. Some of the SGS teachers have put together a list of recommended books. Take a look at that if you're looking for more books to read. Additionally, feel free to email Sara Smith, sara.smith@sgs.org for more recommendations.

I've already read all the book choices. May I read a different one? No. If you have read both, read them again! Re-reading a book gives you a chance to notice things you didn't notice before. Read the book again looking for certain things or thinking about how the scenes play out when you know the ending. How do you feel differently about the plot now that you are older?

My parents don't want me to read any of these book options. They feel it's inappropriate. What should I do? Have them contact me immediately—by the end of June. I am flexible, but I need to speak directly to parents on this issue. Waiting until August to contact me is too late!

When is this project due? The last day of the first full (five day) week of the school year.

What happens if I don't complete this project? This will be your first assignment of 6th grade! If you don't complete it, I will grade what you have done, and we will move forward from there! If you have an unusual situation (severe illness, late enrollment, etc.) please contact me at your earliest convenience at Heidi.schillinger@sgs.org).

Grades 6 - 8 Recommended Reading

Teacher	*Title*	*Author*	*Grade level*	*Description*
Mrs. Deitz	*Wizard of Earthsea*	Ursula K. Le Guin	8+	Set in an archipelago world of islands and ocean, the story follows Ged, a talented but arrogant young boy from a poor village who discovers he has a remarkable gift for magic. He earns a place at the prestigious wizarding school on the island of Roke, but his pride leads him to rashly perform a dangerous spell beyond his skill. His mistake opens a rift between worlds and sends him on an adventure to repair the harm done. Le Guin is one of my favorite authors, and Earthsea is a classic fantasy world – often compared to Middle Earth or Narnia in literary influence!
Mrs. Deitz	*A First Time for Everything*	Dan Santat	7+	This graphic memoir is funny, heart-warming, and relatable to anyone who knows the awkwardness of middle school! It follows 13-year-old Dan Santat, whose middle school years have been marked by bullying and feeling invisible. When his parents send him on a three-week class trip through Europe, Dan has low expectations. As he travels through France, Germany, Switzerland, and England, a series of "firsts" begin to change him, including first friendships, first Fanta, first fondue, and even a first kiss.
Mrs. Deitz	*Scythe*	Neal Shusterman	7+	Set in a future where death has been conquered, the population is controlled by a group of individuals known as scythes: people tasked with "gleaning," or permanently killing, a certain number of people each year. Two teenagers, Citra and Rowan, receive a mysterious invitation to become apprentices to a scythe, setting them on a collision course with each other and with the dark politics of their world. Be ready for big questions about mortality, power, and ethics!
Mrs. Deitz	*The First State of Being*	Erin Entrada Kelly	6+	Set in August 1999, twelve-year-old Michael Rosario's ordinary life at Fox Run Apartments, marked by the looming Y2K crisis and a crush on his babysitter Gibby, is turned upside down when a disoriented teenage boy named Ridge appears out of nowhere. Ridge, it turns out, is from the future, and he encourages Michael to stop

				worrying and live in the present, or what he calls "the first state of being." This 2025 Newbery Award winner is a great contemporary pick for fans of classic children's sci-fi, like *A Wrinkle in Time.*
Mrs. Deitz	*When Tomorrow Burns*	Tae Keller	6+	This one is a new release by a Washington author! Three childhood best friends once discovered a mysterious book filled with prophecies that seemed to predict their lives. When they were younger, the book felt magical and exciting. But as the friends grow older and begin drifting apart, the final prophecy starts unfolding in frightening ways. Set during wildfire season in Seattle, the book blends a light mystery with the emotional reality of growing up, as the friends race to stop a prophecy that promises fire and destruction. Great for readers experiencing climate anxiety during the wildfire season.
Mrs. Deitz	*The Trouble with Heroes*	Kate Messner	6+	The novel follows thirteen-year-old Finn Connolly, who must climb all 46 Adirondack High Peaks in one summer while also completing a poetry assignment about "heroes": a term often used to describe his late father, a firefighter-turned-paramedic. Finn is angry, grieving, and failing seventh grade, but the mountains (and some unexpected mentors) slowly help him heal and understand his complicated feelings about his dad.
Mrs. Deitz	*Inquisitor's Tale*	Adam Gidwitz	6+	Set in 1242, the tale follows three unlikely companions on the run to escape prejudice and persecution and save precious texts from being burned: William, a young monk on a mission; Jacob, a Jewish boy who has fled his burning village; and Jeanne, a peasant girl with prophetic visions. They are accompanied by Jeanne's loyal greyhound, recently brought back from the dead. Told in multiple voices in a style reminiscent of The Canterbury Tales, it's a hilarious and heartfelt medieval adventure that will offer incoming 7th graders interesting historical background for our Holocaust unit!
Mrs. Deitz	*Anne of Green Gables*	L.M. Montgomery	5+	An elderly brother and sister on Prince Edward Island send away for a boy to help on their farm, but receive red-headed, talkative, and imaginative orphan Anne Shirley by mistake. Rather than sending her back, they decide to keep her. Anne's irrepressible

				spirit, love of beauty, and tendency for accidental mishaps endear her to the whole community. This precocious little girl is one of my personal favorite literary characters!
Mrs. Deitz	*The Eyes and the Impossible*	Dave Eggers	5+	Johannes is a free dog living in an urban park by the sea. His job is to be the Eyes — to see everything that happens within the park and report back to the park's elders, three ancient bison. His friends — a seagull, a raccoon, a squirrel, and a pelican — work with him as the Assistant Eyes, making sure the Equilibrium is in balance. But changes are afoot when more humans arrive and a mysterious new building goes up. This joyful story about freedom and community is illustrated with classical landscape paintings and will gently challenge readers with its unique narrative structure.
Mrs. Schillinger	*Ender's Game*	Orson Scott Card	9+	*Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin is six years old when it begins. He will grow up fast.*
Mrs. Schillinger	*The Breadwinner*	Deborah Ellis	6+	*Young Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan. Because he has a foreign education, her father is arrested by the Taliban, the religious group that controls the country. Since women cannot appear in public unless covered head to toe, or go to school, or work outside the home, the family becomes increasingly desperate until Parvana conceives a plan. She cuts her hair and disguises herself as a boy to earn money for her family. Parvana's determination to survive is the force that drives this novel set against the backdrop of an intolerable situation brought about by war and religious fanaticism.*

Mrs. Schillinger	*Red Kayak*	Priscilla Cummings	5+	*Brady loves his life on the Chesapeake Bay, crabbing and oyster fishing with friends J.T. and Digger. But developers and rich summer families are moving into the area, and while Brady befriends some of them, others are bitter about the new construction. Tragedy strikes when a kayak sinks in the bay, and Brady discovers what happened was something other than an accident. A story of loyalty, choices and courage.*
Mrs. Schillinger	*Wrinkle in Time*	Madeleine L'Engle	5+	*A Wrinkle in Time, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem.*
Mrs. Schillinger	*Tuck Everlasting*	Natalie Babbitt	6+	*Doomed to—or blessed with—eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing than it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.*
Mrs. Schillinger	*Where the Red Fern Grows*	Wilson Rawls	6+	*Billy Colman roams the Ozarks of northeastern Oklahoma with his blue tick hound and his precious coonhound pup trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. When the victory over the mountain lion turns to tragedy, Billy grieves but learns the beautiful old Native American legend of the sacred red fern that grows over the graves of his dogs.*

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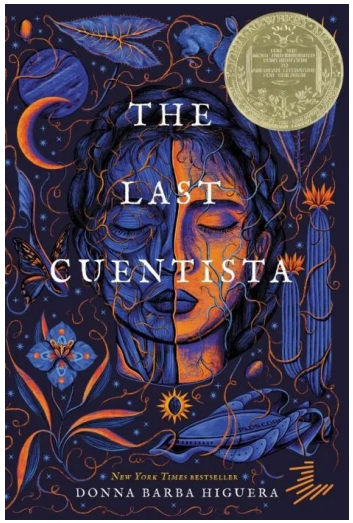
Sara Smith	*Jackaby*	William Ritter	8+	*Newly arrived in New Fiddleham, New England, 1892, and in need of a job, Abigail Rook meets R. F. Jackaby, an investigator of the unexplained with a keen eye for the extraordinary--including the ability to see supernatural beings. Abigail has a gift for noticing ordinary but important details, which makes her perfect for the position of Jackaby's assistant. On her first day, Abigail finds herself in the midst of a thrilling case: A serial killer is on the loose. The police are convinced it's an ordinary villain, but Jackaby is certain the foul deeds are the work of the kind of creature whose very existence the local police seem adamant to deny.*
Sara Smith	*Howl's Moving Castle*	Diana Wynne Jones	5+	*Sophie has the great misfortune of being the eldest of three daughters, destined to fail miserably should she ever leave home to seek her fate. But when she unwittingly attracts the ire of the Witch of the Waste, Sophie finds herself under a horrid spell that transforms her into an old lady. Her only chance of breaking it lies in the ever-moving castle in the hills: the Wizard Howl's castle. To untangle the enchantment, Sophie must handle the heartless Howl, strike a bargain with a fire demon, and meet the Witch of the Waste head-on. Along the way, she discovers that there's far more to Howl—and herself—than first meets the eye.*
Sara Smith	*The Emerald Atlas*	John Stephens	7+	Siblings Kate, Michael, and Emma have been in one orphanage after another for the last ten years, passed along like lost baggage. Yet these unwanted children are more remarkable than they could possibly imagine. Ripped from their parents as babies, they are being protected from a horrible evil of devastating power, an evil they know nothing about. Until now. Before long, Kate, Michael, and Emma are on a journey through time to dangerous and secret corners of the world . . . a journey of allies and enemies, of magic and mayhem. And—if an ancient prophecy is true—what they do can change history, and it's up to them to set things right.
Sara Smith	*City of the Beasts*	Isabel Allende	7+	*Fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold has the chance to take the trip of a lifetime. Parting from his family and ill mother, Alexander joins his fearless grandmother, a magazine reporter for International Geographic, on an expedition to the dangerous, remote world of the Amazon. Their mission, along with the others on their team—including a celebrated anthropologist, a local guide and his young daughter Nadia, and a doctor—is to document the legendary Yeti of the Amazon known as the Beast.*

Sara Smith	*Amal Unbound*	Aisha Saeed	5+	*Amal's dreams of being a teacher when she's older are put on hold when she must look after her siblings instead of going to school in rural Pakistan. But her hope is further shattered when she is forced into working for a rich family to pay off a family debt. The corruption she sees and the enemies she makes put her in grave danger. Will she be able to save her family and realize her dreams?*
Sara Smith	*The Blue Sword*	Robin McKinley	5+	*High fantasy set on an imagined desert world, with a brilliantly ordinary young woman as its heroine. Magic and reality combine in a beautifully realized mythical kingdom. Robin McKinley will delight readers with this fast-paced adventure.*
Sara Smith	*Flora & Ulysses*	Kate DiCamillo	5+	*It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw the vacuum cleaner coming, but self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, who has read every issue of the comic book Terrible Things Can Happen to You!, is the just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight, and misspelled poetry — and that Flora will be changed too, as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart.*
Sara Smith	*A Drowned Maiden's Hair*	Laura Amy Schlitz	5+	*Maud Flynn is "plain, clever and bad," so it comes as a surprise when she's plucked from the Barbary Asylum for Female Orphans and adopted by the elderly Hawthorne sisters. Maud eagerly hopes to be pampered and cherished by the sisters, and life seems perfect –until Maud learns of the role she has to play in the high-stakes "family business." Set in the early twentieth century, this book takes readers into the shadowy world of spiritualism as Maud must decide just how much she is willing to do for the sake of being loved.*

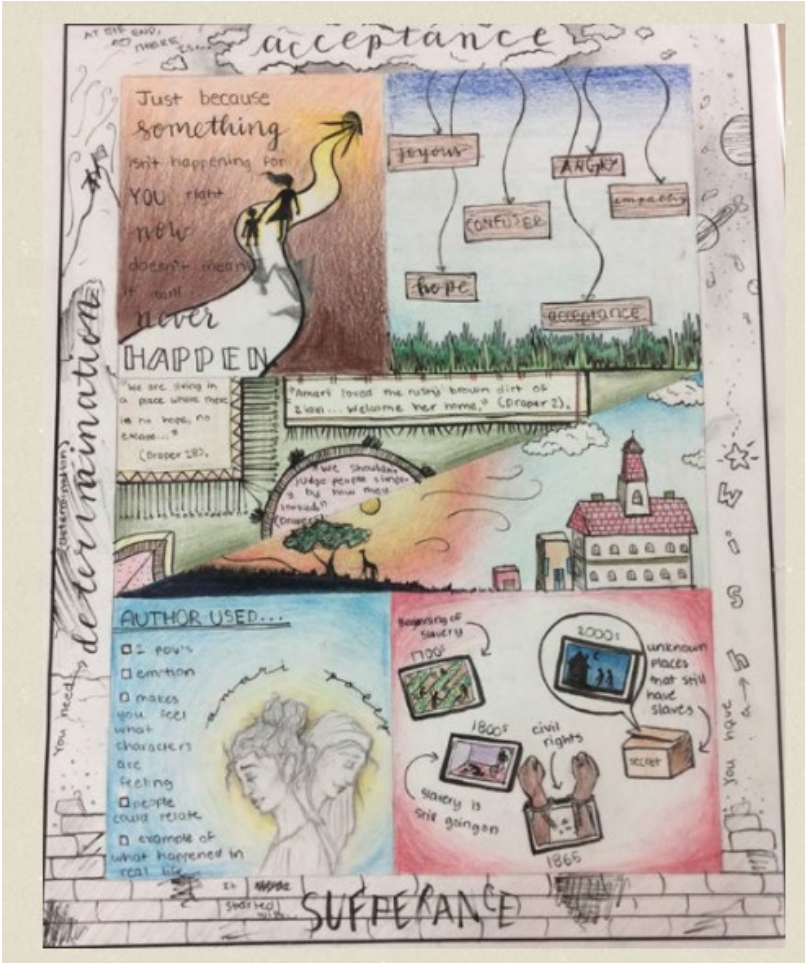
7th Grade Summer Reading Plan

First, please complete this brainstorm & goal-setting activity with a parent, guardian, or other caregiver!

I **have** to read...	These would make great light, **fun reads...**	These would **teach** me something ...
 **The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera**		
These would challenge me in a good way...	**From these lists, here's my top 3 summer reading priorities...**	

7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment:

Read 📚	*The Last Cuentista* **AND** at least 1 other book of your choice!
Reflect 💡	Journal responses to the following prompts: 1. The Collective erased people's memories to create a 'perfect' society — do you think a society without painful memories would actually be better? Why or why not? 2. Some of the cuentos (stories) Petra told were complex tales. What did these stories reveal about Petra as a character, or about the world she lives in? 3. Stories were deeply important to Petra. What stories have left an impact on *you*?
Connect 💬	*This novel centers on the power of stories to preserve identity and history, especially across generations and relocation…* ★ Ask a family member older than yourself (parent, grandparent, older sibling) to tell you a **family story.** Note: Family stories can be traditional, cultural tales repeated over generations… or they can be a simple memory from the past that feels worth sharing. It's great if they can tell you a story that originated before you were born! Take notes on your conversation – you'll need them for the next step. 🎨
Create 🎨	Create a one-pager, synthesizing your reading, reflection, and conversation! ★ **PROMPT: how do memories and stories shape who we are, individually or in groups?** → Your one-pager should creatively communicate your answer to this question using a combination of images, colors, and language! This assignment is designed with creative freedom in mind. You may create your one-pager by

	hand or digitally, but please come to class in August with a physical copy for submission. <u>Please include the following elements in your one-pager:</u> ● At least one quote with a page number from *The Last Cuentista* ● Representations of the family story you were told → **This could be a comic-style retelling, a brief written reflection on the importance of the story, a quote with related sketches, photos with captions about the places/people in the story… be creative!** ● Your own original reflections → **You can pull these from your journal responses, or create new thoughts based on the prompt!** ● Connections between all three! (the book, the family story, and your own reflections) ● Visual elements to express your ideas: color, symbols, illustrations, etc.  Blank spaces on a one-pager should be minimal and intentional. You can fill any additional space with scenes, themes, and symbols from the book… especially if they feel related to the prompt!
Prepare	Prepare to present a brief "book talk" about the <u>other</u> book you read! The goal of a book talk is to entice other students to give your book a try. **You will present this to the class within the first few weeks of school.** A preparation worksheet is attached.

Book Talk Preparation: (complete this using your *choice* book)

1. **HOOK:** Read a powerful line from the book and explain why you chose it.
   → Sticky note the line in your book, or copy it down here!

2. **BASICS:** State the following!
   a. Title:
   b. Author:
   c. Genre:

3. **CHARACTER:** Describe the main character in a single sentence, using the following sentence structure:

"[Name], [appositive phrase], is [adjective] and [verb] [object]."

Examples:
- Maya, a competitive soccer player, is determined and wins every game for her team.
- Taylor, an English teacher, is creative and concocts meaningful summer reading projects for her students. 😉

Your turn! →

4. **CONFLICT:** Write a single sentence that summarizes the conflict, without spoilers!

   Sentence stems to get you started:

- "[Character name] must _____ in order to _____."
- "The book explores what happens when _____."
- "[Character name] is challenged by _____ throughout the story."

5. **REALIZATION:** Complete the following sentence!
   a. This book made me realize…

6. **RECOMMENDATION:** Fill in the blanks!

"If you like _____

and _____…then you should read this book!"

Grading:

Reading Plan: 5 pts. given for completion

One Pager: 20 pts. total

5 pts. for inclusion of each major element:

- Quote from The Last Cuentista
- Representation of a family story
- Original reflections

5 pts. for visuals which reflect investment in the creative process

Book Talk: 15 pts. total

2 pts for inclusion of each element (total of 12 pts.)

- hook, basics, character, conflict, realization, recommendation

3 pts. for presentation to the class

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE: 40

This assignment is due on the Tuesday after Labor Day (9/8).
Late submissions will be accepted for partial credit until the end of September.

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Taylor's Contributions to Recommended Reading

Teacher	*Title*	*Author*	*Grade level*	*Description*
Mrs. Deitz	*Wizard of Earthsea*	Ursula K. Le Guin	8+	Set in an archipelago world of islands and ocean, the story follows Ged, a talented but arrogant young boy from a poor village who discovers he has a remarkable gift for magic. He earns a place at the prestigious wizarding school on the island of Roke, but his pride leads him to rashly perform a dangerous spell beyond his skill. His mistake opens a rift between worlds and sends him on an adventure to repair the harm done. Le Guin is one of my favorite authors, and Earthsea is a classic fantasy world – often compared to Middle Earth or Narnia in literary influence!
Mrs. Deitz	*A First Time for Everything*	Dan Santat	7+	This graphic memoir is funny, heart-warming, and relatable to anyone who knows the awkwardness of middle school! It follows 13-year-old Dan Santat, whose middle school years have been marked by bullying and feeling invisible. When his parents send him on a three-week class trip through Europe, Dan has low expectations. As he travels through France, Germany, Switzerland, and England, a series of "firsts" begin to change him, including first friendships, first Fanta, first fondue, and even a first kiss.
Mrs. Deitz	*Scythe*	Neal Shusterman	7+	Set in a future where death has been conquered, the population is controlled by a group of individuals known as scythes: people tasked with "gleaning," or permanently killing, a certain number of people each year. Two teenagers, Citra and Rowan, receive a mysterious invitation to become apprentices to a scythe, setting them on a collision course with each other and with the dark politics of their world. Be ready for big questions about mortality, power, and ethics!
Mrs. Deitz	*The First State of Being*	Erin Entrada Kelly	6+	Set in August 1999, twelve-year-old Michael Rosario's ordinary life at Fox Run Apartments, marked by the looming Y2K crisis and a crush on his babysitter Gibby, is turned upside down when a disoriented teenage boy named Ridge appears out of nowhere. Ridge, it turns out, is from the future, and he encourages Michael to stop

				worrying and live in the present, or what he calls "the first state of being." This 2025 Newbery Award winner is a great contemporary pick for fans of classic children's sci-fi, like *A Wrinkle in Time.*
Mrs. Deitz	*When Tomorrow Burns*	Tae Keller	6+	This one is a new release by a Washington author! Three childhood best friends once discovered a mysterious book filled with prophecies that seemed to predict their lives. When they were younger, the book felt magical and exciting. But as the friends grow older and begin drifting apart, the final prophecy starts unfolding in frightening ways. Set during wildfire season in Seattle, the book blends a light mystery with the emotional reality of growing up, as the friends race to stop a prophecy that promises fire and destruction. Great for readers experiencing climate anxiety during the wildfire season.
Mrs. Deitz	*The Trouble with Heroes*	Kate Messner	6+	The novel follows thirteen-year-old Finn Connolly, who must climb all 46 Adirondack High Peaks in one summer while also completing a poetry assignment about "heroes": a term often used to describe his late father, a firefighter-turned-paramedic. Finn is angry, grieving, and failing seventh grade, but the mountains (and some unexpected mentors) slowly help him heal and understand his complicated feelings about his dad.
Mrs. Deitz	*Inquisitor's Tale*	Adam Gidwitz	6+	Set in 1242, the tale follows three unlikely companions on the run to escape prejudice and persecution and save precious texts from being burned: William, a young monk on a mission; Jacob, a Jewish boy who has fled his burning village; and Jeanne, a peasant girl with prophetic visions. They are accompanied by Jeanne's loyal greyhound, recently brought back from the dead. Told in multiple voices in a style reminiscent of The Canterbury Tales, it's a hilarious and heartfelt medieval adventure that will offer incoming 7th graders interesting historical background for our Holocaust unit!
Mrs. Deitz	*Anne of Green Gables*	L.M. Montgomery	5+	An elderly brother and sister on Prince Edward Island send away for a boy to help on their farm, but receive red-headed, talkative, and imaginative orphan Anne Shirley by mistake. Rather than sending her back, they decide to keep her. Anne's irrepressible

				spirit, love of beauty, and tendency for accidental mishaps endear her to the whole community. This precocious little girl is one of my personal favorite literary characters!
Mrs. Deitz	*The Eyes and the Impossible*	Dave Eggers	5+	Johannes is a free dog living in an urban park by the sea. His job is to be the Eyes — to see everything that happens within the park and report back to the park's elders, three ancient bison. His friends — a seagull, a raccoon, a squirrel, and a pelican — work with him as the Assistant Eyes, making sure the Equilibrium is in balance. But changes are afoot when more humans arrive and a mysterious new building goes up. This joyful story about freedom and community is illustrated with classical landscape paintings and will gently challenge readers with its unique narrative structure.
Mrs. Schillinger	*Ender's Game*	Orson Scott Card	9+	*Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin is six years old when it begins. He will grow up fast.*
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Mrs. Schillinger	*Red Kayak*	Priscilla Cummings	5+	*Brady loves his life on the Chesapeake Bay, crabbing and oyster fishing with friends J.T. and Digger. But developers and rich summer families are moving into the area, and while Brady befriends some of them, others are bitter about the new construction. Tragedy strikes when a kayak sinks in the bay, and Brady discovers what happened was something other than an accident. A story of loyalty, choices and courage.*
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Mrs. Schillinger	*Tuck Everlasting*	Natalie Babbitt	6+	*Doomed to—or blessed with—eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing than it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.*
Mrs. Schillinger	*Where the Red Fern Grows*	Wilson Rawls	6+	*Billy Colman roams the Ozarks of northeastern Oklahoma with his blue tick hound and his precious coonhound pup trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. When the victory over the mountain lion turns to tragedy, Billy grieves but learns the beautiful old Native American legend of the sacred red fern that grows over the graves of his dogs.*

8th Grade Summer Reading Plan

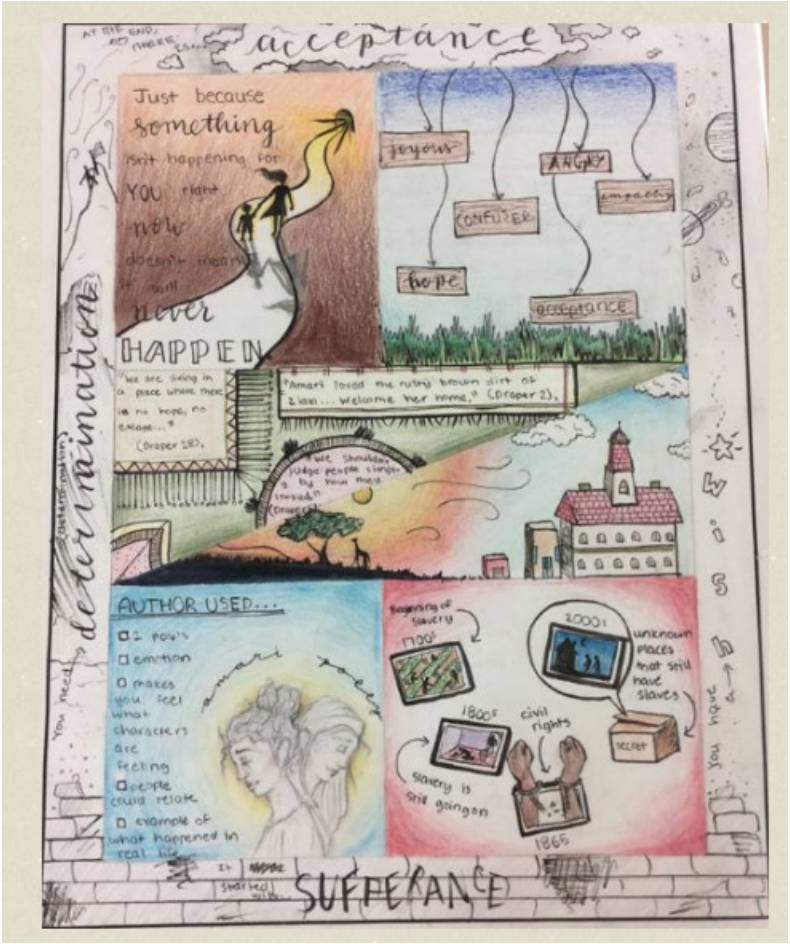
First, please complete this brainstorm & goal-setting activity with a parent, guardian, or other caregiver!

I **have** to read...	These would make great light, **fun reads...**	These would **teach** me something ...
One of the memoirs* from this list: • Born a Crime • The Distance Between Us • Gone to the Woods • The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind • I am Malala		
These would **challenge** me in a good way...	From these lists, here's my **top 3 summer reading priorities**...	

*Note: I have linked the "young reader" editions of these memoirs. If your family deems it appropriate, you are welcome to read the original edition instead!

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment:

Read 📚	ONE of the memoirs + at least 1 other book of your choice!
Reflect 💡	Journal a response to the following prompts: ***Though set in different times and places, all of these memoirs focus on the author's journey through adolescence. The person they are at the end is not the same person they were in the beginning…*** 1. What changed the author along the way and how? 2. What experiences have *you* had so far as an adolescent that have changed you? How do those experiences compare/contrast with the author's?
Connect 💬	Interview a family member older than yourself (parent, grandparent, older sibling, etc.) ★ Ask them… → ***Will you please tell me about a specific experience, challenge, or choice from your adolescence that changed you in some way?*** Take notes on what you hear – you'll need them for your next step! 🎨
Create 🎨	…a one-pager, synthesizing your reading, reflection, and conversation! **PROMPT: How do we become who we are?** → Your one-pager should creatively communicate your answer to this question using a combination of images, colors, fonts, and language. This assignment is designed with creative freedom in mind. You may create your one-pager by hand or digitally, but please come to class in August with a physical copy for submission.

	Please include the following elements: ● At least two quotes with page numbers from the memoir ● One highlight, quote, or insight from your family interview ● Your own original reflections → **You can pull these from your journal responses, or create new thoughts based on the prompt!** ● Connections and comparisons ● Visual elements: color, symbols, illustrations, etc. Blank spaces on a one-pager should be minimal and intentional. *You can fill any additional space with scenes, themes, and symbols from the book… especially if they feel related to the prompt!* 
Prepare	…a brief "book talk" about the other book you read! The goal of a book talk is to entice other students to give your book a try. **You will present this to the class within the first few weeks of school.** A preparation worksheet is attached. 😊

Happy reading! ❤️ -Taylor

Book Talk Preparation: (complete this using your *choice* book)

1. **HOOK:** Read a powerful line from the book and explain why you chose it.
   → Sticky note the line in your book, or copy it down here!

2. **BASICS:** State the following!
   a. Title:
   b. Author:
   c. Genre:

3. **CHARACTER:** Describe the main character in a single sentence, using the following sentence structure:

"[Name], [appositive phrase], is [adjective] and [verb] [object]."

Examples:
- Maya, a competitive soccer player, is determined and wins every game for her team.
- Taylor, an English teacher, is creative and concocts meaningful summer reading projects for her students. 😉

Your turn! →

4. **CONFLICT:** Write a single sentence that summarizes the conflict, without spoilers!

   Sentence stems to get you started:

- "[Character name] must _____ in order to _____."
- "The book explores what happens when _____."
- "[Character name] is challenged by _____ throughout the story."

5. **REALIZATION:** Complete the following sentence!
   a. This book made me realize…

6. **RECOMMENDATION:** Fill in the blanks!

"If you like _____

and _____…then you should read this book!"

Grading:

Reading Plan: 5 pts. given for completion

One Pager: 20 pts. total

5 pts. for inclusion of each major element:

- Memoir quotes
- Family interview
- Original reflections

5 pts. for visuals which reflect investment in the creative process

Book Talk: 15 pts. total

2 pts for inclusion of each element (total of 12 pts.)

- hook, basics, character, conflict, realization, recommendation

3 pts. for presentation to the class

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE: 40

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