

## International Leadership of Texas Garland Elementary and Middle School

### SUMMER READING- 8TH GRADE

This year you have an option in what book to read over the summer. The list has been compiled using **Common Sense Media** as a resource in choosing appropriate texts.

Remember that the purpose of literature is to push the limits of our understanding, to open our minds to new ideas and new worlds, to impart sympathy and empathy, and even gratitude.

**You need only select ONE of following books for the summer reading.**

#### ***Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo***

Alina Starkov is happy living as a mapmaker, as long as she has her best friend, Mal, by her side. They've been together through thick and thin since their days at an orphanage. Then one fateful day changes everything for Alina. The Grisha, a group similar to witches and wizards who rely on the elements to get their power, discover that Alina is one of the most powerful of their kind. She can summon light and take away the darkness. The leader of the Grisha, the Darkling -- a sexy, mysterious man who wields his magic like a deadly weapon -- wants to train and mold Alina so she can learn to harness her power and destroy the Shadow Fold, a place of nightmares where frightening creatures roam. But the Darkling's ulterior motive is to make Alina his own. Alina must learn to trust her instincts and to stay true to herself or pay the price -- with her life. The characters face violence, death, and destruction at every turn in a struggle between good and evil. There's some crude language; romance involves brief kisses and one heavy make-out scene. Some of the teen characters drink alcohol and get drunk.

**Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 13 and up**

#### ***The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien***

Bilbo Baggins, a simple Hobbit, never asked for adventure. It literally came knocking on his door -- 13 dwarves and Gandalf the wizard show up to tea to hire Bilbo as a thief in their quest to reclaim a hoard of treasure. It's stashed far away and guarded by a fierce dragon, Smaug. Bilbo will have to cross the Misty Mountains -- troll and goblin country -- and the untamed wilds of Mirkwood, where straying from the path can be deadly. In exchange, he gets an even share of the treasure and quite a story to tell. But is one little hobbit really up for such a big adventure? This classic adventure brings out the best in the little hobbit at its center: bravery, loyalty, cunning, and the guts to take a stand against friends blinded by greed so he can help bring about peace.

**Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 9 and up**

#### ***Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maude Montgomery***

When aging siblings Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert of Avonlea, a small town in Canada's maritime province of Prince Edward Island, decide to adopt an orphan boy to help with their farm, they never expect to get talkative 11-year-old redhead Anne Shirley instead. Anne's arrival at Green Gables immediately stirs up the Cuthberts' predictable, even-keeled lives -- and before long, they're so attached to her that they can't bring themselves to send her back to the orphan asylum after all. With her vivid imagination, mile-a-minute chatter, and impulsive, love-starved heart, Anne has an impact on everyone she meets in Avonlea, from busybody Rachel Lynde, to best friend Diana Barry, to handsome Gilbert Blythe, the boy who dares to call Anne "Carrots."

**Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 9 and up**

### ***The Tequila Worm by Viola Canales***

A fictionalized memoir of growing up in the warm embrace of the Mexican-American barrio of McAllen, Texas. For Sofia the center of her life is her extended family and her comadres, the girls who will become her lifelong ... well, friends seems too pale a word for this intense, mutually supportive relationship. But Sofia has dreams beyond the barrio, and a pivotal event in her childhood gives her the drive to achieve them. When she wins a scholarship to an Episcopal boarding school hundreds of miles away her family is reluctant to let her go, but determined to keep her tied firmly to her roots when she does. Parents need to know that teens drink here. There is some sexism and anti-Mexican racism.

**Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 9 and up**

### ***Zen and the Art of Faking It by Jordan Sonnenblick***

Eighth grader San Lee moves to Pennsylvania with his mother and starts yet another new school. His father is serving time for some cons performed across the country, dragging the family along each time. Being the new kid, San is trying to figure out who to pretend to be to fit in with his peers. He impresses his teacher and classmates with his answers on Zen so he becomes San, the Zen kid at school. He sits on a rock meditating before school, wears socks with sandals in winter, and professes not to need any "earthly attachments." Except he has a big crush on a female classmate. They work on a project together, share details about their lives (his are all lies), but he thinks the attraction is largely based on him being an expert on Zen. They volunteer together at a soup kitchen and teach the B level school basketball team how to use Zen in the game. San's new life is going well, but of course eventually his lies will have to catch up with him.

**Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 12 and up**

### **Assignment:**

Once you have chosen your novel, you will be expected to read it completely and produce a **ONE-PAGER**. A one-pager is a single-page response to your reading of the novel you have chosen. It is a way to communicate your understanding of the material in a unique way. A one-pager allows you to be creative and experimental. It gives you the opportunity to respond to your reading imaginatively and honestly.

### **Directions:**

1. Include all of the following activities on your one-pager:
  - a. Title and Author
  - b. 3 notable quotes or phrases that jump out at you. Write them down anywhere on your page. Use colors or writing style to make them stand out.
  - c. A visual image which creates a "visual focus" on your one-pager. Your picture should represent what you have visualized in your mind about the reading.
  - d. A personal statement about what you have read. What did the reading mean to you? What is your opinion, final thought, big question, or personal connection?
  - e. A theme statement: what is the theme of the selection?
  - f. A border on the edge of your paper that represents the ideas and themes in the selection.

- Be creative. Make your one-pager colorful and interesting to look at. Everything on the page should communicate your understanding and interpretations of the reading. NO WHITE SPACE! Fill the entire page.

EXAMPLES:

