

International Leadership of Texas Garland Elementary and Middle School

SUMMER READING- English I

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.

Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson

After years of being an unnoticed dweeb, Tyler gets noticed in high school when he spray-paints graffiti on the school. He also gets arrested and sentenced to a summer of community service, from which he earns a newly muscular physique from the labor, and a reputation as slightly dangerous. For a while things are OK for Tyler: he is no longer afraid of bullies, and the hottest girl in school (daughter of his father's boss and sister of the worst bully) seem interested in him. But his father is verbally abusive, his mother an alcoholic, all of the adults in his life are suspicious of him, and the bullies are looking for a chance for revenge. And when his life spirals out of his control, he begins to think that his only options are the most drastic ones. There are references to drinking, drugs, and sex, as well as some swearing and violence. There are some gritty details, but Tyler ultimately makes a powerful journey.

Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 14 and up

The Absolute Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Junior has more than his fair share of burdens. He was born hydrocephalic, and he lives on an Indian reservation where there is little hope or money, but plenty of alcoholics, including his parents. His sister hardly ever comes out of the basement. He gets beaten up a lot for looking weird. But he has a few things going for him too. He's smart, good at drawing and basketball, and, unlike his friends and relatives, he has ambition and hope. But when he decides to reach for more by going to a white school 22 miles away, his burdens grow even greater. Parents need to know that this National Book Award winner presents a powerful look at the life of Native Americans on reservation, and the struggles one teen faces in an effort to escape. There is some gritty material including swearing, racism, homophobia, references to masturbation, erections -- and alcoholism is a major theme. Yet teen readers will get a lot from Junior's story: his sincere and sardonic voice is expressed not only in his writing but in his comics about his life, family, and friends.

Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 14 and up

Animal Farm by George Orwell

After years of oppression by Farmer Jones, the animals on his farm rise up and chase him away. They plan to run the farm themselves, for their own benefit. At first, the animals are able to work together and support each other. Gradually, however, the pigs begin making helpful suggestions about how the farm should be run. Before long, the pigs are at the top of the social ladder and the rest of the livestock are wondering what happened. Although the novel tells a fairly simple story of barnyard animals trying to manage themselves after rebelling against their masters, it demonstrates how easily good intentions can be subverted into tyranny.

Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 13 and up

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

The Earth has been attacked twice by aliens called Formics, or more popularly, Buggers, and everyone is sure a third invasion is coming. So the military embarks on a crash program to breed the ultimate military genius to lead the fleet in a pre-emptive attack against the Formic homeworld. These kids are trained from age 6 in an off-world facility called Battle School, and their training consists mostly of games. Ender Wiggins may be the child they are looking for. Brilliant, compassionate, and tormented, he's better at the games than anyone has ever been. But how can they manipulate a compassionate child into wiping out an entire species, and at the same time give him the skills to do it effectively? The adults who run the school are literally out to save the world: They will stop at nothing to achieve their ends, and one small boy, or even a school full of kids, is nothing but a means to that end.

Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 12 and up

Unwind by Neal Shusterman

In the future, a war has been fought between the pro-life and pro-choice armies. Their final settlement: the Bill of Life, which ends abortion but allows parents to choose to have their children "unwound" between ages 13 and 18. "Unwinding" is the transplanting of every part of the teens' bodies; since every bit of their bodies is still "alive," they haven't technically been killed, right? When Connor discovers that his parents have signed an order for his unwinding, he tries to escape. Eventually meeting up with Risa, another escaping Unwind, and Lev, whose life has been tithed to the church, Connor tries to keep them all one step ahead of the police. But Lev may have other ideas.

Parental rating from Common Sense Media: 13 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.

GATSBY

When is as
easy as a
chocolate

Whether of them can stand the pain they've married to

When I looked once more for Gatsby

THEME: All you need is love,
Does he
Love her?
Yes... Very much

Why if you
would find?
Shouldn't you
be with her?

**THE
GREAT
GATSBY**

Gatsby said to Daisy that she always
have a green light that burns all
night at the end of her dock.

They had forgotten me. —
Leading them back there

He had vanished, and I sat alone again in the
under darkness, and I sat alone again in the

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