

# Town.

## Required Summer Reading for Rising Eighth Graders

Each Upper School student is required to read over the summer vacation. Our goal is that all students are engaging with literature, whether it is curling up with a book during rest time at camp, listening to an audio book on a family car trip, or reading with a family member at bedtime. Developing an inclination for reading is invaluable in furthering the imagination, improving critical thinking, and improving writing skills; the value of reading -- for pleasure, for development of imagination, for improved writing, vocabulary and grammar skills -- is inestimable.

**Assignment 1:** Students must read *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green and *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein.

**Assignment 2:** Students have a choice of preparing a book response for **one** of the books, based on the following prompts:

1. *Turtles All the Way Down*

Write an interview with Aza. Through the interview you should explore her hopes, dreams and observations on life. What insights does she offer into the other characters and their motivations? How does she define and explain her position in life?

**or**

2. *The Art of Racing in the Rain*

Explain the relationship between Enzo and Denny. Your response should include a well-developed discussion of at least the following questions: What kind of relationship do they have? How do they depend on one another? What actions demonstrate their feelings towards one another? How does their relationship help them to change?

**The response will be due on Monday, September 9.**

**Assignment 3:** Read at least **3** more books of your choice – all must be fiction (either novels or plays). Please consult the 8th Grade Suggested Reading List found on Town Today for possible titles.

**Assignment 4:** Please keep a list of all the books you read over the summer and **bring the list on the first day of school in September**. Your list should be hand written neatly on loose-leaf paper or typed with a proper Town School heading. Include both the title and author for each book.

During the year, we will be reading *Lord of the Flies*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Night*, so do not read these books over the summer.

**Assignment 4:** For **one** of the titles you should complete the following assignment:

Design an advertising flyer for this book. It should include a cover illustration, some introduction to the plot and the main characters in the story. It should attract the reader to the book -- you want your flyer to convince a bookstore customer to buy this book. Please make sure you include your name on the flyer.

**This flyer will be due Monday, September 9.**