

Required Summer Reading for Rising Seventh 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 vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills!

Assignment 1:

Read and annotate *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, by Mark Haddon. If possible, save this book for the end of the summer so it is fresh in your mind when you return to school.

Assignment 2:

- Read a minimum of 3 other books of your choice.
- Audiobooks and books you read with a family member count, as long as you read some books on your own.
- If you need recommendations, please check out *The Town School Reading List* on the Library page on Town Today for more ideas and/or visit your local public library!
- During the year we will be reading *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, *The Outsiders*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, so you may not want to read these books over the summer.

Assignment 3:

Please keep a list of all of the books you read over the summer and **bring the list on the first day of school in September**. Your list should be typed with a proper Town School heading. Include both the title and author for each book.

Assignment 4:

Write three, separate, 1-paragraph (5-7 sentences) discussions of the major theme of **THREE** of the novels on your list (*Curious Incident* cannot be one of the novels). Be sure to include the book title and author in each of your paragraphs.

- As with all writing assignments in 7th grade English, your writing should be completed independently and should be in Times New Roman, 12pt. font, and double spaced. Don't forget your Town heading on the top left of the page!

How to write a good summer reading paragraph:

- Begin your paragraph with a topic sentence.
- Include at least one piece of textual evidence to support your argument.
- Be sure to ANALYZE and EXPLAIN how this evidence relates to your topic sentence.
 - (Don't forget about the quotation sandwich!).
- Your paragraph should end with a concluding sentence that is very different from your topic sentence.
- Be sure to EDIT each paragraph for spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

