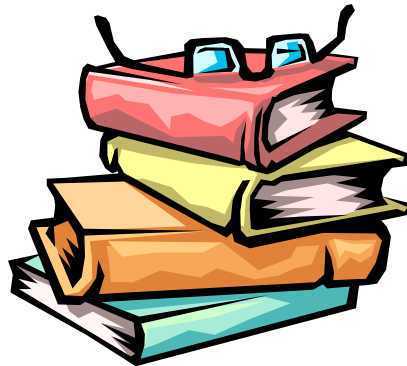


Parsippany-Troy Hills
Township Schools



2017

Middle School
Summer Reading and
Assignment Program

Introduction to Summer Assignments

Grades 6-8

The titles on the following pages have been selected as required summer assignments in the designated courses. The selections were made based on the curriculum for these courses. Some reading assignments present mature subject matter and have been so identified in the annotation. Parents are encouraged to read these selections along with their child or prior to their child's reading the book. Parents who have any questions or concerns about summer assignments should contact one of the administrators listed below.

For reading assignments, students may choose to borrow the books at the public library or to purchase the books for themselves. If students are unable to locate the required books, they should call the principal who will assist them in acquiring them.

When students return to school in September, they will be asked to participate in activities based on the summer reading. One of the most important goals of the summer assignment program is to engage students in activities that will prepare them for upcoming curriculum in the new school year. To this end, students should complete the assignments carefully and reflect on what they are doing so that they are well positioned to reap the most benefit from their educational program.

Dr. Jeffrey D. Charney, Interim Assistant Superintendent/ Chief Academic Officer	jdcharney@pthsd.net 973-263-7180 x7340
Mrs. Vicky Santana, Coordinating Supervisor of World Languages/K-5 Music/K-12 Art/K-12 ESL	vsantana@pthsd.net 973-263-7180 x7172
Mrs. Jennifer Frantz, Coordinating Supervisor of Language Arts/6-12 Media	jfrantz@pthsd.net 973-263-7180 x7194
Ms. Cathy Jo Speidel, Coordinating Supervisor of 6-12 Science/Industrial Arts/FCS	cspeidel@pthsd.net 973-263-7180 x7247
Mrs. Pamela Freund, Coordinator of 6-12 Math/ Business/Music	pfreund@pthsd.net 973-263-7180 x7006
Mr. Juan Cruz, Coordinating Supervisor of 6-12 Social Studies & K-12 Phys. Ed.	jcruz@pthsd.net 973-263-7180 x7172

Grade 6

Advanced Language Arts 6

**Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Pictures of Hollis Woods*. Random House, Dell Yearling, 2002.
ISBN# 0-385-32655-6**

This adolescent novel explores the life of a troubled twelve year-old girl, Hollis Woods, who is abandoned at birth. Hollis is placed in many foster homes over the years, and often engages in truant behavior. Throughout the text Hollis longs for a sense of belonging; she expresses her feelings, desires, and observations of the world through her drawings. During many instances in the novel, Hollis reflects on her past experiences with the Regans, a doting foster family that tries to adopt her during the pleasant stay she has with them. The book addresses subjects, such as abandonment, foster care, and aging in a sensitive manner. The summer reading and extension activities integrate exercises that develop students' understanding of the author's use of flashback, foreshadowing, and figurative language.

****THERE WILL BE NO SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT THIS YEAR
FOR REGULAR Language Arts 6***



Grade 7

Advanced Language Arts 7

Hyde, Catherine Ryan. *Pay It Forward*. Simon & Schuster, 2014.
ISBN-13: 978-0684872384

When twelve-year-old Trevor accepts his social-studies teacher's assignment to come up with a plan to change the world, his idea is simple. Do a good deed for three people and ask them each to "pay it forward" to three others who need help. He imagines a vast movement of kindness and goodwill spreading beyond his small California town and to the world. When changes start to happen, including an inexplicable national drop in crime rates, a journalist discovers Trevor is the source of the random acts of kindness that are making a difference. Word spreads and Trevor is invited to Washington to meet the president, and he becomes a national hero. But though Trevor is determined to see that good in everyone, the world may not be as kind.

REGULAR *Language Arts 7*

Palacio, R.J. *Wonder*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2012.
ISBN #978-0375869020

This novel will have you choosing kindness and liking it. August is a multi-faceted character, whom we can all relate to in some way. "Auggie" was born with a craniofacial deformity and despite his twenty-seven surgeries, still looks different from everyone else. His relationships with his family members, friends, and "enemies" are all explored through multiple narrators in this book. Home-Schooled for his entire elementary school life, Auggie enters a real school for the first time. This book shares the pain and joy of a young man in a unique situation.

Grade 8

Language Arts Pre-Honors 8

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. Random House Books, 2007.

ISBN #: 978-0-385-75472-9

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist - books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

REGULAR Language Arts 8

(LA8 Students will be required to read one of the following titles)

Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*. Harper Tempest, 1999.

ISBN# 0-064-40731-4

Sixteen year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for his participation in a convenience store robbery that results in the owner's death. Using a combination of personal journal entries and a movie screenplay, Meyers conveys Harmon's struggle between his wavering conscience and his role in that night's events. By hearing the sounds of prison life, seeing the evidence presented in the trial, and feeling the fear and confusion in the heart of the teenage boy, the reader becomes a member of the jury. Is Steve Harmon guilty or innocent? This book presents the opportunity for team-building to foster character development.

Grade 8 Cont.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Slam!* Scholastic, 1996.
ISBN# 0-590-48668-3

Greg "Slam" Harris is an ace on the basketball court with dreams of playing in the NBA. The problem Slam has is that he can't seem to figure out how to transfer that level of competence on the court to the other areas of his life including school and relationships. Slam is quick to fly off the handle at his teachers and his coach, jeopardizing his future and his standing on the basketball court. He experiences difficulties in his relationship with his girlfriend Mtisha, and his best friend, Ice, who has gotten himself into trouble. With some advice and guidance from the team's assistant coach, perhaps Slam will become a winner in all areas of his life.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *If You Come Softly.* Penguin, 1998.
ISBN# 0-698-11862-6

Two teenagers bump into each other in their unfamiliar, new high school. Both Ellie and Jeremiah dream about seeing each other again, and by chance, Jeremiah is transferred into one of Ellie's classes. While their love continues to grow, this interracial couple's relationship later faces opposition from family, society, and friends. Will they ever be accepted?

Grade 7

Social Studies

Introduction To American Studies – Advanced

Central Middle School and Brooklawn Middle School

Paulsen, Gary. *Sarny*. Delacourt Press, 1997.

ISBN# 0-385-32195-3

Sarny tells the fictional story of the narrator's life, a woman who began her life as a slave and lived well into her 90's into the 20th century. The story continues to follow the life of her character as introduced in the book *Nightjohn*, written by the same author. Her story begins with her life as a slave during the Civil War, and follows her experiences during Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era. It addresses the issues she had to face as she lived her life, married, raised her children, and struggled against prejudice and discrimination throughout her lifetime. This book helps students make the transition in the curriculum from the Reconstruction Era into the 20th century as it includes topics such as the role of women in American society, Civil War and Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and civil rights.

Grade 8

Social Studies Pre-Honors

Cushman, Karen. *Catherine, Called Birdy*. Turtleback, 1995.
ISBN# 0-785-76149-7

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman is a vivid firsthand account of everyday life on a medieval English manor during the 13th century. Through her diary entries, the fourteen-year-old Catherine describes the importance of family, religion, health, entertainment, and marriage during the Middle Ages. As Catherine attempts to avoid a string of unwanted suitors, she presents us with a rich history of European feudalism and all its societal trappings. *Catherine, Called Birdy* provides an in depth look at medieval feudal society and compliments our secondary text and resources. Catherine's commentary constitutes an age appropriate perspective for Middle School students on a plethora of subjects concerning the Middle Ages. The overarching plot of arranged social marriage gives students an accurate depiction of gender roles and inequalities during this time period while the ongoing activities of the English manor house brilliantly showcase the effusiveness of Europe's cultural history.

