

### Quest 2017 Required Summer Reading

This summer, Quest students entering grades 4-8 will be required to read one or two books depending on their grade level. Students will need to read the books and complete the assignments below prior to starting school. Upon their return to school in August, students will be asked to discuss and write about these books in class.

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#### Incoming 4th Grade:

Pick **one** of the three books by Louis Sachar and complete three rectangles from the appropriate TIC TAC TOE board.

#### **Sideways Stories From Wayside School, Holes, or There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom**

##### **Sideways Stories From Wayside School**

There was a terrible mistake-Wayside School was built with one classroom on top of another, thirty stories high! (The builder said he was sorry.) Maybe that's why all kinds of funny things happened at Wayside-especially on the thirteenth floor.

Pick three rectangles to complete.

These should be completed with complete sentences.

1. Think about the qualities a good teacher would have. Write a paragraph describing what a good teacher would be like.	2. Think of at least three adjectives that describe Allison. Write a short paragraph explaining why you picked those adjectives.	3. How is Kathy "right" all the time but still wrong? (page 84)
4. Is it more important to you to play for fun or to play to win? Why?	5. Mrs. Jewls tells Allison that children are really smarter than their teachers. Is she right why or why not?	6. "Other presidents were good speakers, Myron was even better. He was a good listener." Do you think it is more important to be a good speaker or a good listener? Why?
7. Pretend there was a 19th story and a Mrs. Zarves. Write a story about that class.	8. Why does Todd always get sent home on the kindergarten bus? Is it his fair? How could he solve his problem?	9. If you could change your name, what would you change it to and why?

## Holes

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

Pick three rectangles to complete.

These should be completed with complete sentences.

<p>1. Stanley always seems to find humor even in the worst situations. He laughs on the bus to Camp Green Lake thinking about his "no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather." While walking across the hot, dry lake, he laughs at the sight of the boat, Mary Lou. Climbing Big Thumb, he even makes Zero laugh. What does this say about Stanley? How does his attitude help him?</p>	<p>2. Even though his fate is uncertain, Stanley is suddenly very happy as he lies awake on the top of the mountain, staring at the stars. Why does he feel this way? How has his life changed from the start of the story?</p>	<p>3. Stanley and his family half-jokingly blame their misfortunes on Stanley's "no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great grandfather." Do you believe in fate — that people are lucky or unlucky — or do you believe, as Mr. Pendanski tells the boys, that we are all responsible for ourselves and our destinies?</p>
<p>4. Stanley's father, an inventor, says, "I learn from failure." What do you think this means? In what ways have you learned from failure?</p>	<p>5. What has Stanley's experience with bullying been like? Describe what has happened to him in the past. What advice would you give to Stanley to help him deal with bullying?</p>	<p>6. Think of at least 3 adjectives to describe Zero. Write a short paragraph explaining the adjectives you picked and also how he perseveres.</p>
<p>7. Why do you think the author decided to end the story of Sam and Katherine that way? If you could change one event in their story, what would it be and why?</p>	<p>8. When the Warden arrives, we get a good picture of what she looks like. We also get an idea of what she is like as a person by the way she treats Mr. Pendanski. Write a paragraph describing her as a person inside and out.</p>	<p>9. At Camp Green Lake, the boys dig holes to "build character." If you were to design a camp for troubled kids to really build character what would you have them do and why?</p>

### **There's A Boy In The Girls' Bathroom**

That's Bradley Chalkers for you. He's the oldest kid in the fifth grade. He tells enormous lies. He picks fights with girls, and the teachers say he has serious behavior problems. No one likes him—except Carla, the new school counselor. She thinks Bradley is sensitive and generous, and she even enjoys his far-fetched stories. Carla knows that Bradley could change, if only he weren't afraid to try.

But when you feel like the most hated kid in the whole school, believing in yourself can be the hardest thing in the world. . . .

Pick three rectangles to complete.

These should be completed with complete sentences.

1. When Jeff was telling Ms. Davis about no one wanting to sit next to Bradley, she said, "He may be smiling on the outside, but do you think he was really smiling on the outside?" Pretend you are Jeff, how would you answer that question.	4. Bradley had trouble making friends. Have you ever been afraid your friends might stop liking you? Explain your experience.	7. Imagine you are Bradley and write a letter to one of your animal friends expressing your thoughts and feelings as you wait for your mother to return from parent teacher conferences.
2. When Jeff and his friends were picking on Bradley, he thought the "worst part wasn't getting beat up. The worst part was that he knew everyone would love it so much." Why do you think Bradley felt this way?	5. Write a diary entry from Bradley's point of view about Carla leaving.	8. Describe Bradley's thoughts and feelings when it is time to turn in his homework. Include references from the text.
3. What three adjectives would describe Bradley. Write a paragraph explaining why you chose those adjectives.	6. Why do you think Jeff wants Bradley as a friend? What traits do they have in common?	9. Think about a time when you were angry at someone because they disappointed you. How did you handle the situation? Did you make the best of the situation or did you behave badly like Bradley did?

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#### Incoming 5th Grade:

***A Week in the Woods* by Andrew Clements** - this story involves two protagonists: a child and his teacher. At the beginning of the story, both assume they will dislike each other. The events of the story challenge their assumptions and give them both a chance to grow.

#### **5th grade assignment due the first day of school:**

We begin 5th grade reviewing how to support written responses with evidence from texts. This assignment will be collected and evaluated based on the ability to provide evidence from this novel to support the written responses.

Written Response Questions: Please respond to each of the following questions. Answer in COMPLETE sentences and appropriate paragraph format for each question. You may also include page numbers when providing evidence of support, but don't JUST put a page number. Responses should include explanation, as well. Type your responses and staple to this page. Include your first and last name.

1. What do the teachers and students at the elementary school in Whitson think of Mark at the beginning of the story? List some reasons (cite evidence from the story) for the impressions they have of him. Are their impressions correct? Explain.
2. Why does Mark really head out into the woods? How do you know? What does he think he will prove? Is he making a good decision? What would you have done in his situation?
3. How do Mr. Maxwell and Mark make it back to the campground? What have they learned about each other in the course of their ordeal?

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### **Incoming 6th Grade**

Ms Amick

Email: [mlamick@aps.k12.co.us](mailto:mlamick@aps.k12.co.us)

**6th graders are required to read TWO books: a mystery and a book centered on identity,** and complete an assignment for each. You may, of course, read multiple selections and choose which ones you wish to write about. Both books will be needed for assignments during first quarter which incorporates mystery and identity.

**Parents:** Some of these books are marked with an asterisk to indicate mature content or language. Please preview your student's choices with them to be sure it is appropriate to read. If you want more information, Common Sense Media may be a useful resource to check: [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org).

### **1-ASSIGNMENT for MYSTERY**

**6th grade assignment due the first day of school for the mystery you read:**

- **Develop a Detective Notebook, a system to capture your thinking** and tracking of each character, chapter by chapter. You may keep a list of characters in a journal, or track characters and events in a google doc or spreadsheet. As you read, track characteristics and clues the author gives you about each character (including dead characters), especially who might be guilty and why, and who cannot be guilty and why.
- **Write at least a paragraph explaining either** how you solved the mystery before the end of the book (if you did), or what threw you off if you did not solve the mystery.

Choose **one** of these mysteries:

***The Westing Game***, by Ellen Raskin

Sixteen tenants in the Sunset Towers apartment building are named as heirs in the will of the **millionaire**, Samuel W. Westing, as well as being a possible murderer of the dead man. The will is structured as a puzzle, with the heirs divided into eight pairs and challenged to find the solution, each pair is given \$10,000 cash and a different set of clues. The pair that solves the mystery will inherit Westing's entire \$200 million fortune and control of his paper products

company. Past and present secrets about the heirs begin to emerge: one tenant steals, one sets off bombs, and one isn't even supposed to be there in the first place. What could possibly go wrong?

***Three Times Lucky***, by Sheila Turnage

Ever since she washed ashore as a baby during a hurricane, Mo LoBeau has made her home in Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, with the Colonel, a café owner with a forgotten past of his own, and Miss Lana, the café's glamorous hostess. Mo hopes to someday find her "upstream mother," but until then, she's happy helping the Colonel and Lana run the Tupelo Café, and going on adventures with her best friend, Dale. Then a lawman comes to Tupelo Landing to investigate a murder. When it seems like Mo's loved ones might be implicated in the crime, she and Dale decide to use their own detective skills to solve the case. Soon the friends are investigating another murder, a long-ago bank robbery, a kidnapping, and the mystery of the night that Mo washed up on shore. Can the Desperado Detectives uncover the truth, before someone else gets hurt?

***Murder on the Orient Express***, by Agatha Christie

Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. One of his fellow passengers must be the murderer. Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again.

***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie***, by Alan Bradley

It is the summer of 1950—and at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events: A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Then, hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath. For 11-year-old Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw. "I wish I could say I was afraid, but I wasn't. Quite the contrary. This was by far the most interesting thing that had ever happened to me in my entire life."

**2-ASSIGNMENT for IDENTITY**

**6th grade assignment due the first day of school for the identity book you read:**

- All of these books contain a protagonist who has to come to terms with some aspect of their identity. **Write a letter or lengthy poem to the protagonist** that explains your reaction(s) to, connections with, and thoughts or questions about their challenges.

Choose **one** of these identity novels

***The House on Mango Street*** by Sandra Cisneros

Esperanza lives in Chicago and she witnesses all the comings and goings of the neighborhood in short vignettes (mini stories). She learns to discover her true self and understand the meaning of "home."

**Counting by 7s** by Holly Sloan

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life...until now.

**A Mango-Shaped Space**, by Wendy Mass

Mia Winchell has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. Forced to reveal her condition, she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation of her gift in this coming-of-age novel.

**The Skin I'm In**, by Sharon G. Flake

Maleeka Madison is a strong student who has had enough of being teased about her "too black" skin and handmade clothes. So when she starts seventh grade, she decides to adopt a sassier attitude and a tougher circle of friends. The last thing she expects is to get "messed up" with another "freak," but that's exactly what happens. After a new teacher, whose face is disfigured from a skin disease, enters her life, will Maleeka be able to learn to love the skin she's in?

**Thinking in Pictures: My Life in Pictures**, Temple Grandin

Temple Grandin, Ph.D., is a gifted animal scientist who has designed one third of all the livestock-handling facilities in the United States. She also lectures widely on autism—because Temple Grandin is autistic, a woman who thinks, feels, and experiences the world in ways that are incomprehensible to the rest of us. Exploring the idea that some people think differently, though no less humanly, this book aims to tell us what it was like to grow up perceiving the world in an entirely concrete and visual way - somewhat akin to how animals think. It provides us with an insight into autism, its plurality, and its links with animal thought.

**\* Mexican Whiteboy**, Matt de la Peña

Danny's arms are long enough to give his pitch a power so fierce any college scout would sign him on the spot. Ninety-five mile an hour fastball, but the boy's not even on a team. Every time he gets up on the mound he loses it.

But at his private school, they don't expect much else from him. Danny's brown, half-Mexican brown. And growing up in San Diego that close to the border means everyone else knows exactly who he is before he even opens his mouth. Before they find out he can't speak Spanish, and before they realize his mom has blond hair and blue eyes, they've got him pegged. But it works the other way too, which is why he's spending the summer with his dad's family. Only, to find himself, he may just have to face the demons he refuses to see.

**\* we are all made of molecules**, Susin Nielsen

Ashley's and Stewart's worlds collide when Stewart and his dad move in with Ashley and her mom. *The Brady Bunch* it isn't. Stewart is trying to be 89.9 percent happy about it—he's always wanted a sister. But Ashley is 110 percent horrified. She already has to hide the real reason her

dad moved out; “Spewart” could further threaten her position at the top of the social ladder. They're complete opposites, but they have one thing in common: they—like everyone else—are made of molecules.

***Faceless***, Alyssa Sheinmel

While on a run one day, Maise gets into a terrible accident. A hot-burning electrical fire consumes her, destroying her face. Where her nose, cheeks, and chin used to be, now there is . . . nothing. She is lucky enough to qualify for a face transplant. But with someone else's features staring back at her in the mirror, Maise looks -- and feels -- like a stranger. The doctors promised that the transplant was her chance to live a normal life again, but nothing feels normal anymore. Before, she knew who she was -- a regular girl who ran track and got good grades, who loved her boyfriend and her best friend. Now, she can't even recognize herself.

***It Ain't So Awful, Falafel***, Firoozeh Dumas

Zomorod and her parents are in the United States for her dad's job as an engineer working at a California oil company. Zomorod, who has chosen the Brady Bunch-inspired name “Cindy” at school, narrates an often funny and always insightful account of her life as an Iranian immigrant in the late 1970s. Despite often being mistaken as Latina (no one has heard of Iran), she also has good friends. Then the Shah of Iran is overthrown and Ayatollah Khomeini comes into power, followed by the taking of American hostages. The crisis horrifies Zomorod's family. Meanwhile, everyone in America suddenly has something to say about Iran. Dumas's “semi-autobiographical” novel doesn't shy away from the racism Zomorod and her family experience, and the story is buoyed by this honesty, as well as the warmth of family, and the essential kindness of friendship.

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### Incoming 7th Grade:

With all the amazing new literature out there, we sometimes forget about the classics. I challenge you to choose one of the novels below. Don't just read it, immerse yourself in it. Become one of the characters as you get lost in the words. Then, visualize yourself in present day as the same character. We will use these novels during our first quarter discussions around individuality and conformity. The short story writing task will be your first grade of the quarter.

**Choose one of the following novels to read after carefully previewing several options. Consider both the maturity of the content and the challenge level of the text. This list represents books from middle school through college, so read a portion to evaluate if it is the just right book for you. Remember to have your parent/guardian sign the permission to read slip; you will turn this in with your completed task.** If you want more information, Common Sense Media may be a useful resource to check: [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org).

### **Fiction Options:**

#### *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

“Dickens' second novel is a compelling portrait of the clash between the innocence of childhood and a dark criminal underworld inhabited by a vivid cast of wicked or compromised characters.”

#### *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

“When Alice tumbles down a rabbit hole one hot summer's afternoon in pursuit of a White Rabbit she finds herself in Wonderland. Wonderland is no ordinary place and the characters that populate it are quite unlike anybody young Alice has ever met.” (amazon.com)

#### *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery

“The Cuthberts are in for a shock. They are expecting an orphan boy to help with the work at Green Gables - but a skinny red-haired girl turns up instead. Highly spirited Anne Shirley charms her way into the Cuthberts' affection with her vivid imagination and constant chatter, and soon it's impossible to imagine life without her.” (amazon.com)

#### *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

“Mary Lennox is sent from an India as an orphan to live at Misselthwaite Manor. She arrives as a sour-faced, sickly and ill-tempered little madam but becomes friends with local lad Dickon and her poorly cousin Colin. In their restoration of a secret garden all their lives are changed for the better.”  
(amazon.com)

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

“It is the story of Buck, part St. Bernard and part Scotch shepherd dog, who shows the strengths of both breeds when he is stolen and sold off as a sled dog in the Yukon during the gold rush. A heartfelt story that appeals to both children and adults.” (amazon.com)

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare

“Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place.”

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

“For sheer storytelling delight and pure adventure, *Treasure Island* has never been surpassed. From young Jim Hawkins’s first encounter with the sinister beggar Pew to the climactic battle with the most memorable villain in literature, Long John Silver, this novel has fired readers’ imaginations for generations. A rousing tale of treachery, greed, and daring.” (amazon.com)

*The Yearling* by Patricia Reilly Giff

“Young Jody adopts an orphaned fawn he calls Flag and makes it a part of his family and his best friend. But life in the Florida backwoods is harsh, and so, as his family fights off wolves, bears, and even alligators, and faces failure in their tenuous subsistence farming.” (amazon.com)

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

“Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?” (amazon.com)

*Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

“Tom Sawyer, his best friend Huck Finn, his would-be girlfriend Becky Thatcher, and his aunt Polly teach and learn about life, death, race and painting fences in a “typical” 19th century Midwestern town.”  
(amazon.com)

*Dracula* by Bram Stoker

“During a business visit to Count Dracula's castle in Transylvania, a young English solicitor finds himself at the center of a series of horrifying incidents. Jonathan Harker is attacked by three phantom women, observes the Count's transformation from human to bat form, and discovers puncture wounds on his own neck that seem to have been made by teeth. Harker returns home upon his escape from Dracula's grim

fortress, but a friend's strange malady — involving sleepwalking, inexplicable blood loss, and mysterious throat wounds — initiates a frantic vampire hunt.” (amazon.com)

*Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by R. L. Stevenson

“An intriguing combination of fantast thriller and moral allegory, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* depicts the gripping struggle of two opposing personalities — one essentially good, the other evil — for the soul of one man.” (amazon.com)

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

“A young man, newly rich, tries to recapture the past and win back his former love, despite the fact that she has married.” (amazon.com)

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

“In this historic romance, young Elizabeth Bennet strives for love, independence and honesty in the vapid high society of 19th century England.” (amazon.com)

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

“Lockwood, the new tenant of Thrushcross Grange, situated on the bleak Yorkshire moors, is forced to seek shelter one night at Wuthering Heights, the home of his landlord. There he discovers the history of the tempestuous events that took place years before; of the intense relationship between the gypsy founding Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw; and how Catherine, forced to choose between passionate, tortured Heathcliff and gentle, well-bred Edgar Linton, surrendered to the expectations of her class.” (amazon.com)

*To The Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf

“The serene and maternal Mrs. Ramsay, the tragic yet absurd Mr. Ramsay, and their children and assorted guests are on holiday on the Isle of Skye. From the seemingly trivial postponement of a visit to a nearby lighthouse, Woolf constructs a remarkable, moving examination of the complex tensions and allegiances of family life and the conflict between men and women.” (amazon.com)

*For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway

“The story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades attached to an antifascist guerilla unit in the mountains of Spain, it tells of loyalty and courage, love and defeat, and the tragic death of an ideal.” (amazon.com)

**Nonfiction Options:**

*The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

“In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death.” (amazon.com)

*Goodbye To All That* by Robert Graves

“In this autobiography, first published in 1929, poet Robert Graves traces the monumental and universal loss of innocence that occurred as a result of the First World War. Written after the war and as he was leaving his birthplace, he thought, forever, *Good-Bye to All That* bids farewell not only to England and his English family and friends, but also to a way of life.” (amazon.com)

*Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T. E. Lawrence

“As Angus Calder states in his introduction to this edition, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* is one of the major statements about the fighting experience of the First World War'. Lawrence's younger brothers, Frank and Will, had been killed on the Western Front in 1915. *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, written between 1919 and 1926, tells of the vastly different campaign against the Turks in the Middle East - one which encompasses gross acts of cruelty and revenge and ends in a welter of stink and corpses in the disgusting 'hospital' in Damascus.” (amazon.com)

*Cider with Rosie* by Laurie Lee

“One of eight children, Laurie Lee was born in 1914, in Slad, Gloucestershire, then a remote corner of England. As his father was absent, the large family--five children from his father's first marriage and three from his second one was brought up by his capable mother. ‘We lived where he had left us; a relic of his provincial youth; a sprawling cumbersome, countrified brood too incongruous to carry with him; and I, for one, scarcely missed him. I was perfectly content in this world of women . . . bullied and tumbled through the hand-to-mouth days, patched or dressed-up, scolded, admired, swept off my feet in sudden passions of kisses, or dumped forgotten among the unwashed pots.’” (amazon.com)

*Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat

“Hordes of bloodthirsty wolves are slaughtering the arctic caribou, and the government's Wildlife Service assigns naturalist Farley Mowat to investigate. Mowat is dropped alone onto the frozen tundra, where he begins his mission to live among the howling wolf packs and study their ways.” (amazon.com)

*Homage to Catalina* by George Orwell

“A first-hand account of the brutal conditions of the Spanish Civil War...Here he brings to bear all the force of his humanity, passion and clarity, describing with bitter intensity the bright hopes and cynical betrayals of that chaotic episode: the revolutionary euphoria of Barcelona, the courage of ordinary Spanish men and women he fought alongside, the terror and confusion of the front, his near-fatal bullet wound and the vicious treachery of his supposed allies.” (amazon.com)

**7th grade Assignment due the first day of school:**

- After you read, write a short story set in present day using the same characters in your chosen novel.

7th grade

Permission to read: I, \_\_\_\_\_, permit my child,

\_\_\_\_\_ , to read \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ . I understand he/she must not only read this novel, but write a short story set in present day using the same characters as well.

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### Incoming 8th Grade:

**Choose two biographies to read about two influential Americans. The first must be from the list below. For your second biography, you can choose any biography you'd like about an influential and famous American. Your second biography can be from this list as well if you can't find another.**

**When you return to school in August, your annotations will be checked and we will use the annotations to start our unit on the American Dream and biography.**

Parents: Some of these books may have mature content. Please preview your student's choices with them to be sure it is appropriate to read. If you want more information, Common Sense Media may be a useful resource to check: [www.common Sense Media.org](http://www.common Sense Media.org).

### **Biography 1 must be one of these:**

*Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose (the Lewis and Clark expedition of the American West)

*Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different* by Karen Blumenthal (founder of Apple)

*October Sky* (also titled *Rocket Boys*) by Homer Hickam (NASA engineer)

*Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* by Catherine Clinton

*A Great and Sublime Fool: The Story of Mark Twain* by Peggy Caravantes (An American satire author from 19th century)

*Home Front Girl: A Diary of Love, Literature, and Growing up in Wartime America* by Joan Morrison (World War II homefront)

*Eugene Bullard: World's First Black Fighter Pilot* by Greenly, Larry W. (World War I combat pilot)

*Yo-Yo Ma: A Biography* by Jim Whiting (Asian-American cello-player)

*My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor (Hispanic justice of Supreme Court)

### **Biography 2 is up to you!**

Think about famous Americans (historical or contemporary) involved in politics, art, writing, music, movies, science, technology, etc. Consider individuals like Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Martin Luther King Jr, Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, Elvis Presley, Oprah

Winfrey, Michael Jackson, Alfred Hitchcock, Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, Steven Spielberg, Bob Dylan, Bill Gates...anyone you are interested in.

**You must find a biography that is a full-length book.**

You can choose your second biography from the list of books above if you cannot find another one you like.

**8th grade Assignments due the first day of school for each of the books you read:**

- Annotate each book by marking in the text (if it's yours) OR using sticky notes. If you are reading a digital version, you can type the notes in a google doc.
  - Please write notes about:
    - What experiences this person had that lead to their accomplishments
    - Why this person's accomplishments matter
    - Your personal reactions to the decisions this person makes
    - Elements of life and culture mentioned in the book that make up the American Dream (make sure you look up a definition of the American dream before you do this!)

**How to access these books:**

Aurora Public Library

Aurora Public Schools libraries

Denver Public Library

Amazon.com

Used book stores

Kindle, nook, ipad or tablet e-book (download Overdrive app)

\*Public libraries offer free library cards and the Overdrive app is free as well. You can check out hard copies or electronic versions. To download overdrive and learn about how to use the app, go to this website: <https://www.overdrive.com/>

If you cannot access a copy of the required book(s), please contact Quest for help.

Public libraries also offer independent summer reading programs that could be completed in addition to the required books - this is a great way to get in some more reading!