

Phoenix Country Day School
Summer Reading 2023
Grades 7 and 8

To students entering grades 7 and 8:

Summer reading is an integral part of life at Phoenix Country Day School. The Middle School English Department expects you to continue reading throughout the summer to improve your reading skills and develop the habit of reading good books for pleasure.

Please read a total of three books this summer and see the below checklist for details:

- 1) One recommended book from your grade-level list on pages 3-4 of this document,
- 2) a second book of your choosing (whether from the attached lists or not), and
- 3) the required book for your grade is as follows. **Note: There is a choice offered for the required book for students entering 7th grade.** Because the required book will be the starting point for classroom discussion during the first few days of school, it should be read late in the summer.

Required Books:

Entering grade 7

One for the Murphys, by Linda Mullaly Hunt
Puffin Books
ISBN-10: 0142426520
ISBN-13: 978-0142426524

Entering grade 8

The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak
Knopf Books for Young Readers
ISBN-10: 0375842209
ISBN-13: 978-0375842207

OR

Touching Spirit Bear, by Ben Mikaelson
Harper Collins
ISBN-10: 038080560X
ISBN-13: 978-0380805600

PCDS does not order summer reading texts through the virtual bookstore. Books may be ordered through an online bookseller or at your neighborhood bookstore if any still exist. Please purchase the edition listed. Remember to read the original version for classics since many have been reissued with simplified language.

Summer Reading Checklist:

- ☐ 1) One recommended book from your grade-level list on pages 3-4 of this document

Complete one of the following activities in response to one of these books prior to the first day of classes. These will be presented orally to your class and submitted for a grade.

- Write a summary diary (approximately 50 -100 words per entry) for each chapter in the book. The entries should be done from the main character's or antagonist's perspective. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary. Create dates for each entry and be detailed about the events recorded.

(continued on next page)

- Write a detailed description (*physical* – what they look like, *emotional* – their feelings, *behavioral* – their actions) of *three* of the characters in the book. Write at least a 10 sentence paragraph for each character and provide a well-drawn picture to accompany each character (it cannot be printed from the Internet). In the descriptions, include details from the story that might help us better understand the personalities of each character.
- Write a 24+ line poem that retells the story in the book. Identify the main characters and the conflicts they encounter. The poem must have 8-10 syllables per line and follow a rhyming pattern of *aabb*. It may be longer than 24 lines, but no shorter. Capitalize the first letter of each line, and punctuate just as you would regular sentences or complete thoughts.
- Create a “children’s picture book” version or comic book version of your book. Make sure you provide pictures (drawn or borrowed from the Internet) and include detailed captions below that narrate the actions from the book. You may also wish to include dialogue balloons and use quotations from the book. The picture book should be a “condensed” version, but it must include all of the essential characters, settings, plot, and theme from the original. The picture book should be a minimum of 5 pages with at least four pictures per page.

☐ 2) a second book of your choosing (whether from the attached lists or not)

For this second book, you will complete the Book Evaluation Response Form provided on page 5 of this document.

☐ 3) the required book for your grade, as noted on the front of this document

For this required book, you will once again complete the Book Evaluation Response Form provided on page 5 of this document.

Because the required book will be the starting point for classroom discussion during the first few days of school, it should be read late in the summer.

Enjoy!

8th-grade Recommended Summer Reading List (Mrs. Sears)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Twain, Mark
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes – Doyle, Arthur Conan
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland – Carroll, Lewis
Animal Farm – Orwell, George
The Book Thief – Zusak, Markus
Brave New World – Huxley, Aldous
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee – Brown, Dee
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Haddon, Mark
Diary of a Young Girl – Frank, Anne
Dragonwings – Yep, Laurence
Eleanor & Park - Rowell, Rainbow
Ender’s Game – Card, Orson Scott
Fahrenheit 451 – Bradbury, Ray
Frankenstein – Shelley, Mary
Gulliver’s Travels – Swift, Jonathan
The Hate U Give – Thomas, Angie
A Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy – Adams, Douglas
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Angelou, Maya
Journey to Topaz – Uchida, Yoshiko
Joy Luck Club – Tan, Amy
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood – Pyle, Howard
Murder on the Orient Express – Christie, Agatha
The Namesake - Lahiri, Jhumpa
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass – Douglass, Frederick
Native Son – Wright, Richard
Never Cry Wolf - Mowat, Farley
The Old Man and the Sea – Hemingway, Ernest
The Once and Future King – White, T.H.
The Outsiders – Hinton, S.E.
Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida - Martinez, Victor
The Pearl – Steinbeck, John
Pride and Prejudice – Austen, Jane
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – Tylor, Mildred D.
A Separate Peace – Knowles, John
Shane – Schaefer, Jack
Siddhartha – Hess, Hermann
The Thurber Carnival – Thurber, James
The Time Machine – Wells, H.G.
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – Smith, Betty
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea – Verne, Jules
Walden – Thoreau, Henry David
We the Animals - Torres, Justin
A Wizard of Earthsea – LeGuin, Ursula K.
A Wrinkle in Time – L’Engle, Madeleine

7th-grade Recommended Summer Reading List (Ms. Kukunoor)

Around the World in 80 Days – Jules Verne

Journey to the Center of the Earth – Jules Verne

Call of the Wild – Jack London

David Copperfield – Charles Dickens

Kidnapped – Robert Louis Stevenson

Little Women – Louisa May Alcott

The Red Pony – John Steinbeck

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain

The Hunchback of Notre Dame – Victor Hugo

The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgkins Burnett

Robinson Crusoe – Daniel Defoe

Anne of Green Gables – Lucy Montgomery

The Island – Gary Paulson

The Giver – Lois Lowry

Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer – John Grisham

Dead End in Norvelt – Jack Gantos

The Only Ones – Aaron Starmer

Bystander – James Preller

Trapped – Marc Aronson

Time Windows – Kathryn Reiss

The Teacher's Funeral (A Comedy in Three Parts) – Richard Peck

The Cay – Theodore Taylor

Watership Down – Richard Adams

White Fang – Jack London

A Wizard of Earthsea – Ursula K LeGuin

A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine L'Engle

The Pigman – Paul Zindel

The Notorious Benedict Arnold – A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, and Treachery – Steve Sheinkin

Goddess of Yesterday – Caroline B. Cooney

The Odyssey (Puffin Classics) – Geraldine McCaughrean

The Adventures of Robin Hood (Puffin Classics) – Roger Lancelyn Green

Listen, Slowly – Thanhha Lai

Book Evaluation Response Form

Name _____ Date _____

Title of Book _____ **Author** _____

Respond to the following items in complete sentences. Write your *best* response to each item.

1. What is the book mainly about?
2. What is the setting of this book?
3. List and describe the main characters.
4. What is the conflict in this book? Describe how the conflict is resolved.
5. Specifically, what is your favorite part of the book? Why?
6. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

Please sign below to verify that your student has read the book and completed this form.

Parent signature: _____