

7th Grade Summer Reading

Texts:

1. Book of choice - come prepared to share with your class!
2. *For Every One* by Jason Reynolds

Summer reading lets us come back from break with both a shared experience and a fun moment to share a book you enjoyed on your own! In both of these books, we will explore the essential question:

How do the stories we tell ourselves affect our lives?

In considering this question, you should think about the purpose of stories themselves as well as how characters are motivated.

Book of Choice

In addition to our shared book, you will select one book to read on your own this summer. During our first days back from summer break, you will create a short 5 minute presentation about the book you read to introduce yourself and share about your reading experience.

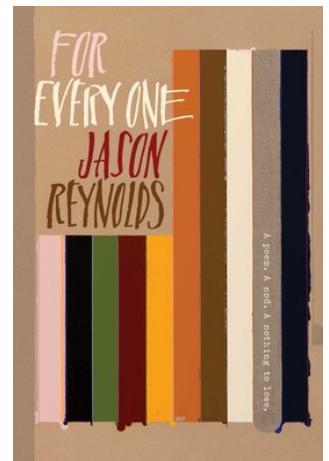
We encourage you to visit your local library, listen to an audiobook on [Sora](#) with your SAAS account, and/or peruse one of the many online forums with book recommendations, such as the [NPR YA Books We Love](#) list, to find something **you** are interested in. You may read whatever you like, but as you will be presenting it to the class it should be appropriate for school.

For Every One

Originally written and performed by Reynolds for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial at the Kennedy Center, this text explores what it means to dream. Reynolds discusses successes and challenges on the road to his dreams, some of which are fulfilled while others remain elusive, and encourages readers to stay inspired and to never give up on their dreams.

When you read, you should take time to analyze the text. You should be practicing your inference making skills as you read by asking yourself some of the following questions:

1. *What do I notice? / What do I objectively see on the page?*
2. *What do I wonder about what Reynolds is saying?*
3. *What can I assume (or infer) based on what I notice and what I wonder? / What is the message or meaning beyond the words on the page?*



You might consider reading this text multiple times throughout the summer and supplementing it by listening to [Reynolds's performance of this text in this video](#). While your annotations will not be checked in the fall since we will go over annotation expectations when we return to school, you should still annotate this book by jotting down your ideas and marking the main ideas. Your annotations will help you with your short writing assignment when we return to school and with your inference making skills, which we will practice often.

Buying the book: You should purchase a new or used copy to bring with you on the first day of classes. It is up to you whether you get a paperback or hard copy. An example is [here](#).

If you need financial support to purchase the text, please email Jason Gough, Chair of the English Department (jgough@seattleacademy.org) with the following information:

1. Your full name
2. Your grade level during the 2026-2027 school year and the course you're enrolled in (for example: 7th grade, English 7)
3. The full address (number, street, city, state, and zip code) where your text should be mailed

If you typically use audiobooks, you should still buy a printed copy and follow along in the book as you listen.

On the first day of classes, bring:

- The book: *For Every One*
- Reading guide with page numbers written down

For questions, don't hesitate to contact Jordan Cardinale from the 7th Grade English Team: Jordan Cardinale, jcardinale@seattleacademy.org

Reading Guide & Written Response

The following page has five guiding questions to help you focus as you read.

You should annotate passages that help answer the essential question, but you will also:

- Annotate for each of the reading guide questions
- For each question, write down 3 page numbers that you think best answer the question

Reading Guide

EQ: How do the stories we tell ourselves affect our lives?

In addition to the essential question, please annotate for the reading guide questions below. On this sheet or a separate piece of paper, list 3 page numbers from throughout the text you think best answer the questions. There are many answers, and they may differ depending on where you are in the text. These notes will help you with discussions and writing after break.

1. What are some of the dreams Reynolds mentions in the text?

Pages:

2. When does Reynolds feel self-doubt? How does it affect him?

Pages:

3. What external factors influence Reynolds on his path to his dreams?

Pages:

4. What advice does Reynolds give his readers about following their dreams?

Pages:

5. What emotions does Reynolds evoke for you as you read? Why?

Pages:

6. What stories does Reynolds tell himself?

Pages:

After you finish reading, select five essential pages of the text. Write down the page numbers of the pages you selected that you think are important to *For Every One*. You should jot down a couple of ideas about why you think those pages are important in order to help you during discussions when we return in the fall.