

Summer Reading Assignment 2019

9th and 10th grade, Science, Communication & Sustainability House

The best way to stay sharp with your reading, writing, and vocabulary skills over the summer is to find some good books and read a lot! It's also a great way to stay entertained and chase away those summer blues.

Assignment:

- Choose one of the listed books to read over the summer.
- Get the book, either from the **public library**, a new or used **bookstore**, or order it online from a site like **Amazon.com**. You can also download it onto your phone, tablet, or eReader.
- As you read, record your progress in the **Reading Log**
- After reading the book, complete a **Reading Journal Entry** for each of the six topics on the front of the reading log. Each entry must address one of the six prompts and be at least 100 words. If you type your responses, make them one continuous document, not 6 separate docs.
- For extra credit, read a second book and complete the same tasks.
- This assignment will count as a significant percentage of your First Marking Period grade for next year.

Students whose first language isn't English, or students who struggle with reading, may want to select titles with an * by the title. Books toward the end of each list are the most challenging.

| Title | Author | Description |
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| FICTION | | |
| <i>Destroyer*</i> (full graphic novel series) | Victor LaValle | Dr. Baker, an African American descendant of the original Dr. Frankenstein, is determined to bring her son back to life after he is shot and killed by a police officer. Meanwhile, the original Frankenstein's Monster has returned, and is out to destroy humanity. |
| Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* Lexile - 380 | Benjamin Alire Saenz | Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be. |
| <i>The Islands at the End of the World*</i> Lexile -- 590 | Austin Aslan | In this fast-paced survival story set in Hawaii, electronics fail worldwide, the islands are cut off from the rest of the world, and strange stars fill the sky. Leilani and her father begin a nightmare journey from Oahu to their home on the Big Island. Leilani's epilepsy holds a clue to the disaster, if only they can survive as the islands revert to earlier ways. A powerful story enriched by fascinating elements of Hawaiian ecology, culture, and warfare. |
| <i>Dark Life*</i> Lexile -- 690 | Kat Falls | <p>The oceans rose, swallowing the lowlands. Earthquakes shattered the continents, toppling entire regions into the rising water. Now, humans live packed into stack cities. The only ones with any space of their own are those who live on the ocean floor: the Dark Life.</p> <p>Ty has spent his whole life living deep undersea. When outlaws attack his homestead, he finds himself in a fight to save the only home he has ever known. Joined by Gemma, a girl from Topside, Ty ventures into the frontier's rough underworld and discovers some dark secrets to Dark Life. Secrets that threaten to destroy everything.</p> |
| <i>Fledgling</i> Lexile -- 730 | Octavia Butler | Fledgling is the story of an apparently young, amnesiac girl whose alarmingly un-human needs and abilities lead her to a startling conclusion: she is in fact a genetically modified, 53-year-old vampire. Forced to discover what she can about her stolen former life, she must also learn who wanted--and still wants--to destroy her and those she cares for, and how she can save herself. |

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| <i>Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements</i> Lexile - 600-900+ | Multiple authors | Whenever we envision a world without war, without prisons, without capitalism, we are producing visionary fiction. The short stories in this collection are united by an attempt to experiment with new ways of understanding ourselves, the world around us, and all the selves and worlds that could be. If you like weird, short stories that keep you on the edge of your seat, try these! |
| <i>Origin</i> Lexile - 740 | Jessica Khoury | Pia is perfect. She was created as such by her scientist family, but beware the consequences and the motives of the powers that be. A provoking take on genetic manipulation and a coming of age story that will make readers think not only about the how of genetic manipulation, but the why. |
| <i>I am Legend</i> Lexile - 760 | Richard Matheson | Set in an apocalyptic Los Angeles in which only one man remains unaffected by a bacterium that induces vampirism. This book was adapted into a movie with Will Smith, although the book version |
| <i>Dactyl Hill Squad*</i> Lexile - 800 | Daniel Jose Older | It's 1863 and dinosaurs roam the streets of New York as the Civil War rages between raptor-mounted armies down South. Magdalys Roca and her friends from the Colored Orphan Asylum are on a field trip when the Draft Riots break out, and a number of their fellow orphans are kidnapped by an evil magistrate, Richard Riker. (This was written by Ms. Thompson's favorite writing teacher!) |
| <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> Lexile - 850 | John Green | Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten. |
| <i>Brave New World</i> Lexile - 870 | Aldous Huxley | Far in the future, the World Controllers have created the ideal society. Through clever use of genetic engineering, brainwashing and recreational sex and drugs, all its members are happy consumers. Bernard Marx seems alone harbouring an ill-defined longing to break free. A visit to one of the few remaining Savage Reservations, where the old, imperfect life still continues, may be the cure for his distress... |
| <i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> Available for free here . Lexile - 890 | Jules Verne | Dr. Aronnax embarks on an expedition to hunt down a sea monster, only to discover instead the <i>Nautilus</i> , a remarkable submarine built by the enigmatic Captain Nemo. Together Nemo and Aronnax explore the underwater marvels, undergo a transcendent experience amongst the ruins of Atlantis, and plant a black flag at the South Pole. But Nemo's mission is one of revenge-and his methods coldly efficient. |
| <i>Down and Out in the Magical Kingdom</i> Available for free here . | Cory Doctorow | Down and Out in the Magical Kingdom is a tale of a post-death, Disney-owned world where dying is just a temporary inconvenience. There are social credit points – called Whuffies – given to participants as rival gangs of Mouseketeers compete for popularity among park visitors. |
| NONFICTION | | |
| <i>Pox, Pus + Plague: A Painful History of Medicine*</i> Lexile -- 480 | John Townsend | A fascinating - and gross -- tour of hospitals, doctors' offices, and battlefields throughout the ages. Each title includes real-life photos and accounts that offer a close-up glimpse of the history of medicine and how it has progressed in the treatment of injuries and disease. |
| <i>Unlikely Friendships: 47 Remarkable Stories from the Animal Kingdom*</i> Lexile - 620 | Jennifer S. Holland | If one of your favorite pastimes is watching cute animal videos on Youtube, try reading these <u>true</u> stories about cross-species animal cooperation! <i>Unlikely Friendships</i> documents one heartwarming tale after another of animals who, with nothing else in common, bond in the most unexpected ways. A cat and a bird. An elephant and a sheep. A snake and a hamster. The well-documented stories of Koko the gorilla and All Ball the kitten; and the hippo Owen and the tortoise Mzee. And almost inexplicable stories of predators befriending prey—an Indian leopard slips into a village every night to sleep with a calf. A lioness mothers a baby oryx. Ms. Holland narrates the details of each encounter, and also offers insights into the reasons behind them. |
| <i>Life on Earth -- and Beyond: An Astrobiologist's Quest</i> | Pamela S. Turner | Is there life beyond Earth? Since he can't just take a walk in space to find out, NASA astrobiologist Dr. Chris McKay has searched <u>the earth's</u> most extreme environments to understand what factors are necessary to |

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| Lexile -- 890 | | sustain life on other planets. Meet microorganisms that live at the bottom of the ocean, on the edges of volcanoes, and in sub-zero temperatures at the poles, and wonder what life might be “out there” in our solar system and beyond! |
| <i>Evolution: The Story of Life on Earth (graphic novel)</i> Lexile - 900 | Jay Hosler | The alien scientist Bloort-183 researches how life came to be on earth, and is charged in this sequel with covering the wider story of evolution. |
| <i>The Stuff of Life: A Graphic Guide to Genetics and DNA</i> Lexile -- 1000 | Jay Hosler | Let’s face it: From adenines to zygotes, from cytokinesis to parthenogenesis, even the basics of genetics can sound utterly alien. So who better than an alien to explain it all? Enter Bloort 183, a scientist from an asexual alien race threatened by disease, who’s been charged with researching the fundamentals of human DNA and evolution and laying it all out in clear, simple language so that even his slow-to-grasp-the-point leader can get it. In the hands of the award-winning writer Mark Schultz, Bloort’s explanations give even the most science-phobic reader a complete introduction to the history and science of genetics. |
| <i>Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal</i> Lexile - 1100 | Mary Roach | “America’s funniest science writer” takes us down the hatch on an unforgettable tour of our insides. Why is crunchy food so appealing? Why is it so hard to find names for flavors and smells? Why doesn’t the stomach digest itself? How much can you eat before your stomach bursts? Can constipation kill you? Did it kill Elvis? We meet scientists who tackle the questions no one else thinks—or has the courage—to ask. |
| <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> Lexile -- 1140 | Rebecca Skloot | How a Black woman’s cancer cells became the foundation of modern medicine. “There’s a photo on my wall of a woman I’ve never met, its left corner torn and patched together with tape. She looks straight into the camera and smiles, hands on hips, dress suit neatly pressed, lips painted deep red. It’s the late 1940s and she hasn’t yet reached the age of thirty. Her light brown skin is smooth, her eyes still young and playful, oblivious to the tumor growing inside her—a tumor that would leave her five children motherless and change the future of medicine. Beneath the photo, a caption says her name is ‘Henrietta Lacks, Helen Lane or Helen Larson.’” |
| <i>The Ghost Map: The Story of London’s Most Terrifying Epidemic - and How it Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World</i> | Steven Johnson | A riveting page-turner about a real-life historical hero, Dr. John Snow. London in 1854 has become the perfect breeding ground for a terrifying disease no one knows how to cure. As the cholera outbreak takes hold, a physician and a local curate are spurred to action—and ultimately solve the most pressing medical riddle of their time. |
| <i>A Natural History of the Senses</i> Lexile - 1150 | Diane Ackerman | Diane Ackerman’s lusciously written grand tour of the realm of the senses includes conversations with an iceberg in Antarctica and a professional nose in New York, along with dissertations on kisses and tattoos, sadistic cuisine and the music played by the planet Earth. |
| <i>The Botany of Desire: A Plant’s-Eye View of the World</i> Lexile -- 1350 | Michael Pollen | People and domesticated plants have formed a reciprocal relationship. He links four fundamental human desires—sweetness, beauty, intoxication, and control—with the plants that satisfy them: the apple, the tulip, marijuana, and the potato. In telling the stories of four familiar species, Pollan illustrates how the plants have evolved to satisfy humankind’s most basic yearnings. And just as we’ve benefited from these plants, we have also done well by them. So who is really domesticating whom? |

Name _____ Period _____

SCS Summer Reading Log and Journal Entries

Directions:

- On the back of this paper, record when you read (date, title, page numbers, minutes)
- While reading the book, write a response to each of the Journal Entry Topics below. You don't have to go in order.
- Each Journal Entry needs to be at least 100 words long to get full credit.
- Label each Journal Entry with the topic that you are writing about.
- If typing the responses, do them in 1 document, not separate entries.
- You need to finish the book and have all six journal entries written before starting school next year.

Journal Entry Topics for Fiction & Narrative

1. Character: Describe in detail your favorite character in the book. What do they look like? What is their personality like? Why is he/she your favorite character?
2. Conflict: What is/are the main conflict(s) in the book? What is the main problem or challenge that presents itself to the characters? Are the conflicts mainly internal (Inside the characters' heads) or external (forces outside of the characters' heads)? How do you think it/they will be resolved?
3. Structure: Describe the narrative structure of the book. Is there just one story line that presents itself chronologically? Are there parallel story lines happening simultaneously? Does the author use flashback or flash-forward? Is there anything else unique about the structure of the book? How does the narrative structure impact the experience of reading the book?
4. Theme: Are any major themes emerging as you read the book? What seems to be the author's message about these themes? What seems to be the author's view on life, love, friendship, family, or any other major issue? How do you know?
5. Reading Experience: How are you enjoying the book? What specific things do you like or not like about the book? Is it difficult to understand, or is it maybe too easy? What do you do when you don't understand something you've read? Do you look forward to reading your book, or do you see it as a chore? Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?
6. Quote Analysis: Choose a quote or short passage from your book that is important or particularly beautiful or meaningful. Copy it into your journal entry and analyze it. Why did you choose this piece of text? What does this quote reveal about a character or theme of the book? Why do you think it's meaningful or beautiful?

Journal Entry Topics for Non-fiction

1. Facts/Events: Choose one fact/event that was new or surprising or particularly interesting to you. Explain the fact/event, discuss why it's important, and share relevant personal opinions.
2. Relationships: Explain in detail the relationship between two facts or events that are present in the reading.
3. Text Connections: Make detailed connections between something you read in this text with something you have read, seen, or experienced. Can you compare or contrast? How do the two build on or undermine one another?
4. Structure: Describe the structure of what you read. How was the information organized? In what ways other than just text was information represented? What effect did this organization have on you as a reader?

5. Author's Claim: What is a claim the author is making, if any? What evidence do they use? Do they support their claim effectively? Why or why not?

6. Your Claim: Make your own claim about the facts or events depicted in the text. Support your claim with evidence from the text (and add other evidence if you have it).

Name _____ Period _____

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