

# TRINITY REGIONAL SCHOOL

## 7th Grade (incoming) Summer Reading Assignment

**First Assignment** : This summer you will be required to choose a book from the 7th grade reading list. You will be required to write six reading responses using the required strategies. Each strategy should be at least ½ page in length. Your response should address each one of the prompts given for the strategy and should be written in your ELA notebook. Your ELA notebook should be a composition style notebook. Your six entries should cover all of the strategies listed below.

### 1. **Selecting an Independent Reading Book**

- What criteria did you use to select this particular title?
- Did you judge the book by its cover? By the blurb on the back?
- What strategies did you use for selecting this book?
- How did your initial selection impression compare to your feeling about the book after you had read it?

### 2. **Making a Personal Connection to a Text**

- Relate specific experiences of the main character to your own experiences.
- Connect the plot or theme of your book to something you've read or seen ( such as another book or movie).

### 3. **Visualizing the Main Character**

- Try to imagine what the character looks like.
- Look for descriptive passages that give details about characters ( be specific). Use direct evidence from the text.
- Note facial features and describe height/weight/eye color/age.
- Describe body images.
- Clothing
- Other details
- How does this information help you to better understand the character and his/her experiences?

### 4. **Conflict and Main Character**

- Identify some of the problems your character encounters.
- Comment on the character's attitude or approach to the problem.
- Explain ( or predict) how he/she solves the problem.

### 5. **Setting**

- What is the book's setting?
- How would you describe or characterize your book's setting?
- What word or phrases does you author use to tell about the setting? ( be specific)
- How does your book's physical description of landscape and terrain inform, or help create, the mood or atmosphere of the book?

### 6. **Selecting a Meaningful Quote**

- Pick a passage or a series of passages from your book that you particularly enjoyed.

## **Second Assignment : Read 50 Impressive Kids and Their Amazing ( and True!) Stories**

Your assignment is to create a comic book page.

For this project, you will adapt an “ amazing kid” story from your assigned reading book into comic book form. You must create at least one actual comic book page with sequential panels and margins between panels.

1. Create a comic page using well formed figures. No stick figures.
2. Layout must have at least five full color panels with margins in between.
3. Use dialogue from your book, speech balloons, and other text from your story in narration boxes.
4. You must have at least 50 words in your comic.
5. Size should not be larger than 9”x12”.

# 7th Grade Reading List

Choose your book from the following book list.

## **The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate** ( Fiction )

By Jacqueline Kelly

The summer of 1899 is hot in Calpurnia Virginia Tate's sleepy Texas town, and there aren't a lot of good ways to stay cool. As Callie explores the natural wonder around her, she develops a close relationship with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century.

## **Letters from Rifka** ( Fiction)

By Karen Hesse

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the others immigrate to America.

## **Black Duck** ( Fiction)

By Janet Taylor Lisle

An elderly Ruben Hart tells the story of his 1929 adventures as a fourteen year old, during the rum-running trade along the Prohibition-era New England coast. This colorful work of historical fiction is inspired by the legendary boat " Black Boat."

## **The Green Glass Sea** ( Fiction)

By Ellen Klages

It is 1943, and almost-eleven-year-old Dewey is taken to live with her father in New Mexico, where he and others are working on the atomic bomb. Dewey, an inspiring inventor, and Suze, a young artist, become friends after a rocky beginning and are unaware that the project their parents have been working on will forever change their world.

## **Under the Blood-Red Sun** ( Fiction )

By Graham Salisbury

Tomikazu, a hawaiian-born boy of Japanese descent, must help his family survive when his father and grandfather are arrested after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

## **Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War II** ( Fiction)

By Joseph Bruchac

Six-year old Ned Begay leaves his Navajo home for boarding school, where he learns the English language and American ways. At 16, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines during World War II and was trained as a code talker, using his native language to radio battlefield information and commands in a code that was kept secret until 1969.

## **The Circuit: Stories From the Life of a Migrant Child** ( Memoir)

By Francisco Jiminez

Based on the author's life, this collection of stories follows a boy who moves from job to job with his migrant family. These stories describe their struggles as they try to exist with no home, little food, and the threat of deportation.

**The Things They Carried ( fiction)**

by Tim O'Brien

The Things They Carried depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. The book challenges readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing.

**Mississippi Trial, 1955 ( fiction)**

by Chris Crowe

Sixteen-year-old Hiram Hillburn is exposed to the horrors of racism in the 1950's when a fourteen-year old black youth is kidnapped and murdered by white men who accuse him of whistling at a white woman.

**One More River ( fiction)**

by Lynne Reid Banks

Fourteen-year-old Lesley is upset when her parents abandon their comfortable life in Canada for a kibbutz in Israel prior to the 1967 war.

**Snowbound: The Tragic Story of the Donner Party ( informational non-fiction)**

by David Lavender

Following the American dream to move west, a group of friends take their families to California in the mid 1840's. This book describes their journey and the dangers they faced.

**Headin' For Better Times ( informational non-fiction)**

by Duane Damon

This book gives an insightful and clear account of the paradoxical and extraordinary flourishing of the arts during the difficult years of the Great Depression and beyond.

**Six Days in October: The Stock Market Crash of 1929 ( informational non-fiction)**

by Karen Blumenthal

In the 1920's the value of stocks escalated as if they would never stop. Ordinary American workers borrowed thousands of dollars to invest in hopes of becoming rich. This book explores the reasons for both the inflation of the stock market and its crash in October of 1929.

**Freedom Riders ( Biography)**

by Ann Bausum

This riveting true story of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States will shock readers with its senseless violence and inspire them with its portrayal of the bravery and determination of African-American Freedom Rider John Lewis and white activist Jim Zwerg.

**The President is Sick ( Biography)**

by Matthew Algeo

This book details an extraordinary but almost unknown chapter in American history: Grover Cleveland's secret cancer surgery and the brazen political cover-up by a politician whose most memorable quote was "Tell the truth." The facts concerning the disappearance of Grover Cleveland that summer were so well concealed that even more than a century later a full and fair account has never been published; until now.