

Happy Summer!

Have you ever heard of a “pool-side” or “beach” book? The books we’ve picked for you to choose from this summer are just that. Good reads. Good authors. Just enjoyable books that might teach a lesson along the way.

A good author takes you through all the emotions. You’re laughing. You’re crying. You’re angry. You’re confused. You just. Can’t. Stop. Reading. Have you experienced this type of author yet? If you haven’t, hopefully we can get you there soon. What do we want you to do this summer? Read. Just read. Curled up before bed. On vacation. In a restaurant waiting for food (if we’re allowed to go to restaurants). In the car (unless you get car sick; then, please don’t).

Pick one, pick them all. If you hate it, stop reading it. Or, if you’re feeling adventurous, keep reading, because there’s a chance, always the chance, that you didn’t get to THAT PART. Yes, that part that just draws you in and makes you take a deep breath, or laugh out loud, or get teary eyed, or want to throw the book against the wall.

We’re sure, by this time, you have heard plenty about “theme” in your ELA classes. Sometimes there is one theme in a story, sometimes many. They look a little something like this:

Love

Circle of Life

Suffering

Good and Evil

Heroism

Inclusion

Self-awareness

Self-reliance

Friendship

So, here we go. Read one, read them all. BUT, think about the theme(s) running through the book. When you’ve finished your book of choice create a google doc with the following information. Then upload it in the Google Classroom (8th Grade Homepage class code d2rhqzz).

1. Author
2. Title
3. Theme(s)
4. One line from the book that you would hang up in your room as a reflection because it was JUST. THAT. GOOD. Include page number. What made you pick this line and how will it serve you?
5. Which character did you relate to, sympathize with or share joy for and why?

Braden, Ann. *The Benefits of Being an Octopus*. Sky Pony Press, 2018.

Reynolds, Jason. *Ghost*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2016.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Counting by 7s*. Puffin Books, 2013.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*. Joanna Cotler Books, 2000.

Van Draanan, Wendelin. *The Running Dream*. Random House, 2011.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Hazen

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The 6th-8th grade math teachers would like each student to work on the online math program ALEKS. We suggest 5-10 topics per week throughout the summer. Any time you complete a knowledge check, you can count it for 5 topics.

Returning students: You are familiar with the program. Depending on your math level, you should be reviewing skills that you struggle with, or trying to work toward a higher skill level.

New students: ALEKS is an online math program that we use throughout the school year. The summer is a perfect time to familiarize yourself with the program, review skills that you may need a refresher on, or start working toward a higher level of math. Information including your username and password will be emailed before June 1. To access ALEKS [please click here](#).

Please reach out to Mrs. Walker (amy.walker@sfxphx.org) or Mrs. Amrhein (cynthia.amrhein@sfxphx.org) if you have any questions!

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