

Summer Reading | 8th Grade

2023 - 2024

Required Texts

REQUIRED TEXT NO. 1

Teacher-assigned Novel:
S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders

REQUIRED TEXT NO. 2

Student-choice Novel: See list of novels to choose from attached.

How to Access Assignments

* Students will be required to complete an assignment for each novel that will be for a grade.

* Go to dentonmagnet.com. Click on the SCHOOL INFO tab.

Select STAFF from the dropdown menu.

* On the staff page, select the teacher for the appropriate grade level.

* Directions for summer reading assignments will be posted to each teacher's page.

CAN'T GET TO THE LIBRARY OR BOOKSTORE?

Digital copies of books are available for free on the Cloud Library app with your library card number.

More Information

Some of these novels contain mature content.

*This assignment will be collected for a grade the 2nd Friday when we return to school.

* If you have questions, contact the teacher for your student's grade level.

Denton Magnet School 8th Grade Summer Reading Novel Choice List 2023 - 2024

Students are required to read **two books** over the summer and complete the required assignments. **In addition to the teacher-choice novel, students should select one book from the list below that he or she has not read or tested on previously.** They must complete the assignments for **each** novel. Assignments will be turned in within the first two weeks of school.

Teacher-Choice Novel

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

The rivalry between rich Socs and poor Greasers in 1960s Oklahoma leads to serious consequences and intense soul-searching for one of the kids involved, a sensitive 14-year-old writer named Ponyboy.

Interest Level: UG Book Level: 4.7 Word Count: 48,523 Page Count: 192

Student-Choice Novel List

Chose **one** novel to read from the list below that you have not read or tested on previously.

Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they have written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Interest Level: UG Book Level: 4.5 Word Count: 24,229 Page Count: 167

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two by Joseph Bruchac

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Interest Level: MG Book Level: 6.4 Word Count: 56,150 Page Count: 231

Corner of the Universe by Ann Martin

During the summer that Hattie turns twelve, her world is turned upside down with the startling arrival of an uncle no one has ever spoken about. Adam's "school" – an institution for the mentally disabled – is being closed.

Interest Level: UG Book Level: 4.5 Word Count: 42,500 Page Count: 189

The Darkest Minds by Alexandra Bracken

Sixteen-year-old Ruby breaks out of a government-run "rehabilitation camp" for teens who acquired dangerous powers after surviving a virus that wiped out most American children. The plot contains mature content. Book No. 1 in a series.

Interest Level: UG Book Level: 5.7 Word Count: 137,395 Page Count: 488

Death Cloud by Andrew Lane

In 1868, with his army officer father posted to India and his mother mysteriously "unwell," fourteen-year-old Sherlock is sent to stay with his uncle and aunt in Hampshire, where he uncovers his first murder. The plot contains violence. Book No. 1 in a series.

Interest Level: MG+ Book Level: 6.3 Word Count: 72,409 Page Count: 311

Double Dutch by Sharon Draper

Three eighth-grade friends, preparing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump rope competition in their home town, cope with Randy's missing father, Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies, and a secret Delia is too embarrassed to share.

Interest Level: MG Book Level: 4.9 Word Count: 44,912 Page Count: 183

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, who has cancer, meets Augustus at a kids-with-cancer support group and, as they fall in love, they both wonder how they will be remembered. The plot contains mature content.

Interest Level: UG Book Level: 5.5 Word Count: 65,752 Page Count: 336

The Giver by Lois Lowry

In this classic YA dystopian novel, while training to be the Receiver of Memory, Jonas experiences joy and sadness for the first time. He becomes convinced his society has given up too much, and he can no longer accept the sameness. Book #1

Interest level: MG+ Book level: 5.7 Word Count: 62,192 Page Count: 208

H.I.V.E.: Higher Institute of Villainous Education by Mark Walden

Swept away to a hidden academy for training budding evil geniuses, Otto, a brilliant orphan, Wing, a sensitive warrior, Laura, a shy computer specialist, and Shelby, an infamous jewel thief, plot to escape the prison known as H.I.V.E. Book No. 1 in a series.

Interest level: MG Book level: 7.5 Word Count: 65,909 Page Count: 304

***This book selection is located as an e-book on Big Universe @ <https://www.biguniverse.com/signinStudent> login is the same username and login to get on a MCPSS school computer.**

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

Interest level: UG Book level: 7.1 Word Count: 97,773 Page Count: 327

Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, and he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

Interest Level: MG Book Level: 5.4 Word Count: 54,427 Page Count: 244

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by Agatha Christie

A village rumor hints that Mrs. Ferrars poisoned her husband, but no one is sure. Then there's another victim in a chain of death. Unfortunately for the killer, master sleuth Hercule Poirot takes over the investigation. A classic whodunnit with a twist from the queen of mystery.

Interest Level: UG Book Level: 6.3 Word Count: 69,136 Page Count: 277

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen

Young Catherine Morland, the heroine of *Northanger Abbey*, has a vivid imagination which thrives on mysterious strangers and haunted ruins. When she meets the handsome Henry Tilney, her fantasies lead her into disastrous errors of judgement.

Interest Level: MG Book Level: 10.8 Word Count: 77,157 Page Count: 254

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

When Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by virtual world OASIS creator James Halliday, he finds he must compete with thousands of others to claim a prize of massive fortune. The plot contains mature content.

Interest Level: UG Book Level: 6.7 Word Count: 136,048 Page Count: 374

Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers

After reluctantly taking on the leadership of the Harlem gang, the Scorpions, Jamal finds that his enemies treat him with respect when he acquires a gun—until a tragedy occurs. The plot contains violence.

Interest Level: MG Book Level: 3.7 Word Count: 44,653 Page Count: 224

Secrets, Lies and Algebra by Wendy Lichtman

Eighth-grader Tess is having trouble in school and with her friends. A boy she secretly likes asks her to cheat for him, and she suspects her mom's friend has been murdered. Luckily, Tess has always loved math, and she uses mathematical concepts to help her solve the dilemmas she's facing.

Interest Level: MG+ Book Level: 5.9 Word Count: 27,785 Page Count: 183