

**Crossroad Academy Charter School  
Secondary Summer Reading Assignment and Book List  
Grades 6 and Up**



Each year, scholars are required to **read two (2) novels** AND complete one project during the summer. **One novel is required** and the other may be individually chosen from the grade list.

### **Required Reading**

The required reading book should **be brought to school with them on the first day**. A *homework* grade will be issued for bringing the book to class. The scholar will be *quizzed* on the basic knowledge of the book and will receive a **QUIZ** grade on the first day of school. The test will be open book. After completing some classwork assignments, by the end of the first 10 days of school the scholar will receive a more comprehensive *TEST*.

### **The Assignment**

The scholar has until the first 5 days from the first day of school to complete the summer assignment (**August 22, 2014**). **The scholar has six (6) options, but must choose ONE project to complete.** The assignment is a **PROJECT** grade.

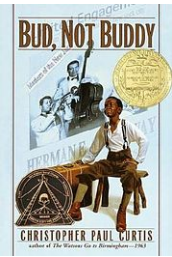
## Summer Reading Assignment for Grades 6 and up.

**Although you have a required reading, you may complete the assignment for ANY book of your choice.**

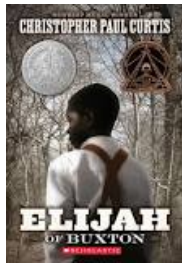
Project	SOUNDTRACK	TIMELINE	COLLAGE	BOOK REPORT	FACEBOOK PROFILE	ANALYSIS
<b>Rubric</b>	<p>CD Cover- 5 points</p> <p>Song Lyrics- 25 points</p> <p>Explanations- 50 points</p> <p>Spelling/Grammar/ Punctuation:10 points</p> <p>Song Clips-5 points</p> <p><b>Total: 100 points</b></p>	<p>Illustrations- 40 points</p> <p>Captions- 40 points</p> <p>Spelling/Grammar/ Punctuation- 10 points</p> <p>Neatness- 10 points</p> <p><b>Total: 100 points</b></p>	<p>Collage- 40 points</p> <p>Explanation- 50 points</p> <p>Spelling/Grammar/Punctuation- 10 points</p> <p><b>Total: 100 points</b></p>	<p>Cover- 20 points</p> <p>Summary- 50 points</p> <p>Recommendation- 20 points</p> <p>Spelling/Grammar/ Punctuation- 10 points</p> <p><b>Total: 100 points</b></p>	<p>Picture and Basic Information about Character- 10 points</p> <p>Appropriate Facebook Friends- 20 points</p> <p>Status Updates with Comments- 50 points</p> <p>Character "Likes"- 10 points</p> <p>Spelling/Grammar/Punctuation Neatness: 10 points</p> <p><b>Total: 100 points</b></p>	<p>Synopsis- 20 points</p> <p>Comparison- 50 points</p> <p>Evaluation (Which was better)?- 20 points</p> <p>Spelling/Grammar/ Punctuation- 10 points</p> <p><b>Total: 100 points</b></p>

## RISING SIXTH (6<sup>th</sup>) GRADERS

Select the Required Reading AND one other book of your choice from the list below

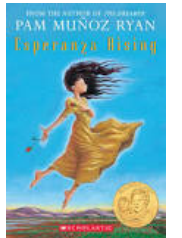


***Bud Not Buddy*, by Christopher Paul Curtis p. 256.** It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud's got a few things going for him.



out of captivity in the South.

***Elijah of Buxton*, by Christopher Paul Curtis p. 288.** Eleven-year-old is the first child in town to be born free, but everything changes when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has been saving to buy his family



during the Great Depression.

***Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan p. 262.** Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico, but a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza to flee to California

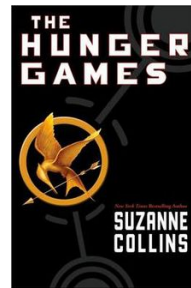


formidable human force.

***Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick p. 169.** Two boys – a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces – forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one



***Hatchet*, by Gary Paulsen p. 192.** Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes.



eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.

***The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins p. 374.** The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and



**\*\**Monster*, by Walter Dean Myers p. 288.** Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial.  
**\*\*Required**



Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes--for Leo and for the entire school.

***Stargirl*, by Jerry Spinelli p. 192.** Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out--under any circumstances! Then



***Tears of a Tiger*, by Sharon Draper p.192.** Andy Jackson was driving the car that crashed one night after a game, killing his best friend and the captain of the Hazelwood High Tigers.

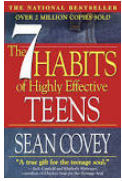


is blown up.

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963*, by Christopher Paul Curtis p. 210.** When Kenny's 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma when her church

## RISING SEVENTH (7<sup>th</sup>) GRADERS

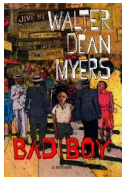
Select the Required Reading AND one other book of your choice from the list below



**\*\* The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, by Sean Covey p. 288.** Being a teenager is both wonderful and challenging. This ultimate teenage success book provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve their self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve goals, get along with parents, and more.  
**\*\*Required**

**Bad Boy, by Walter Dean Myers p.224.**

Although Walter spent much of his time either getting into trouble or on the basketball court, secretly he was a voracious reader and an aspiring writer. But as his prospects for a successful future diminished, the values he had been taught at home, in school, and in his community seemed worthless, and he turned to the streets and his books for comfort.

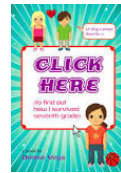


**Catching Fire, by Suzanne Collins p.391.** The sequel to the 2008 bestseller *The Hunger Games*, it continues the story of Katniss Everdeen and the post-apocalyptic nation of Panem. Following the events of the previous novel, a rebellion against the oppressive Capitol has begun, and Katniss and fellow tribute Peeta Mellark are forced to return to the arena in a special edition of the Hunger Games.



**Copper Sun, by Sharon Draper p.302.** *Copper Sun* is the epic story of a young girl torn from her African village, sold into slavery, and stripped of everything she has ever known—except hope.

**Click Here (to Find Out How I Survived Seventh Grade), by Denise Vega p. 224.**

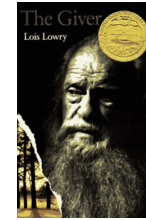


Imagine if all your personal thoughts about crushes, fears, enemies, and even kissing practice ended up on the Internet for everyone to read. That's what happens to Erin Swift when her super-secret blog and all of her musings on navigating the treacherous waters of seventh grade—including her feelings about herself, her best friend Jillian, her crushes, and growing up—are accidentally uploaded for the whole school to see!

**The Dreamer, by Pam Muñoz Ryan p. 400.**

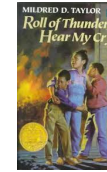


From the time he is a young boy, Neftalí hears the call of a mysterious voice. Even when the neighborhood children taunt him, and when his harsh, authoritarian father ridicules him, and when he doubts himself, Neftalí knows he cannot ignore the call. Under the canopy of the lush rain forest, into the fearsome sea, and through the persistent Chilean rain, he listens and he follows.



**The Giver, by Lois Lowry p. 192.** Jonas's world is perfect. Everything is under control. There is no war or fear of pain. There are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. When Jonas turns 12 he is singled out to receive special training from The Giver.

The Giver alone holds the memories of the true pain and pleasure of life. Now, it is time for Jonas to receive the truth. There is no turning back.



**Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry, by Mildred Taylor p. 276.** This award-winning novel is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice.



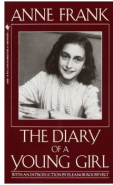
**Where the Red Fern Grows, by Wilson Rawls p. 256.** *Where the Red Fern Grows* is a 1961 novel by Wilson Rawls about a boy who buys and trains two Redbone Coonhound hunting dogs.



**Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina, by Rodman Philbrick p.197.** Newbery Honor author Rodman Philbrick presents a gripping yet poignant novel about a 12-year-old boy and his dog who become trapped in New Orleans during the horrors of Hurricane Katrina.

# RISING EIGHTH (8<sup>th</sup>) GRADERS

Select the Required Reading AND one other book of your choice from the list below

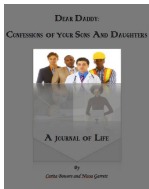


**Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, by Anne Frank p. 304.** In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic — a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.



**Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon, by Steve Skeinkin p. 273.**

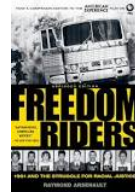
This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. This is the story of the atomic bomb.



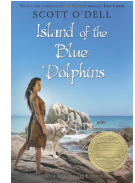
**\*\*Confessions of Your Sons and Daughters, by Carita Bowers & Nicoa Garrett.** This is a Riveting self-help book about relationships between sons, daughters and their fathers - It's a Journey of life. (order

@ [www.authenticyouauthenticme.com](http://www.authenticyouauthenticme.com))

**Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice, by Raymond Aresnault p. 320.**



They were black and white, young and old, men and women. In the spring and summer of 1961, they put their lives on the line, riding buses through the American South to challenge segregation in interstate transport. Their story is one of the most celebrated episodes of the civil rights movement.



**Island of the Blue Dolphins, by Scott O'Dell p. 192.**

The story of a young girl stranded for years on an island off the California coast. It is based on the true story of Juana Maria, a Nicoleño Native American left alone for 18 years on San Nicolas Island in the 19th century.

**\*\*Scorpions, by Walter Dean Myers p.240.**



The novel tells the story of Jamal Hicks, a 12-year-old African American boy from Harlem sharing his distress with a Puerto Rican boy, Tito, in the times of segregation. He must come up with a lot of money in order for his older brother to be released from jail so he joins a

gang. Jamal is having a hard time at school, home, and in the streets.

**\*\*Required**



**The Skin I'm In, by Sharon Flake p.180.** Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher, whose face is blotched with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too.



**We Beat The Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success, by Davis, Jenkins, Hunt & Draper p.194.**

Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors.

**The War of the Worlds, by H.G. Wells p.210.**

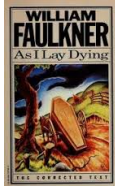


Mankind finds itself in a fight for its very survival when invaders from Mars land on Earth. Using their vastly superior technology the Martians make short order of all the great powers of Earth, laying waste to everything in their path.

The novel follows an unnamed man as he flees for his life while trying to locate his wife in the shattered ruins of Earth.

## RISING NINTH (9<sup>th</sup>) GRADERS

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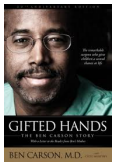
**\*\*--As I Lay Dying, by William**

**Faulkner p. 267.** This Faulkner's harrowing account of the Bundren family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Told in turns by each of the family members—including Addie herself—the novel ranges in mood from dark comedy to the deepest pathos. **\*\*--Required**



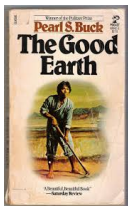
**The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, by Ernest J. Gaines p. 274.**

The award winning novel depicts the struggles of African Americans as seen through the eyes of the narrator, a woman named Jane Pittman. In this novel in the guise of the tape-recorded recollections of a black woman who has lived 110 years, who has been both a slave and a witness to the black militancy of the 1960's.



**Gifted Hands, by Ben Carson p. 249.**

Today, he is one of the most celebrated neurosurgeons in the world. In Gifted Hands, he tells of his inspiring odyssey from his childhood in inner-city Detroit to his position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital at age 33.

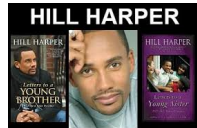


**The Good Earth, by Pearl S. Buck p. 260.**

This moving, Pulitzer-prize winner is of the honest farmer Wang Lung and his selfless wife O-Lan is must reading for those who would fully appreciate the sweeping changes that have occurred in the lives of the Chinese people during the last century.



**The House of the Scorpion, by Nancy Farmer p.400.** Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested. His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium--a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once called Mexico. Matt's first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster.



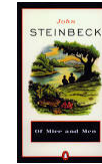
**Letters to a Young Brother /Sister, by Hill Harper p.176/304.** Offering

inspirational advice in a down-to-earth style, this unique compilation of letters provides wisdom, guidance, and heartfelt insight to help the reader chart their own path to success. The letters deal with the tough issues that face young people today. Bombarded with messages from music and the media, Harper set out to dispel the stereotypical image of success that young people receive today and instead emphasizes alternative views of what it truly means to be successful.

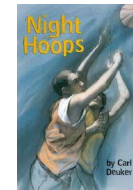


**Marie Antoinette: Serial Killer, by Katie Alender.** Heads will roll!

Paris, France: a city of fashion, chocolate croissants, and cute boys. Colette Iselin is thrilled to be there for the first time, on her spring break class trip. But a series of gruesome murders are taking place around the city, putting everyone on edge. Colette keeps seeing a strange vision: a pale woman in a ball gown and powdered wig, who looks like Marie Antoinette.



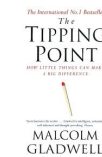
**Of Mice and Men, by John Steinbeck p.138.** This is the story of George Milton and Lennie Small, two displaced migrant ranch workers, who move from place to place in search of new job opportunities during the Great Depression in California.



**Night Hoops, by Carl Deuker p.225.** While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.



**Sleeping Freshman Never Lie, by David Lubar p. 284.** Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant?



**The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference, by Malcom Gladwell p. 322.** The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate. This widely acclaimed bestseller, explores and brilliantly illuminates the tipping point phenomenon, is already changing the way people throughout the world think about selling products and disseminating ideas.

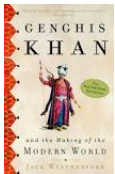
## RISING TENTH (10<sup>th</sup>) GRADERS

Select the Required Reading AND one other book of your choice from the list below



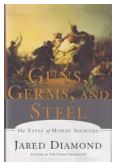
***The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak p.578.**

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.



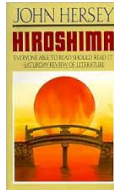
***Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*, by Jack Weatherford p.352.**

In *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World* the author discusses the methods and manner in which Genghis Khan created one of the largest land empires in history in the space of 25 years. In addition, the author attempts to present a revised understanding of who the historical Genghis Khan was at both his best and his worst.

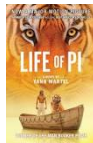


***Guns, Germs & Steel*, by Jared Diamond p.488.** In this "artful, informative, and delightful" book, Jared Diamond convincingly argues that geographical and environmental factors shaped the modern world. Societies that had had a head start in

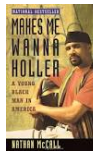
food production advanced beyond the hunter-gatherer stage, and then developed religion -as well as nasty germs and potent weapons of war -and adventured on sea and land to conquer and decimate preliterate cultures. A major advance in our understanding of human societies, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* chronicles the way that the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history.



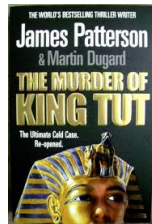
***Hiroshima*, by John Hersey p. 160.** On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey's journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told through the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic "that stirs the conscience of humanity



***Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel p.449.** After the sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a wounded zebra, an orangutan—and a 450-pound royal bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and beloved works of fiction in recent years.



***Makes Me Wanna Holler*, by Nathan McCall p.434.** Examining the complexities of the problems of black youths from an insider's perspective, an African-American journalist recalls his own troubled childhood, his rehabilitation while in prison, and his successful *Washington Post* career.

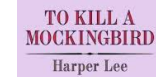


**\*\**The Murder of King Tut*, by James Patterson p. 352.** Thrust onto Egypt's most powerful throne at the age of nine, King Tut's reign was fiercely debated from the outset. Behind the palace's veil of prosperity, bitter rivalries and jealousy flourished among the Boy King's most trusted advisors, and after only nine years, King Tut suddenly perished, his name purged from Egyptian history. To this day, his death remains shrouded in controversy. Enchanted by the ruler's tragic story and hoping to unlock the answers to the 3,000 year-old mystery, Howard Carter made it his life's mission to uncover the pharaoh's hidden tomb. He began his search in 1907, but encountered countless setbacks and dead-ends before he finally, uncovered the long-lost crypt. **\*\*Required**



***The Silk Road Journey with Xuanzang*, by Sally Hovey Wriggins p. 346.** *The Silk Road Journey with Xuanzang* tells the saga of the seventh-century Chinese monk Xuanzang, one of China's great heroes, who completed an epic sixteen-year-long journey to discover the heart of Buddhism at its source in India. Eight centuries before

Columbus, this intrepid pilgrim traveled 10,000 miles on the Silk Road, meeting most of Asia's important leaders at that time.



***To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee p. 336.** The story occurs in Maycomb County, Alabama during the Great Depression where a black man Tom Robinson is accused of raping a White woman. Despite the significant evidence pointing to Tom's innocence, the all white jury finds him guilty.



***Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston p. 266.** The novel narrates main character Janie Crawford's "ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny. Taking place in Eatonville, Florida America's first all-black city, where she lives the high life as the mayor's wife. However, Janie finds that her husband has very rigid definitions of a woman's role.



***Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe p. 209.** The novel shows the life of Okonkwo, a leader and local wrestling champion in Umuofia—one of a fictional group of nine villages in Nigeria, inhabited by the Igbo people. It describes his family and personal history, the customs and society of the Igbo, and the influence of British colonialism and Christian missionaries on the Igbo community during the late nineteenth century.



For Questions, Please Contact the School  
(850) 875-9626