

## Grade 7 and 8 Summer Reading Assignment 2017

All students entering seventh and eighth grade are expected to read ONE of the following books from the Nutmeg selections from 2011-2017. We encourage students to read more than one book over the summer; however, students will complete a written response on one of the following books listed below during the second week of school.

Our wonderful town library will have copies available of many titles, and Barnes and Noble has a shelf devoted to our selections.

Please take notes on the book using the signposts bookmark. Any notes found to have been influenced by unattributed outside sources, such as Internet websites like SparkNotes.com, will automatically receive a zero. Bring the bookmark and book to school on the first day.

### 2018 Teen Nutmeg Nominees:

***The Boy in the Black Suit* by Jason Reynolds:** Matt is trying to cope with his mom's death from cancer and his dad's drinking. A job at a local funeral home gives him comfort and then he meets a girl, who helps him share his feelings. This is a story of growing from loss.

***Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton:** All Mimi wants is to be an astronaut, but being a female with Japanese and African - American parents in 1969 Vermont comes with its own challenges. As she makes new friends and overcomes the barriers around her, she realizes what is really important.

***Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stranger:** Three girls, who promised never to fight, have found their friendship tested. Will their friendship survive the trials of middle school and growing up.

***I am Princess X* by Cherie Priest:** When they were young May and Libby created a princess together. When Libby died the princess died with her. Years later May starts seeing images of the princess around town. Could Libby still be alive?

***I Kill the Mockingbird* by Paul Acampora:** In honor of their deceased teacher a group of students hatch a plot to popularize the classic "To Kill a Mockingbird", by creating a controversy surrounding the novel. Their efforts increase the demand, but have consequences they don't expect

***The Last Boy at St. Edith's* by Lee Gjersten:** There used to be 27 boys at St. Edith's Academy, but over time all but one left leaving Jeremy the only boy out of 475 students! In desperation, Jeremy pulls a series of pranks in hopes of getting expelled so he can go to school with his friends.

***The Novice* by Taran Matharu:** When Fletcher accidentally summons a Familiar, he is forced to leave his home to attend The Academy where he is taught how to use his powers.

***Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary Schmidt:** Trying to escape his past, Joseph is trying to find his future. Can Jack and his family help Joseph find a home on their family farm? Will Joseph find the one thing from his past that he is looking for?

***The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall:** After his father's death, Arthur throws a brick at the local "Junk Man" when he sees him wearing his father's favorite hat. He is sentenced to community service working with the Junk Man to complete his mysterious project.

***Thirteen Chairs* by Dave Shelton:** Thirteen souls at a table each with a tale to tell. Are you brave enough to pull up a chair?

## 2017 Teen Nutmeg Nominees

***Endangered* by Eliot Schrefer:** During summer vacation at her mother's bonobo sanctuary in the Congo, 14 year-old Sophie rescues a young ape, Otto, from a local poacher. After her mother takes a group of apes to a remote release site, militants attack the camp, killing the sanctuary workers. Sophie and Otto escape death by hiding in an enclosure. Their only hope is to reach the release site on the other side of the country. Together, they embark on a long, dangerous journey through war-torn villages and the jungle while struggling to stay alive, reach safety and find Sophie's mother reunited with Sophie's mother.

***Far, Far Away* by Tom McNeal:** Jeremy Johnson Johnson lives in the town of Never Better and claims to hear the ghostly voice of one of the Brothers Grimm, Jacob. Townspeople find Jeremy odd. He only wants to study so he can get far away from Never Better but he must deal with a reclusive father, an unseen, evil entity, a magical cake, and a trouble-making girl named Ginger who finds him exceedingly interesting. In this twisted fairy tale, no one lives happily after.

***The Iron Trial* by Holly Black & Cassandra Clare:** 12-year-old Callum Hunt is not like other kids. Having always been warned by his father to stay away from magic, he tries to fail the exam that will admit him to the Magisterium. But Callum manages to pass the Iron Trial and now heads into an uncertain future in the magical world. Now, Callum and his two new friends at the boarding school for magicians must face the twisted, sinister adventures and enemies that await them.

***The Mark of the Dragonfly* by Jaleigh Johnson:** Piper finds Anna, a girl with a tattoo on her arm who doesn't remember a thing about her life. But the Dragonfly tattoo proves that she's protected by the king. Piper must get past the peculiar green-eyed boy, stow away on the Great 401 train, and return Anna to claim the reward. Life just got dangerous, magical, and very exciting.

***Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend* by Matthew Dicks:** This story is told by Budo, 9-year-old Max's imaginary friend. Budo has been for four years -- a long time—because Max is autistic. While Max fears being sent to a special school, Budo is terrified of disappearing, the fate of all imaginary friends. But when Max is abducted by a teacher at his school, Budo must do what he can to rescue Max. As long as Max is with his kidnapper, Budo exists. But Budo knows that Max is better off with his parents and learns to "let go" and Max's parents allow themselves to accept their son as he is.

***The Night Gardener* by Jonathan Auxier:** Irish orphans Molly and Kip travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite as it seems. The siblings are confronted by a mysterious and menacing stranger and the spine-tingling secrets of the cursed house begin to unfold .

***Sure Signs of Crazy* by Karen Harrington:** It's summer in Texas and a genealogy project has sixth-grader Sarah Nelson stressed out. How can she avoid sharing her secrets -- that her mother is institutionalized for trying to drown Sarah when she was a toddler and that her father is an alcoholic? Sarah wonders if she shows signs of being crazy and struggles to face her challenges through journal entries addressed to Atticus Finch (yes, the character from *To Kill a Mockingbird* ). Through writing and with support from two empathetic grown-ups, Sarah makes sense of the world and has an extraordinary summer.

***Swagger* by Carl Deuker:** Seventeen year-old basketball player Jonas moves to Seattle and starts over with a new team. Efforts to earn a scholarship are hindered when he barely gets to play. A new coach arrives; both Jonas and teammate Levi see more court time on a winning team. But when Levi shares with Jonas that Coach Hartwell has sexually assaulted him, Jonas must decide what to do. Should he remain silent or risk his future basketball career by reporting the coach?

***A Time to Dance* by Padma Venkatraman:** Veda is an aspiring classical dancer in India. After a devastating accident leaves her with a prosthetic leg, her hopes and dreams of dancing are shattered and Veda is forced to start over. Will she ever dance again?

***Turn Left at the Cow* by Lisa Bullard** Thirteen year-old Trav goes to live with Gram in Minnesota to learn more about his dead father, a bank robber who disappeared before Trav's birth. Neither the robber's body nor the stolen cash was ever recovered.

Locals begin to suspect Trav of knowing where the cash is when some turns up in stores. Trav and two pals try to prove his innocence. Is the loot stashed in town? Who is threatening Trav? What begins as an adventure to learn about his past has Trav facing a frightening and dangerous adversary--someone who is after the stolen money!

#### **2016 Teen Nutmeg Nominees**

**Better Nate than Ever by Tim Federle:** An eighth-grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T."

**Cinder by Marissa Meyer:** Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

**Counting by 7's by Holly Goldberg Sloan:** Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

**Golden Boy by Tara Sullivan:** A Tanzanian albino boy finds himself the ultimate outsider, hunted because of the color of his skin.

**I Have a Bad Feeling About This by Jeff Strand:** Everything unathletic sixteen-year-old Henry was dreading about survival camp turns out to be true--or even worse--when armed killers arrive and survival takes on a whole new meaning for the campers.

**The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater:** Though she is from a family of clairvoyants, Blue Sargent's only gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger, and when she meets Gansey, one of the Raven Boys from the expensive Aglionby Academy, she discovers that he has talents of his own--and that together their talents are a dangerous mix.

**Reboot by Amy Tintera:** Seventeen-year-old Wren rises from the dead as a Reboot and is trained as an elite crime-fighting soldier until she is given an order she refuses to follow.

**The Rithmatist by Brandon Sanderson:** As Wild Chalklings threaten the American Isles and Rithmatists are humanity's only defense, Joel can only watch as Rithmatist students learn the magical art that he would do anything to practice.

**Shadow on the Mountain by Margi Preus:** In Nazi-occupied Norway, fourteen-year-old Espen joins the resistance movement, graduating from deliverer of illegal newspapers to courier and spy.

**Throne of Glass by Sarah J. Maas:** After she has served a year of hard labor in the salt mines of Endovier for her crimes, Crown Prince Dorian offers eighteen-year-old assassin Celaena Sardothien her freedom on the condition that she act as his champion in a competition to find a new royal assassin.

#### **2015 Teen Nutmeg Nominees**

**Eye of the Storm by Kate Messner:** Jaden's summer visit with her meteorologist father, who has just returned from spending four years in Russia conducting weather experiments not permitted in the United States, fills her with apprehension and fear as she finds living at her father's planned community, Placid Meadows, is anything but placid.

**One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt :** Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child, and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed - until her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live.

**The Raft by S. A. Bodeen:** When Robie's plane crashes into the Pacific Ocean, she must depend on the plane's co-pilot, Max, and a life raft for survival. As their water disappears and the evidence of sharks in the water mounts, Robie isn't really sure that they'll make it until a team can rescue them.

**The Last Dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde:** Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Strange runs an agency for underemployed magicians in a world where magic is fading away. It seems, though, that Big Magic is brewing in the world again when visions of the death of the world's last dragon begin. Stranger still, all signs point to Jennifer being the newest and perhaps, final, Dragonslayer.

**Insignia by S.J. Kincaid:** An elite military academy recruits Tom Raines to train to become a soldier in outer space, and he can't believe his good fortune. As his training begins, though, Tom finds he might have to sacrifice more than he'd ever thought in order to succeed.

**The False Prince by Jennifer Nielsen:** In a country threatened by civil war, four orphans get recruited to compete for the role of imposter. The winner will play the King's long-lost son, inherit the Kingdom, and become a puppet for one noble who wants the crown for himself. Sage knows his life depends on winning this Princely role.

**Guitar Notes by Mary Amato:** Tripp, who plays guitar only for himself, and Lyla, a cellist whose talent has already made her famous but not happy, form an unlikely friendship when they are forced to share a practice room at their high school.

**The Final Four by Paul Volponi:** Four players with one thing in common: the will to win Malcolm wants to get to the NBA ASAP. Roko wants to be the pride of his native Croatia. Crispin wants the girl of his dreams. M.J. just wants a chance.

**Don't Turn Around by Michelle Gagnon:** Sixteen-year-old Noa wakes up on a table with an IV in her arm and no memory of how she got there. Noa needs help to discover who's hunting her and why. Enter Peter Gregory. A rich kid and the leader of a hacker alliance, Peter needs people with Noa's talents on his team. But what they both don't realize is that Noa holds the key to a terrible secret, and there are those who'd stop at nothing to silence her for good.

**See You At Harry's by Jo Knowles:** Twelve-year-old Fern feels invisible. It seems as though everyone in her family has better things to do: Mom (when she's not meditating) helps Dad run the family restaurant; Sarah is taking a gap year after high school; and Holden pretends that Mom and Dad and everyone else doesn't know he's gay, even as he fends off bullies at school. Then there's Charlie: three years old, a "surprise" baby, the center of everyone's world. If it wasn't for Ran, Fern's calm and positive best friend, there'd be nowhere to turn. But then tragedy strikes- and Fern feels not only more alone than ever, but also responsible for the accident that has wrenched her family apart.

#### **2014 Teen Nutmeg Nominees**

**City of Orphans by Avi:** New York City, 1893. When Maks' sister, Emma, is falsely accused of stealing and imprisoned, Maks and his friend Willa must prove her innocence. Maks must balance his amateur detective work with his newspaper business, not to mention the Plug Ugly gang and their attempts to stop Lower East Side Newsies from delivering their papers.

**Divergent by Veronica Roth:** Beatrice "Tris" lives in a society where citizens belong to factions that share certain aptitudes. Tris has not one, but three aptitudes, selflessness, courage, and truth-seeking. To survive, Beatrice must hide her Divergence and choose just one faction, one aptitude. When she selects Dauntless, for courage, she little imagines the stunts, battles, and friendships she will encounter.

**I'll Be There by Holly Goldberg Sloan:** Sam and Riddle have moved around their entire lives with their unstable father. Sam wishes he could leave, but he could never abandon his quirky little brother Riddle. Then one day Sam meets Emily, a true believer in fate. Emily believes that Sam and Riddle are part of her destiny. As their paths intersect, their lives change forever.

**The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine:** 1958, Arkansas. Painfully shy, Marlee feels grateful to her new friend Liz for making middle school more bearable. But Liz has a secret. She is a light skinned black 'passing' for white. This causes a massive uproar in the community. Shy Marlee finds the courage to help integrate her school. A powerful story of friendship and determination.

**Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25 by Richard Paul Evans:** Michael Vey has a secret. He is electric and can even restart car batteries. He thought he was unique until he meets Taylor, and they make a startling discovery. When Michael's mom disappears, they face an unknown enemy and even more electric.

**Mindblind by Jennifer Roy:** 14 year-old Nathaniel is a profoundly gifted Asperger's student. He thinks of himself as "mindblind:" he cannot always guess what other people are thinking. After college, he plans to become an "official genius." His story presents a unique perspective, illuminating the mind of a gifted person while showing the humor of Nathaniel's quirky existence.

**Now Is the Time for Running by Michael Williams:** Deo and his friends live for soccer. Every day they meet in the fields near their village in Zimbabwe and play, cheered on by Deo's brother, Innocent. One day, the soldiers arrive, and everything changes in an instant. Deo and Innocent run for their lives with nothing but the clothes on their backs and a soccer ball.

**Okay for Now by Gary D. Schmidt:** Doug Swieteck sees only the negatives of his move to a new town. Doug's father and brothers often take their anger out on Doug. Despite Doug's family troubles, he finds his own place in town and discovers his strengths and talents with the help of some unlikely friends.

**Page by Paige by Laura Lee Gulledge:** Paige has recently moved to New York City from Virginia with her writer parents. In her sketchbook, Paige journals her inner feelings and struggles. Although she is a true artist, she is afraid to share her drawings with her new friends. Gulledge presents beautiful illustrations and visual metaphors.

**The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater:** The Scorpio Races take place every November on the island of Thisby, with wild horses that emerge from the sea and young men who risk their lives to ride them. This year, 17-year-old Puck Connolly plans to break tradition as the first girl to enter the race. This book is a wild mix of horror, action, fantasy, and romance.

#### 2013 Teen Nutmeg Nominees

**Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature by Robin Brande:** Mena's former friends torment her, and her parents are barely speaking to her, all because of the letter she wrote that enraged them all. Luckily, a new friend and an enthusiastic biology teacher help Mena develop different perspectives on science, religion, and doing what is "right."

**Matched by Ally Condie:** Cassia lives in a "perfect" society that controls all aspects of life. She has always trusted every decision that has been made for her by this society until she notices a mistake on the day of her Matching Banquet. Cassia then starts to question everything she always trusted and believed to be true.

**The Accidental Genius of Weasel High by Rick Detorie:** Larkin is a high school kid who deals with unrequited love, school bullies, and an annoying sibling in this often hysterically funny graphic novel.

**Rot & Ruin by Jonathan Maberry:** When Benny Imura had to get a job, he couldn't think of anything better than killing Zombies. He wishes he had a more exciting teacher than his boring older brother Tom, with whom he has lived since the rise of the Zombies. He would much rather learn from the famous Charlie Pink-Eye. But when Zombies attack his home, he and his brother unite on a mission that tackles good and evil, human vs. Zombie.

**Trash by Andy Mulligan:** Raphael, Gardo, and Rat are impoverished children who survive by scavenging items from the dump. One day, Raphael discovers some mysterious items that are wanted by the police. Gardo, his best friend, brings Rat into the picture to help hide their find, and they work together to try and solve the mystery. This is a classic story which shows the disparity between the "haves" and the "have nots" in society.

**The Grimm Legacy by Polly Shulman:** Elizabeth's paper on the history of fairy-tales leads to her new job as a page in the New York Circulating Material Repository, home to the secret Grimm Collection. The Repository stores and lends items such as tea sets, tools, and, straight from the Grimm Collection: the slippers of the 12 Dancing Princesses. Someone is stealing from the Repository and even worse, one of her friends goes missing. Elizabeth wonders whom she can trust as she tries to save her friend.

**Bruiser by Neal Shusterman:** Brewster "Bruiser" Rawlins is a reclusive loner, avoided because of his menacing reputation. That is why 16-year old lacrosse star, Tennyson, decides to stop his softhearted twin sister, Bronte, from dating him. As Tennyson and Bronte get to know Bruiser, they realize that Bruiser is hiding a mysterious and painful secret. What they learn changes their ideas about friendship, love, and the true meaning of sacrifice.

**After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick:** After a battle with leukemia, Jeffery is a survivor and looking forward to high school and life. However, the chemo treatments have left him struggling at school, and his school district has instituted a

new policy that might make it difficult to pass 8th grade. Will Jeff be able to attend high school as planned while also trying to help a new friend?

**The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen:** Jessica loves running; it defines her. But a devastating accident ends it all. Now, Jessica must find her way in a world where nothing is easy anymore. Can she make a comeback?

#### 2012 Teen Nutmeg Nominees

**The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins:** In the ruins of North America lies the nation of Panem, a capitol surrounded by twelve districts. Each year, the districts send one boy and one girl to participate in Hunger Games, a brutal fight to the death televised for Panem's entertainment. Sixteen-year-old Katniss steps in to take the place of her sister in the Hunger Games, hoping to survive the competition.

**I Am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I Want to Be Your Class President by Josh Lieb:** Running for seventh-grade class president looks easy to Oliver Watson. With his good looks, intelligence, and wealth, he can control his classmates, teachers, and parents. But can he control the outcome of an election?

**The Maze Runner by James Dashner:** Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up in an elevator with no memory except for his first name. He's arrived in "the glade," an area surrounded by stone walls that open to a maze every morning. With him in the glade are about 60 boys, all searching for an escape route. And then a girl appears with a message, and things begin to change.

**Ostrich Boys by Keith Gray:** After their best friend Ross dies, English teenagers Blake, Kenny, and Sim plan a proper memorial by taking his ashes to Ross, Scotland, an adventure-filled journey that tests their loyalty to each other and forces them to question what friendship means.

**Pop by Gordon Korman:** Quarterback Marcus Jordan has a big problem: his new school isn't interested in adding Marcus to their winning football team. Practicing in the park, Marcus meets a childlike 50-year-old by the name of Charlie with startling football abilities. Charlie's pranks and spotty memory have Marcus wondering what Charlie's story is.

**Princess of the Midnight Ball by Jessica Day George:** Galen, a soldier recently returned from the war, now works in the royal palace, where he meets 12 beautiful princesses. As innocent as the king's twelve daughters seem, they harbor a secret. Will Galen be the one to uncover what activity leaves their slippers in tatters, as if worn for years? Or will he, like the others, fail... and die for his trouble?

**The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon:** The year is 1968 and the Civil Rights Movement is in full swing in Chicago, Illinois. Teenager Sam Childs is caught between his father, who follows the non-violent path of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his older brother who has joined the Black Panther Party and its sometimes violent methods. Will Sam choose the rock or the river?

**Scat by Carl Hiaasen:** After mean Mrs. Starch goes missing during a class field trip to the Black Vine Swamp, two of her students, Nick and Marta, believe her disappearance is mysterious and that there is something strange about the note that she left behind. Can Nick and Marta solve the mystery of the missing teacher?

**Viola in Reel Life by Adriana Trigiani:** Aspiring filmmaker 14-year-old Viola is the child of devoted documentary filmmakers, but her parents' overseas assignment brings her to Prefect Academy, a boarding school for girls. Viola is sure that she'll hate Prefect, but she befriends her roommates, learning that she can flourish in a new environment.

#### 2011

1. *All of the Above*, by Shelley Pearsall
2. *Alphabet of Dreams*, by Susan Fletcher
3. *Chains*, by Laurie Halse Anderson
4. *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*, by E. Lockhart
5. *Home of the Brave*, by Katherine Applegate
6. *The Last Dragon*, by Silvana de Mari
7. *The London Eye Mystery*, by Siobhan Dowd
8. *Unwind*, by Neal Shusterman

9. *Waiting for Normal*, by Leslie Connors
10. *The Wednesday Wars*, by Gary D. Schmidt

Notice & Note <i>Signposts</i> Bookmark	Notice & Note <i>Signposts</i> Bookmark
Name _____ Book _____	<i>Record page numbers and brief responses to the signposts you see. Try to find two good examples for each signpost.</i>
<b><i>Signpost Descriptions</i></b>	
<b><i>Contrasts and Contradictions</i></b> When a character does something that contrasts with what you'd expect or contradicts his earlier acts or statements <b>STOP</b> and ask, "Why is the character doing that?"	<b><i>Contrasts and Contradictions</i></b>
<b><i>AHA Moment</i></b> When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something <b>STOP</b> and ask yourself, "How might this change things?"	<b><i>AHA Moment</i></b>
<b><i>Tough Questions</i></b> When a character asks him or herself a very difficult question, <b>STOP</b> and ask yourself, "What does this question make me wonder about?"	<b><i>Tough Questions</i></b>
<b><i>Words of the Wiser</i></b> When a character (probably older and wiser) takes the main character aside and offers serious advice, <b>STOP</b> and ask, "What's the point of the lesson and how might it affect the character?"	<b><i>Words of the Wiser</i></b>
<b><i>Again &amp; Again</i></b> When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over, <b>STOP</b> and ask yourself, "Why does this keep happening over and over again?"	<b><i>Again &amp; Again</i></b>
<b><i>Memory Moment</i></b> When an author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory, <b>STOP</b> and ask yourself, "Why or how might this memory be important?"	<b><i>Memory Moment</i></b>