

# Summer 2018 Reading Assignment

## for ALL Incoming HMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders

**Due: Friday, August 10**

By **August 10, 2018**, turn in the assignment to the HMS English teacher on your class schedule. Your assignment is late after August 10, and your grade will suffer accordingly.

**Assignment responses should be typed and printed out, using double-spacing with size 12 font in Times New Roman or Cambria style fonts. Type your name in the header.**

Students are encouraged to read many books this summer. There is a strong correlation between **reading regularly for pleasure** (any reading...really, ANY reading, as long as it's a habit) and **academic success**, including building vocabulary, an understanding of sentence structure, and an increase in stamina for reading harder texts. It is also clear that the more you read the better you write. So, this summer, don't stop reading. Try to read for **at least 30 minutes a day**.

**Choose just one of our two books options (*Countdown* or *Trinity*) to read this summer. Read it thoughtfully and reflect on it as you read. Then complete the following assignment.**

### ASSIGNMENT

- Compose a **letter** of 300-500 words **to the author** of *Countdown* or *Trinity*. Students who have the same answer or students who plagiarize will receive a zero for the assignment.
- Imagine sitting down with the author of this work and **sharing your personal thoughts about the book**. Your letter should be **personal and sincere**, more like a private conversation **rather than** a book report or a fan letter.
- Share **specific details** both about the book and about **your reaction to the book**. For instance, what did the book show you about your world that **you never noticed before**? What did you **realize about yourself** as a result of reading this book? **Why** was this work **meaningful** to you? How do you know the **author's work influenced you**?
- Keep in mind that this is a **reflective** writing and that means you need to think about what you read and the meaning you learned from the author's words.
- **Don't just compliment the author!** Your letter should **inform** rather than flatter the author. But, do be **positive** and **supportive** in your letter to the author.
- Do **not** summarize the book's plot! The author wrote the book and knows what happened. What the author **doesn't know** is how the book **affected you** and **why** it did so. Only YOU can explain that unique relationship you experienced while reading the book.
- **Support your personal reactions** or observations or lessons learned with **quotes** from the book.
- **Include at minimum 5** of these quotes as **text-based evidence** from the book.
- For each of your **5 quotes/TBE** from the book, be sure to include a **page number and paragraph number**.
- As you conclude your letter, include any **wonderings or questions** you were left with for the author to consider.
- Be sure you set up your writing as a **letter, with a date, a greeting, body paragraphs, and a closing with your signature**.

## Summer Reading 2018

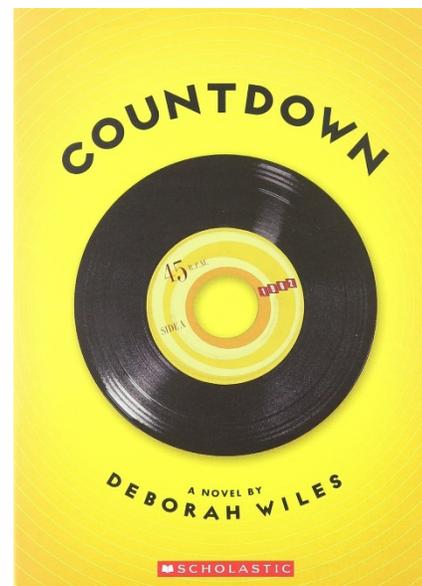
**Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders – Choose ONE of the following:**

### ***Countdown (Sixties Trilogy #1)* by Deborah Wiles**

Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. Her saintly younger brother is no help, and the cute boy across the street only complicates things. Worst of all, everyone is walking around just waiting for a bomb to fall.

It's 1962, and it seems that the whole country is living in fear. When President Kennedy goes on television to say that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba, it only gets worse. Franny doesn't know how to deal with what's going on in the world -- no more than she knows how to deal with what's going on with her family and friends. But somehow she's got to make it through.

Featuring a captivating story interspersed with footage from 1962, award-winning author Deborah Wiles has created a documentary novel that will put you right alongside Franny as she navigates a dangerous time in both her history and *our* history.



**OR**

### ***Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb***

*by Jonathan Fetter-Vorm*

*Trinity*, the debut graphic book by the gifted illustrator Jonathan Fetter-Vorm, depicts in vivid detail the dramatic history of the race to build and the decision to drop the first atomic bomb. This sweeping historical narrative traces the spark of invention from the laboratories of nineteenth-century Europe to the massive industrial and scientific efforts of the Manhattan Project. Along the way, Fetter-Vorm takes special care to explain the fundamental science of nuclear reactions. With the clarity and accessibility that only a graphic book can provide, *Trinity* transports the reader into the core of a nuclear reaction—into the splitting atoms themselves.

