

Vance ELA Summer Reading Choices 2017

Students in grade 7 will choose **ONE** novel from the list to read over the summer and complete **ONE** of the assignment options by the first Friday of the semester.

***Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos**

Melding the entirely true and the wildly fictional, *Dead End in Norvelt* is a novel about an incredible two months for a kid named Jack Gantos, whose plans for vacation excitement are shot down when he is "grounded for life" by his feuding parents, and whose nose spews bad blood at every little shock he gets. But plenty of excitement (and shocks) are coming Jack's way once his mom loans him out to help a feisty old neighbor with a most unusual chore—typewriting obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town. As one obituary leads to another, Jack is launched on a strange adventure involving molten wax, Eleanor Roosevelt, twisted promises, a homemade airplane, Girl Scout cookies, a man on a trike, a dancing plague, voices from the past, Hells Angels . . . and possibly murder.

***The Giver* by Lois Lowry**

The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. Lois Lowry has written three companion novels to *The Giver*, including *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger*, and *Son*.

***Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff**

When Hollis is sent to Josie, an elderly artist who is quirky and affectionate, she wants to stay. But Josie is growing more forgetful every day. If Social Services finds out, they'll take Hollis away and move Josie into a home. Well, Hollis Woods won't let anyone separate them. She's escaped the system before; this time, she's taking Josie with her. Still, even as she plans her future with Josie, Hollis dreams of the past summer with the Regans, fixing each special moment of her days with them in pictures she'll never forget.

***Seraphina and the Black Cloak* by Robert Beatty**

A brave and unusual girl named Serafina lives secretly in the basement of the grand **Biltmore Estate** amidst the splendor of the Gilded Age. Serafina's pa, the estate's maintenance man, has warned her to keep herself hidden from the fancy folk who live on the floors above, but when children at the estate start disappearing, Serafina and her friend Braeden Vanderbilt must work together to solve a dark and dangerous mystery.

***All novel descriptions are from Amazon.**

Summer Reading Assignment Options 7th grade

Option 1: Independent Reading Project Book Soundtrack

You will be required to prepare a soundtrack for the novel you have chosen to read. Like music used in movie and musical soundtracks, the songs that you select will need to relate to significant elements in the novel. Include the following with your project: a CD with the songs (if possible) and a CD jacket including illustrations.

1. You will need to pick five different songs, one pertaining to each of the following:

- a. A particular character
- b. The relationship between two or more characters
- c. The prominent theme in the novel (remember a theme is a life message)
- d. The tone of a specific passage.
- e. The setting of the novel in general or at a specific point

2. Write a 3-5 sentence response/explanation for each choice. Each response/explanation needs to be clearly labeled as to which of the five elements it is covering. Each response must also have at least one significant quote from your novel (with page number!) connected to at least one lyric line from the song.

Remember: * SONGS MUST BE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE!

Option 2: Original Movie Trailer

If you think the book you just read would make a great movie, create a movie trailer to sell it to a larger audience. Use technology to create a movie trailer (1-3 minutes) that highlights the theme of the novel, and the pivotal moments when characters made specific choices that changed the outcome of the work. Use Animoto or a similar online tool, or the Movie option on iMovie. Make sure there is music and the trailer appropriately matches the book you are basing it on. Include at least one significant quote to add to the trailer.

See an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-PZnRlqa8c>

Option 3: Character Autopsy

Directions: For each body part listed, you are to artistically and symbolically represent the protagonist from your summer reading novel. For example, a hard-hearted or stubborn character may have a heart made out of stone. On a separate sheet of paper, for each body part, give a quotation supporting your illustration and explain that illustration and quote/metaphor.

Body Parts:

- The heart should represent what this character loves most. Decide what it should look like (whole, broken, "hardened," etc.). Write a quote next to it from the text and explain why it is drawn that way or why he loves this person/thing/idea.
- The backbone should convey what motivates the character most. Think about ways to show why your character does what he or she does. Write a quote next to it from the text and explain why it shows what motivates him.
- The head represents his dreams, philosophy or vision. Support this with a quote(s) from the text.
- The mouth represents the character's point of view. It could be the characters use of irony, understatement, satire, or sarcasm. Support this with a quote(s) from the text.

- The hands should be holding literal (real) or figurative (symbolic) items associated with the character.
- The hands should be the conflict with which the character must deal. Please support with a quote and explanation from the text.
- The legs represent the actions of the character in the text. You may paraphrase here, but cite the page number(s) from the text.
- The feet should be a symbolic representation of the character's most fundamental beliefs about life. Explain what is most important to them based on a quote(s) and why.

The background should include elements that suggest the novel's theme or central idea

Vance 8th Grade ELA Summer Reading Choices 2017

Students in grade 8 will choose **one** novel from the list to read over the summer and complete **one** of the assignment options by the first Friday of the semester.

***Transall Saga* by Gary Paulsen**

Mark's solo camping trip in the desert turns into a terrifying and thrilling odyssey when a mysterious beam of light transports him to another time on what appears to be another planet. As Mark searches for a pathway back to his own time on Earth, he must make a new life in a new world. His encounters with primitive tribes bring the joy of human bonds, but violence and war as well--and, finally, a contest in which he discovers his own startling powers.

***Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry**

Lois Lowry won her first Newbery Medal in 1994 for *The Giver*. Six years later, she ushered readers back into its mysterious but plausible future world in *Gathering Blue* to tell the story of Kira, orphaned, physically flawed, and left with an uncertain future. Lois Lowry challenges readers to imagine what our world could become, how people could evolve, and what could be considered valuable.

***Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko**

Today I moved to a twelve-acre rock covered with cement, topped with bird turd and surrounded by water. I'm not the only kid who lives here. There's my sister, Natalie, except she doesn't count. And there are twenty-three other kids who live on the island because their dads work as guards or cooks or doctors or electricians for the prison, like my dad does. Plus, there are a ton of murderers, rapists, hit men, con men, stickup men, embezzlers, connivers, burglars, kidnappers and maybe even an innocent man or two, though I doubt it. The convicts we have are the kind other prisons don't want. I never knew prisons could be picky, but I guess they can. You get to Alcatraz by being the worst of the worst. Unless you're me. I came here because my mother said I had to.

***Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick**

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 formidable human force. (Made into the film, *The Mighty*.)

***A Day No Pigs Would Die* by Robert Peck**

Originally published in hardcover in 1972, *A Day No Pigs Would Die* was one of the first young adult books. In it, author Robert Newton Peck weaves a story of a Vermont boyhood that is part fiction, part memoir. The result is a moving coming-of-age story that still resonates with teens today.

***Running Out of Time* by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

Jessie lives with her family in the frontier village of Clifton, Indiana, in 1840 -- or so she believes. When diphtheria strikes the village and the children of Clifton start dying, Jessie's mother reveals a shocking secret -- it's actually 1996, and they are living in a reconstructed village that serves as a tourist site. In the world outside, medicine exists that can cure the dread disease, and Jessie's mother is sending her on a dangerous mission to bring back help. But beyond the walls of Clifton, Jessie discovers a world even more alien and threatening than she could have imagined, and soon she finds her own life in jeopardy. Can she get help before the children of Clifton, and Jessie herself, run out of time?

***All novel descriptions are from Amazon.**

Summer Reading Assignment Options 8th grade

Option 1: Independent Reading Project Book Soundtrack

You will be required to prepare a soundtrack for the novel you have chosen to read. Like music used in movie and musical soundtracks, the songs that you select will need to relate to significant elements in the novel. Include the following with your project: a CD with the songs (if possible) and a CD jacket including illustrations.

1. You will need to pick five different songs, one pertaining to each of the following:

- a. A particular character
- b. The relationship between two or more characters
- c. The prominent theme in the novel (remember a theme is a life message)
- d. The tone of a specific passage.
- e. The setting of the novel in general or at a specific point

2. Write a 3-5 sentence response/explanation for each choice. Each response/explanation needs to be clearly labeled as to which of the five elements it is covering. Each response must also have at least one significant quote from your novel (with page number!) connected to at least one lyric line from the song.

Remember: * SONGS MUST BE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE!

Option 2: Original Movie Trailer

If you think the book you just read would make a great movie, create a movie trailer to sell it to a larger audience. Use technology to create a movie trailer (1-3 minutes) that highlights the theme of the novel, and the pivotal moments when characters made specific choices that changed the outcome of the work. Use Animoto or a similar online tool, or the Movie option on iMovie. Make sure there is music and the trailer appropriately matches the book you are basing it on. Include at least one significant quote to add to the trailer.

See an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-PZnRlqa8c>

Option 3: Infographic

Using an infographic template like easl.ly or piktochart to create a diagram, timeline, or other graphic for the novel you chose. Your graphic can chart how a favorite character changes throughout the story, how major events contribute to the theme of the novel, or how the author structures the text to create mystery, tension, or surprise. You must have at least 7 different points, and each must correspond to a quote from the novel. (include page number)

Option 4: Thematic Poster:

Create a poster that demonstrates your ability to articulate the THEME of your novel. What is the author saying about life, humanity, the world? Each poster should contain:

- a. A title that clearly states the THEME (e.g. Humans are Beautiful or Humans are Brutal)
- b. Three examples from your novel (excerpts from the text, quotes from the text along with an appropriate image or illustration) and two examples (visuals, graphics) from the real world supporting the theme.
- c. one to two paragraphs of explanation for each example. This should explain why these examples from the book and the real world show that humans are more beautiful or brutal.
- d. At least five quality images: hand-drawn, cut from a magazine, or found electronically (think carefully about what a quality image is before choosing one for your poster)

Option 5: Character Autopsy

Directions: For each body part listed, you are to artistically and symbolically represent the protagonist from your summer reading novel. For example, a hard-hearted or stubborn character may have a heart made out of stone. On a separate sheet of paper, for each body part, give a quotation supporting your illustration and explain that illustration and quote/metaphor.

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- The head represents his dreams, philosophy or vision. Support this with a quote(s) from the text.
- The mouth represents the character’s point of view. It could be the characters use of irony, understatement, satire, or sarcasm. Support this with a quote(s) from the text.
- The hands should be holding literal (real) or figurative (symbolic) items associated with the character.
- The hands should be the conflict with which the character must deal. Please support with a quote and explanation from the text.
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- The background should include elements that suggest the novel’s theme or central idea

Option 6: Twitter feed for a major character

Make a timeline of major events in the novel that you read. Be sure the timeline of your newsfeed reflects the time period of your plot in the novel that you read. This must look like an actual Twitter newsfeed AND cover the entire plot of your novel. You may use [Fake Twitter Template](#) to create your timeline or you can create them using another source. For this assignment, you should include the following:

- **At least 20** tweets in text form
- **At least 10** picture or image posts with captions
- Interactions between your character and others
- A profile picture
- A cover image that states the theme of the work