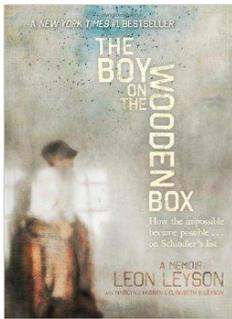


7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Students and Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for taking the time out of your summer to complete the following assignment. We look forward to seeing the results of all your hard work. The following is the Summer Reading list and assignment for fall 2015.

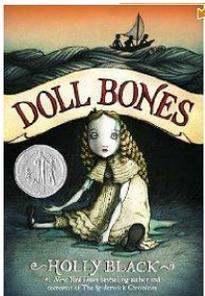
Choose two books to read from the list below, and complete the activities below (one for each book). These books were selected from historical fiction that will align with social studies content and from the Kentucky Bluegrass Award Master List for 2015 as well as a few classics. The KBA list is generated by Kentucky students who vote for most popular books of the year. Projects will be presented during the 1st/2nd weeks of school. In addition, you will be responsible for keeping a reading log throughout the summer (sent home with the students on May 21) to be turned in as admission to the Summer Reading Celebration on August 10. Enjoy and Happy Reading!



The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible . . . on Schindler's List by Leon Leyson

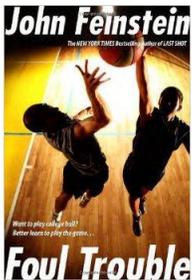
Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. With incredible luck, perseverance, and grit, Leyson was able to survive the sadism of the Nazis, including that of the demonic Amon Goeth, commandant of Plaszow, the concentration camp outside Krakow. Ultimately, it was the generosity and cunning of one man, a man named Oskar Schindler, who saved Leon Leyson's life, and the lives of his mother, his father, and two of his four siblings, by adding their names to his list of workers in his factory—a list that became world renowned: Schindler's List. This, the only memoir published by a former Schindler's List child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Most notable is the lack of rancor, the lack of venom, and the abundance of dignity

in Mr. Leyson's telling. *The Boy on the Wooden Box* is a legacy of hope, a memoir unlike anything you've ever read.



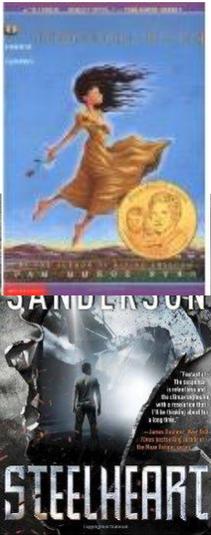
Doll Bones by Holly Black and Eliza Wheeler Winner of a 2014 Newbery Honor Medal.

Zach, Poppy, and Alice have been friends forever. And for almost as long, they've been playing one continuous, ever-changing game of pirates and thieves, mermaids and warriors. Ruling over all is the Great Queen, a bone-china doll cursing those who displease her. But they are in middle school now. Zach's father pushes him to give up make-believe, and Zach quits the game. Their friendship might be over, until Poppy declares she's been having dreams about the Queen— and the ghost of a girl who will not rest until the bone-china doll is buried in her empty grave. Zach and Alice and Poppy set off on one last adventure to lay the Queen's ghost to rest. But nothing goes according to plan, and as their adventure turns into an epic journey, creepy things begin to happen. Is the doll just a doll or something more sinister? And if there really is a ghost, will it let them go now that it has them in its clutches?



Foul Trouble by John Feinstein

Terrell Jamerson is the #1 high school basketball player in the country. His team is poised to win State, top colleges are lining up to give him scholarships, and everyone says he could play in the NBA tomorrow. But it only takes one false step to lose everything. Danny Wilcox is Terrell's best friend and teammate, and a top prospect himself, but these days it seems like everyone wants to get close to Terrell: the sneaker guys, the money managers, the college boosters. They show up offering fast cars, hot girls, and cold, hard cash. They say they just want to help, but their kind of help could get Terrell disqualified. Danny and Terrell better keep their eyes on the ball if they hope to last the season.

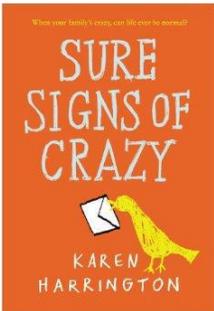


ESPERANZA RISING by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

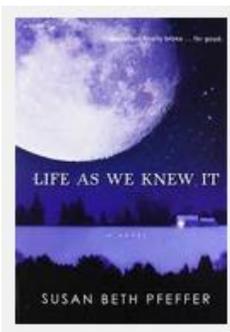
Steelheart (The Reckoners) by Brandon Sanderson

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Words of Radiance, coauthor of Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* series, and creator of the internationally bestselling Mistborn Trilogy, Brandon Sanderson presents Steelheart, the first book in the Reckoners series, an action-packed thrill ride that will leave readers breathless. How far would you go for revenge if someone killed your father? If someone destroyed your city? If everything you ever loved was taken from you? David Charleston will go to any lengths to stop Steelheart. But to exact revenge in Steelheart's world, David will need the Reckoners—a shadowy group of rebels bent on maintaining justice. And it turns out that the Reckoners might just need David too. (Parent Note: reviewed on commonsensemedia.org as having a few instances of cursing, rated age 12)



Sure Signs of Crazy by Karen Harrington

Love can be a trouble word for some people. Crazy is also a trouble word. I should know. You've never met anyone exactly like twelve-year-old Sarah Nelson. While most of her friends obsess over Harry Potter, she spends her time writing letters to Atticus Finch. She collects trouble words in her diary. Her best friend is a plant. And she's never known her mother, who left when Sarah was two. Since then, Sarah and her dad have moved from one small Texas town to another, and not one has felt like home. Everything changes when Sarah launches an investigation into her family's Big Secret. She makes unexpected new friends and has her first real crush, and instead of a "typical boring Sarah Nelson summer," this one might just turn out to be extraordinary. (Parent Note: reviewed on commonsensemedia.org as having some mature content)

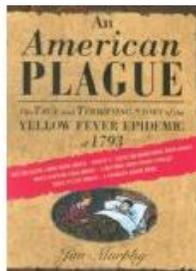


Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

I guess I always felt even if the world came to an end, McDonald's still would be open.

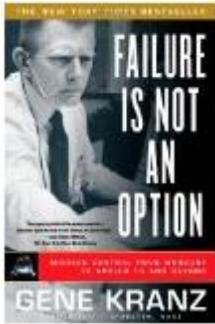
High school sophomore Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth, like "one marble hits another." The result is catastrophic. How can her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis are wiping out the coasts, earthquakes are rocking the continents, and volcanic ash is blocking out the sun? As August turns dark and wintery in northeastern Pennsylvania, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove. Told in a year's worth of journal entries, this heart-pounding story chronicles Miranda's struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all—hope—in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world. An extraordinary series debut! Susan Beth Pfeffer has written three companion novels to *Life As We Knew It*, including *The Dead and the Gone*, *This*

World We Live In, and *The Shade of the Moon*.



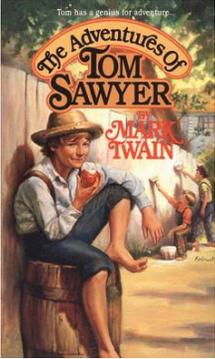
AN AMERICAN PLAGUE by Jim Murphy

Booklist says the following of this Newbery Honor Book: "History, science, politics, and public health come together in this dramatic account of the disastrous yellow fever epidemic that hit the nation's capital more than 200 years ago. Drawing on firsthand accounts . . . with archival prints, photos, contemporary newspaper facsimiles that include lists of the dead, and full, chatty source notes, he tells of those who fled and those who stayed -- among them, the heroic group of free blacks who nursed the ill and were later vilified for their work." Could such an epidemic happen today?



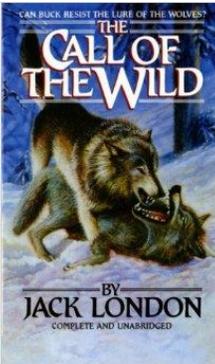
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION by Gene Kranz

This memoir of a veteran NASA flight director tells riveting stories from the early days of the Mercury program through Apollo 11 (the moon landing) and Apollo 13, for both of which Kranz was flight director. Gene Kranz was present at the creation of America's manned space program and was a key player in it for three decades. As a flight director in NASA's Mission Control, Kranz witnessed firsthand the making of history. He participated in the space program from the early days of the Mercury program to the last Apollo mission, and beyond. He endured the disastrous first years when rockets blew up and the United States seemed to fall further behind the Soviet Union in the space race. He helped to launch Alan Shepard and John Glenn, then assumed the flight director's role in the Gemini program, which he guided to fruition. With his teammates, he accepted the challenge to carry out President John F. Kennedy's commitment to land a man on the Moon before the end of the 1960s.



The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Enjoy the story of Tom Sawyer as a mischievous young boy carries on under the watchful eye of his Aunt Polly. Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer is one part trickster, one escape artist and one part very lucky fellow! The Adventures of Tom Sawyer takes the reader along on a series of entertaining adventures and pranks while Tom's youthful romance with his sweetheart Becky Thatcher blooms in the background. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is one of Mark Twain's most beloved works.



The Call of the Wild by Jack London

The Call of the Wild is one of Jack London's most popular novels. The story follows a dog named Buck, a 140lb Saint Bernard and Scotch Shepard mix. Buck is abducted from a comfortable life as a pet and tossed into the chaos of the Klondike Gold Rush and the brutal realities of frontier life. Buck changes hands a number of times before landing in the kindly hands of John Thornton.

Assignment #1: (Book #1—complete ONE from the list below for your book)

1. Write a script of your favorite scene from your book and act it out with costumes and props (you can make a short video and have your friends be characters if you do not want to do a skit by yourself in class).
2. Create a 20 question test for the book you read and make an answer key-will be turned in to teacher.
3. Create a comic book for the book you read that is at least 5 pages long. Be sure to include text as well—should be done digitally.
4. Draw, paint, digitally create a picture of your favorite scene in the book and write a five stanza (review what makes a stanza) poem about your picture.
5. Write a series of five letters to a character in your book as if you were their friend and were another character in the book. Be sure to address main plot and character developments.
6. Make a PowerPoint or Prezi about your book that highlights all plot structure elements (hint—there are several elements to the plot structure so you will want to look these up).
7. Create an interview of 15 questions you would like to ask the author of your book AND write a letter to the author addressing your questions.
8. Make a newspaper that contains articles of main events in your book (include various sections: e.g., opinions, news stories, etc.) Include pictures, heading, bylines—additions like advertisements are a plus!
9. Write a song about your book, include music and dancing—be creative (Just “Let it Go!!)

Assignment #2: (Book #2) Vocabulary list.

Create a list of 15 words from the novel that are new to you or you are unsure of the meaning as it is used in the book. You can use the attached worksheet to write down the vocabulary terms or develop your own. Your list needs to have:

- The word
- The page number where the word can be found
- The sentence the word was used in (in the book). Place the book sentence in quotes.
- What you think the word means based on context clues
- The dictionary definition of word

You can create a chart like the example below or something similar.

Word & pg. #	Sentence from Book	What you think the word means based on context.	Dictionary definition