

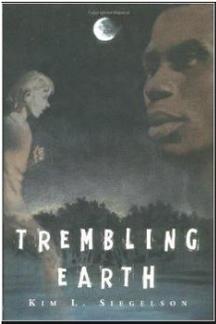
## 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

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.

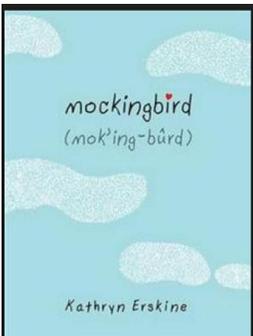
Choose two books to read from the list below, and complete the corresponding projects from the lists provided. Projects will be presented during the 1st/2nd weeks of school. In addition, you will be responsible for keeping a reading log (sent home with students on May 21) throughout the summer to be turned in as admission to the Summer Reading Celebration on August 10. Enjoy and Happy Reading!!

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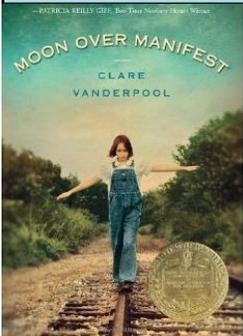
### Trembling Earth by Kim Siegelson

Hamp doesn't much care who wins the War Between the States. Out in the swamp they live by their own rules, and no one he knows is rich enough to own slaves anyhow. He hates the Union army for taking his Pap's leg though &150 and not only his leg, but a big chunk of his soul. Pap used to take Hamp hunting all the time, but now he just sits on the porch and cries. So when Hamp hears about a no-good runaway slave boy named Duff who killed his own master and is now on the loose in the swamp, he figures that bounty is his by rights &150 someone has to provide for the family now that Pap can't. But when he finally does meet up with Duff, Hamp gradually begins to realize that right and wrong might not be as black and white as he thought they were.



### Mockingbird: Mok'ing-burd by Kathryn Erskine

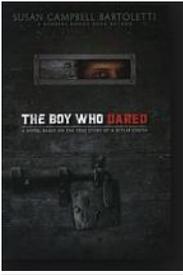
Caitlin has Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon has died, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way things were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word closure— and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be black and white after all.



### Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool

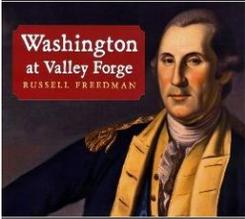
Abilene Tucker feels abandoned. Her father has put her on a train, sending her off to live with an old friend for the summer while he works a railroad job. Armed only with a few possessions and her list of universals, Abilene jumps off the train in Manifest, Kansas, aiming to learn about the boy her father once was. Having heard stories about Manifest, Abilene is disappointed to find that it's just a dried-up, worn-out old town. But her disappointment quickly turns to excitement when she discovers a hidden cigar box full of mementos, including some old letters that mention a spy known as the Rattler. These mysterious letters send Abilene and her new friends, Lettie and Ruthanne, on an honest-to-goodness spy hunt, even though they are warned to "Leave Well Enough Alone." Abilene throws all caution aside when she heads down the mysterious Path to Perdition to pay a debt to the reclusive Miss Sadie, a diviner who only tells stories from the past. It seems that

Manifest's history is full of colorful and shadowy characters—and long-held secrets. The more Abilene hears, the more determined she is to learn just what role her father played in that history. And as Manifest's secrets are laid bare one by one, Abilene begins to weave her own story into the fabric of the town.



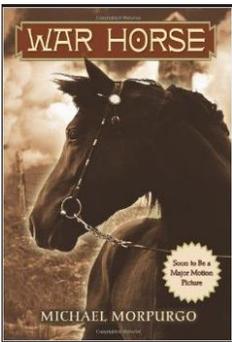
### The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Bartoletti has taken one episode from her Newbery Honor Book, *HITLER YOUTH*, and fleshed it out into thought-provoking novel. When 16-year-old Helmuth Hubner listens to the BBC news on an illegal short-wave radio, he quickly discovers Germany is lying to the people. But when he tries to expose the truth with leaflets, he's tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmuth's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.



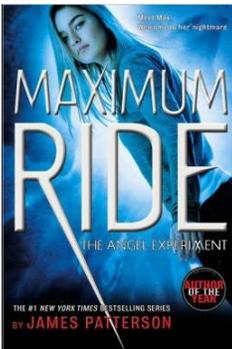
### Washington at Valley Forge by Russell Freedman

George Washington's army almost perished during the winter of 1777-78. Camped at Valley Forge, about twenty miles from Philadelphia, the revolutionaries' endured severe hardship because the army's supply system had collapsed and they were without food, clothing, and blankets. The army was at its most vulnerable; but when the harsh winter drew to a close, the soldiers had survived, and marched away from Valley Forge more determined than ever. The British were defeated in 1783, and Washington, for the rest of his life, said that the credit for the American victory belonged to the soldiers who had braved the horrific conditions at Valley Forge.



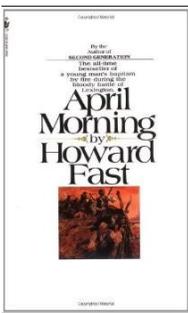
### War Horse, by Michael Morpurgo

Joey is a warhorse, but he wasn't always. Once, he was a farm horse and a gentle boy named Albert was his master. Then World War I came storming through and everything changed. Albert's father sells Joey to the army where the beautiful, red-bay horse is trained to charge the enemy, drag heavy artillery, and carry wounded soldiers not much older than Albert off of battlefields. Amongst the clamoring of guns and slogging through the cold mud, Joey wonders if the war will ever end. And if it does, will he ever find Albert again?



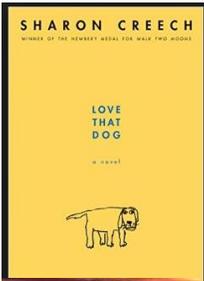
### The Maximum Ride Series: The Angel Experiment by James Patterson

Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock"--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel--are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time...like when Angel, the youngest member of the flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the "School" where she and the others were experimented on by a crew of wack jobs. Her friends brave a journey to blazing hot Death Valley, CA, to save Angel, but soon enough, they find themselves in yet another nightmare--this one involving fighting off the half human, half-wolf "Erasers" in New York City. Whether in the treetops of Central Park or in the bowels of the Manhattan subway system, Max and her adopted family take the ride of their lives. Along the way Max discovers from her old friend and father-figure Jeb--now her betrayed and greatest enemy--that her purpose is save the world--but can she?



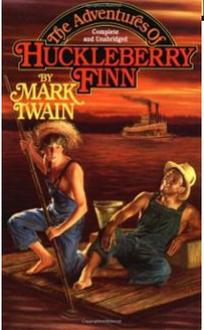
### April Morning by Howard Fast

When you read this novel about April 19, 1775, you will see the British redcoats marching in a solid column through your town. Your hands will be sweating and you will shake a little as you grip your musket because never have you shot with the aim of killing a man. But you will shoot, and shoot again and again while your shoulder aches from your musket's kick and the tight, disciplined red column bleeds and wavers and breaks and you begin to shout at the top of your lungs because you are there, at the birth of freedom&...you're a veteran of the Battle of Lexington, and you've helped whip the King's best soldiers...



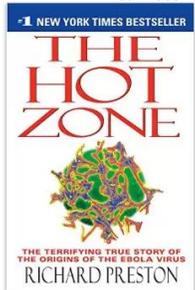
### Love that Dog by Sharron Creech

*Love That Dog* is the story of Jack, his dog, his teacher, and words. The story develops through Jack's responses to his teacher, Miss Stretchberry, over the course of a school year. At first, his responses are short and cranky: "I don't want to" and "I tried. Can't do it. Brain's empty." But as his teacher feeds him inspiration, Jack finds that he has a lot to say and he finds ways to say it. Jack becomes especially fond of a poem by Walter Dean Myers titled "Love That Boy," and it is this poem that gives Jack a way to tell the story of his beloved dog, Sky.



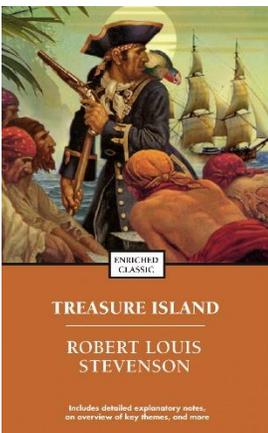
### The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Widely considered one of the greatest American novels ever written *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* follow on Mark Twain's earlier novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. This book inspired controversy with its rich local color and often scathing examinations of racism. The story of *Huckleberry Finn* abounds with enduring lessons and images and is one of Mark Twain's greatest novels.



### The Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus by Richard Preston

A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure. In a few days 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus. *The Hot Zone* tells this dramatic story, giving a hair-raising account of the appearance of rare and lethal viruses and their "crashes" into the human race. Shocking, frightening, and impossible to ignore, *The Hot Zone* proves that truth really is scarier than fiction.



### Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* is a rollicking tale of buccaneers, buried treasures, and adventure on the high seas--a legacy that inspired modern movies like the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series. It's the story of Jim Hawkins, the young son of the owners of the Admiral Benbow Inn. An old drunken seaman named Billy Bones arrives and becomes a long-term boarder at the inn, clearly in hiding. Bones confesses that he was once the mate of a notorious late pirate, Captain Flint, and that his old crew mates want Bones' sea chest. The pirates attack the inn to retrieve the chest, Jim makes off with a mysterious oil-skin pouch from the chest, which he shows to Dr. Livesey. He, Squire Trelawney and Jim Hawkins commission a sailing vessel to sail the high seas, armed with a detailed map of an island with the location of Flint's buried treasure. High sea adventures earn Jim his sea legs, and then some.

## **8th Grade Summer Reading Activities**

### **Assignment #1 Choose one book (Book #1) from the list.**

After reading your book, respond to all five topics (character, conflict, quotation, reaction, association). Each response should use appropriate writing style (correct spelling, grammar, punctuation) and be at least five sentences long. See additional guidelines and examples below.

1. Character- Identify the major characters and explain how they communicate the meaning of the book. You might include: descriptions of major characters; an explanation of the relationships among the characters; the ways in which the author connects readers to characters.

2. Conflict- Identify and explain major conflicts in the book. You might include: the problems, challenges, questions or dilemmas the characters face; the morals, values and judgments that make a character's decision-making difficult.

3. Quotation – Select and write about an important quote. To explain the quote's importance, you might include information about: who is speaking to whom; what the quote refers to in the story; how the quote is connected to the “big” meaning for the book. In other words, tell why the quote is “important.”

4. Reaction – Describe your reaction to the book. A reaction might include: what thoughts or feelings you had about the book when you first started reading it; whether or not the book grabbed your attention right away or was “hard to get into;” how your thoughts changed as you read the book; whether you felt as though you never wanted the book to end or whether it seemed to do on and on; which ways, if any, the book made you think about life in a new way.

5. Association – Describe the ways in which the book can be connected to the thoughts or experiences of others. Details might include: ways in which the book reminds you of other people, places or events; similarities to other books you've read; connections you make the book and a movie.

**Example: *Character topic***

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

**Character:**

Jean Louise Finch (AKA Scout)- narrator of the story and daughter of the town's most honorable citizen. Though very young, Scout learns about prejudice, fairness, and the value of her father's good reputation.

Jeremy Finch (AKA Jem)- Scout's older brother, quiet and thoughtful, wanting to live up to the high standards set by his father.

Atticus Finch- widowed father of Scout and Jem, a very honest lawyer in a small town in 1930s Alabama. Tries to teach his children to be fair and live by high standards no matter what anyone else says or does.

Calpurnia- housekeeper for the Finch family. Since their mother died, Calpurnia offers the "feminine touch"

**Example: *Conflict topic***

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

**Conflict:**

Discrimination and prejudice- When Tom Robinson is accused of rape, the town pretty much believes that he is guilty. This is due to the fact that he is black and most of the townspeople are white. It is pretty clear that Tom will not get a fair trial in the town. Atticus tries to break against this prejudice by taking on the job of defense attorney. This causes more conflict for Jem and Scout because the kids at school call Atticus names for representing Tom Robinson. Jem gets into fights trying to defend Atticus.

Loss of innocence- Jem and Scout lose some of their innocence with all the events of Tom's trial, but it is made up by the new respect they have for Atticus never giving into the hate of the townspeople or letting them bother Boo Radley.

**Example: *Quotation topic***

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

**Quotation:** “There is one way in this country in which all men are created equal- there is one human institution that makes a pauper that equal of a Rockefeller, the stupid man the equal of an Einstein, and the ignorant man the equal of any college president. That institution...is the court.”

This quote is said by Atticus to the jury near the end of Tom Robinson’s trial. It shows what Atticus really believes- that everyone deserves justice no matter if they are rich, poor, black, white, educated or not. Atticus tried to get the jury to understand the need to be fair and see the truth that he had uncovered. Atticus really lived this in all he did for people, not just by being a lawyer in court. He treated people fairly and with respect, which earned the respect of most of the people in town. Some people, however, would never understand that lesson because of their own prejudice (like Bob Ewell).

**Example: *Reaction topic***

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

**Reaction:** After Atticus showed all the ways that it was wrong to blame Tom for the rape and beating of Mayella, after he made it clear that Tom could not have committed that crime, and the amazing speech Atticus gave, I could not believe the jury decided Tom was guilty. I was angry and shocked. But it got even more unbelievable when it was announced that Tom was dead from trying to escape from jail. I had a hard time understanding the language in the book at the beginning because of the funny way of writing, but I couldn’t put the book down once Atticus agreed to represent Tom in court. I really loved this book!

**Example : *Association topic***

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

**Association:** In a way, this book reminded me of The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd, because there are characters who are treated very badly for no good reason- Tom Robinson and Boo Radley and Lily is abused by her father in Bees. That convinces her to run away to try to find her mother. Tom and Boo could not run away, so that is not the same. Both books have a huge part that takes place in the South. That is not the only connection, though. I don’t understand why people can’t treat other people with respect and see them as they really are instead of seeing them through foolish prejudices. I guess that’s what makes for a good book, though- since if it was all “happily ever after” I might get bored.

**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 example below 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 |
|--------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
|              |                    |   |                       |