

Butler Middle School
English Summer Reading Assignment
FOR ALL 8TH GRADE STUDENTS/ DUE FALL 2018

Congratulations on making it through the 7th grade! Now that you are about to embark on your journey as an 8th grader, your soon-to-be English teachers want to make sure that you are prepared for the expectations of reading novels throughout the year.

Summer should not mean taking a break from learning, especially reading. Studies show that most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months, but those who continue to read *actually gain* reading skills. Students should make an effort to sustain reading skills, practice reading, and reading for enjoyment even though school is not in session (*LD Online* Newsletter).

To begin on the right foot of 8th grade, it is highly suggested that you read the following. There will be an assignment on the first two days of school, so be sure to follow the directions below.

Students will be held accountable for the book through the following:

1. Completion of the attached Graphic Organizer (attached to the back) while reading which will be used as a source material/notes for a
2. Timed-Essay Test within the first two days of school.

NOTE: The selected novel(s) may be either checked out from the public library or purchased from a local bookstore or online. Students **MUST** have the selected novel(s) finished by the first day of school.

If you are going to be in Honors next year, you will need to read **TWO** novels. If you will be in On-Level, then you will read the **REQUIRED** novel.

8th grade required reading: ALL STUDENTS must read the following novel:

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* Lexile:1010

What's the truth behind the legend of the hound of the Baskervilles? Is it really a devil-beast that's haunting the lonely moors? Enter Sherlock Holmes to find the answer, in this, the only full-length novel by the creator of one of the most popular and enduring detective series ever written.

8th Grade Optional Books:

8th Grade **HONORS** must choose **ONE** of the following:

Bradbury, Ray. *The Martian Chronicles* Lexile: 740

In this science fiction classic, the first Earth people to attempt the colonization of Mars try to build their new world in the image of the civilization they left behind.

London, Jack. *White Fang* Lexile: 890

In the desolate, frozen wilds of northwest Canada, a wolf cub soon finds himself the sole survivor of his litter. Son of Kiche--half-wolf, half-dog--and the aging wolf One Eye, he is thrust into a savage world where each day becomes a fight to stay alive. This adventure set in the wild Yukon about a wild dog who learns to live with humans is not to be missed.

Orczy, Baroness. *The Scarlet Pimpernel* Lexile: 1140

In the late 18th century, France was in the throes of the French Revolution. Of particular tumult during this conflict were the years known as the "Reign of Terror", a time in which a revolutionary tribunal executed thousands of French citizens. It is during the "Reign of Terror" in which Baroness Emmuska Orczy's "The Scarlet Pimpernel" is set. "The Scarlet Pimpernel" is the story of Sir Percy Blakeney, a chivalrous Englishman married to the beautiful French actress, Marguerite St. Just, with whom he pretends to be a slow-witted dandy. However this is but a ruse to hide his true identity as the Scarlet Pimpernel, who with his "League of the Scarlet Pimpernel", a secret society of English aristocrats, rescue French royalists before they can be marched atop the guillotine. Drawing his nickname from the small red flower he draws on his messages, the Scarlet Pimpernel is chased by the relentless French agent Citizen Armand Chauvelin as he tries to intervene in the madness of the "Reign of Terror".

Steinbeck, John. *The Pearl* Lexile: 1000

Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds that once brought great wealth to the Kings of Spain and now provide Kino, Juana, and their infant son with meager subsistence. Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security . . . A story of classic simplicity, based on a Mexican folktale, *The Pearl* explores the secrets of man's nature, the darkest depths of evil, and the luminous possibilities of love.