

The Calverton School

Middle School 2021 - 2022 Summer Reading Rising Grade 8 English

The books listed below are required but are not provided by the school. If you cannot find these books in your local bookstore, I have found new and used copies through internet shops (links and descriptions of books at the end of this document).

Follow the guidelines below. PLEASE feel free to contact me if you get stuck, have questions, or need help: sdempsey@calvertonschool.org

1) Please read **ONE novel** from this list and **KEEP A READER'S JOURNAL**.

Novel Study

- *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
- *Call of the Wild*, Jack London **CHOOSE 1**
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, John Boyne

2) Please read **ONE non-fiction** work from this list and **KEEP A READER'S JOURNAL**.

Non-Fiction Works

- *Farewell to Manzanar*, W. Houston
- *Hiroshima*, John Hersey **CHOOSE 1**
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou

3) **IXL LANGUAGE ARTS**

- Log into your IXL account for **GRADE 7 (DO NOT COMPLETE ANY WORK IN GRADE 8)**
- You can choose those skills in which you need the most practice.
- **DO NOT** work on exercises that your class has already completed this year
- You must work on an exercise until you achieve a score of **80 or BETTER to receive credit**
- **You decide how many** exercises to complete, and your work will be graded accordingly:
 - 20 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive an A+/100
 - 15 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive B+
 - 10 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive C+
 - 5 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive D+
 - Less than 5 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive INCOMPLETE

Guidelines for reader's journal are on the next page.

- **Pick a journal or notebook:** I would prefer that you DO NOT keep your journal online.
- **Include an entry header indicating date and some kind of title:** Each time you sit down to read, make an entry. Entries do not need to be the same length or the same type. **Note page numbers referred to.**
- **Make some entries creative: If you are artistic,** draw or paint something that caught your imagination; **if you are a poet,** write poems or lyrics about something that happened or about a character or place. Make a map, showing where events take place, or where the character has travelled. Make a chart or mind map of all the characters and their relationships.
- **Make some entries academic: following any of the suggestions below:**

Personal thoughts and reactions: Be reflective; think about why you may be responding the way you are. Leave room for recording later reflections on the same topic/event/character. One way to do this is to take notes on the left-hand page of notebook and reserve the right-hand page for later additions, comments, questions, and so on.

Comments/questions on plot, structure, point of view, characterization, or setting:

Plot: What is the main conflict/minor conflicts? How are conflicts related? What causes them? Where does the climax occur and what causes it? How is conflict resolved? Do some conflicts go unresolved?

Narrative Structure: Is the narrative chronological, or does it jump around in time, with flashbacks? Does the writer use foreshadowing? Irony?

Point of view: Who tells the story? Do you trust the narrator to give an honest account of events and characters, or is the narrator obviously biased? How does the narrator affect your reading of the story?

Characterization: How are characters introduced and developed? Who do you find sympathetic and whom do you dislike? How and why do characters change? What do they learn? What problems do they have? Do they have traits that contradict one another and therefore cause internal conflicts? Do they experience epiphanies?

Setting: Where does the action take place? (Think not only about geographic location but also physical space: indoors, outdoors, small rooms, palatial homes, etc.) Describe this place. At what period in history does the action unfold? What is going on in society at that time that is affecting the character or causing conflict?

- **Quote and comment:** Record and discuss favorite or interesting quotes in your journal

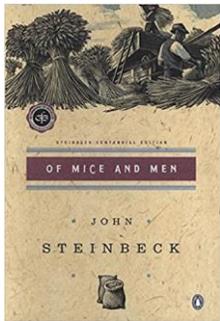
Final impact of the story. At the end of the book, take some time to record the overall impact the story had on you. Did the story flow well and keep you engaged, or did it feel uneven? What impact did characters have, if any, on you personally?

Online Booksellers:

[amazon](#) [barnesandnoble](#) [betterworldbooks](#) [powells](#) [thriftbooks](#)
[betterworldbooks](#) [bookshop](#) [booksellerusa](#) (may not have all titles)

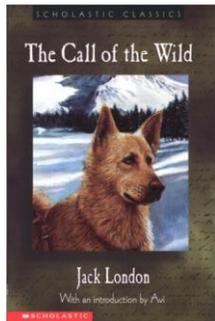
FICTION (CHOOSE 1)

Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck



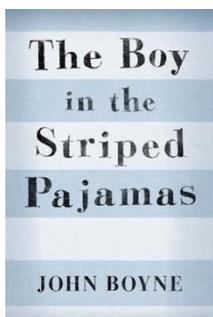
An intimate portrait of two men who cherish the slim bond between them and the dream they share in a world marred by petty tyranny, misunderstanding, jealousy, and callousness. Clinging to each other in their loneliness and alienation, George and his simple-minded friend Lennie dream, as drifters will, of a place to call their own—a couple of acres and a few pigs, chickens, and rabbits back in Hill Country where land is cheap. But after they come to work on a ranch in the fertile Salinas Valley of California, their hopes, like "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men," begin to go awry. (<https://www.goodreads.com/>)

Call of the Wild, Jack London



First published in 1903, *The Call of the Wild* is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece. Based on London's experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness and his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, *The Call of the Wild* is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike. (<https://www.goodreads.com/>)

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, John Boyne



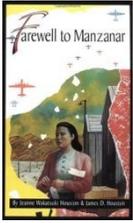
If you start to read this book, you will go on a journey with a nine-year-old boy named Bruno. (Though this isn't a book for nine-year-olds.) And sooner or later you will arrive with Bruno at a fence.

Fences like this exist all over the world. We hope you never have to encounter one.

(Non-fiction choices on the next page)

NON-FICTION (CHOOSE 1)

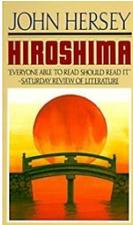
Farewell to Manzanar, W. Houston



Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942 when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp—with 10,000 other Japanese Americans. Along with searchlight towers and armed guards, Manzanar ludicrously featured cheerleaders, Boy Scouts, sock hops, baton twirling lessons and a dance band called the Jive Bombers who would play any popular song except the nation's #1 hit: "Don't Fence Me In."

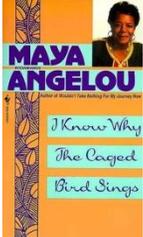
Farewell to Manzanar is the true story of one spirited Japanese-American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention—and of a native-born American child who discovered what it was like to grow up behind barbed wire in the United States

Hiroshima, John Hersey



On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey's journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told through the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic "that stirs the conscience of humanity" (The New York Times).

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou



Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.

Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.