

READING EXPECTATION

- Students need to read one fiction and one nonfiction text that have a common theme, setting, motif, or idea. A list of paired texts is provided, **but students also have the choice of creating their own pairing of a related fiction and nonfiction text.**

WRITING EXPECTATION

- Students need to complete three prompts for the fiction text of their choice, and three prompts for the nonfiction text of their choice. The list of prompts is included in this packet. Each student is expected to arrive the first class day with six total paragraphs.

RESOURCES

**Book Pairings* are listed at the end of this document, or you can select your own fiction text and nonfiction text to pair together (as long as they have a link of some sort).

Here are resources to help with your decision, if you choose to make a pairing of your own:

- www.modernlibrary.com/top-100/100-best-novels/
- www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklistsbook.cfm
- teenreads.com/
- www.yournextread.com/us/

ASSIGNMENT STEPS

1. Over the summer, choose a pairing of **one fiction and one non-fiction** book from list to read. If you are dissatisfied with the pairings provided, you may choose a fiction and a nonfiction pairing of your own as long as you can identify a commonality between the two texts.

The following books **CANNOT** be read as part of your summer reading assignment:

-Odyssey	-Frankenstein	-Animal Farm	-Nickel and Dimed
-Romeo and Juliet	-Catcher in the Rye	-Lord of the Flies	-Hamlet
-Slaughterhouse Five	-Othello	-Things Fall Apart	-The Great Gatsby
-Night	-Interpreter of Maladies	-How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents	-Into the Wild
-Of Mice and Men	-The Pearl	- Travels with Charlie	-The Kite Runner
-A Midsummer Night's Dream	-12 Angry Men	- To Kill a Mockingbird	

2. As you read the paired fiction and nonfiction text over the summer, choose a total of six prompts that you will answer based on your reading (three for the fiction text, three for the nonfiction text).

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Each paragraph should have:

- [1] A clear topic sentence that provides and answer to the prompt (thesis).
- [2] A brief introduction displaying where the quote appears in the text.
- [3] A quote from the text that illustrates or supports the point that you are making in your topic sentence.
- [4] Multiple sentences that offer analysis of the text based on the focus of the prompt.
- [5] A clear concluding statement.

3. Type your paragraphs and submit them to your teacher on the first day of school. Choose three prompts to answer for your fiction book, and three prompts to answer for your nonfiction book.

SAMPLE PARAGRAPH RESPONSE

Fiction Prompt #2:

[1] In the first chapter, Cassie is taught an important lesson by her father which sets the tone for the rest of the book. [2] Her father is trying to teach her the importance of an African American family owning land in the racist south. [3] Cassie's father says, "All that belongs to you. You ain't never had to live on nobody's place but your own and long as I live and the family survives, you'll never have to...You may not understand that now, but one day you will" (Taylor 7). [4] Papa explains this lesson to Cassie early on, but she does not fully understand it until the end of the book. It is only after her she matures that she realizes what her parents and Hammer are sacrificing so much to protect. It's not just the land they want, it is the independence that the land represents. [5] It is an important lesson in the book most of the other themes directly relate to this idea.

Writer Checklist:

Clear Thesis [1]

Context for quote [2]

Cited Passage [3]

Analysis that explains importance [4]

Concluding sentence [5]

FICTION PROMPTS

Choose **THREE** from the following:

- 1 Choose a significant passage (between one sentence and one paragraph) that reveals the book's theme, or central message. Record the passage and page number, and explain how it relates to the theme.
- 2 Why do you think the author chose the title he/she did? Analyze its deeper meaning. If it is an obvious title, rename it something more symbolic and explain your rationale.
- 3 From whose point of view is the story told? What other voices could tell the story? Be sure to explain how the story would be different from this other, new perspective.
- 4 What is the main problem/obstacle/mystery that the characters/people must overcome/solve? How was this problem resolved? Was this a satisfactory conclusion?
- 5 Do you think the characters/people and their problems/decisions/relationships are believable/realistic? Why or why not?
- 6 How is your book structured/organized? How does the way the author structures his/her book affect the story and your appreciation of the book?
- 7 For your book, what is more important, the characters or the plot? Was the plot moved forward by the decisions of the characters or were the characters at the mercy of the plot? How did it affect your enjoyment of the book?
- 8 When did you get stuck while reading? What was confusing you about your book? What strategies did you use to help you read better?
- 9 Comment on the author's style and use of language. Is it effective or ineffective? Does it add to or detract from your enjoyment of the book?
- 10 Choose a character and explain the psychology behind his/her choices. How is this character affected by the environment, the ways other people see him/her, and the ways he/she sees himself/herself?
- 11 Are there any particularly vivid images that stand out? What effect do these images have on the writers' purpose?

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- 12 Does the writer use devices of humor? Puns? Irony? Sarcasm? Understatement? Parody?
How did these devices influence your enjoyment of the book?

NON-FICTION PROMPTS

Choose THREE from the following:

- 1 How does the author establish authenticity in the text? Consider the facts, statistics, and research that are used to make the book seem “real.”
- 2 What is one thing that is unique about this nonfiction book? Explain this uniqueness.
- 3 What ideas might you have for turning this work of nonfiction into a work of fiction? Give a brief summary of what your story might be like. These should be meaningful and relevant to the author’s purpose.
- 4 In what ways can the information in the book be applied to your life? Be specific by choosing a specific element from the text as well as a specific aspect of your life.
- 5 Does the author have an overall purpose/message to the book? If so, what is it and how do you know this is the message?
- 6 How does the book incorporate literary elements such as characterization, figurative language (metaphor, simile, etc.), and narrative? What effect do these elements have on the book?
- 7 What questions did you ask yourself about the text as you were reading? How did these questions help you understand the book?
- 8 What prior knowledge did you bring to the reading that helped you understand the book? Be sure to choose a specific part of the book to support your answer.
- 9 How does the author establish his/her credibility? Explain specific ways the author presents himself/herself as a trustworthy and qualified messenger?
- 10 Analyze the attitude of the writer. How does his/her tone extend the meaning of the book? Does this tone change or stay consistent? Be sure to comment on the effectiveness of this tone.

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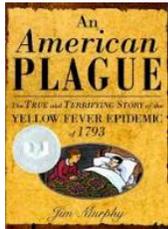
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- 11 How does the writer use diction? Is it formal? Informal? Technical? Jargon? Slang? Is the language emotionally evocative? Does the language change throughout the piece? How does the language contribute to the writers' aim?
- 12 Are there any particularly vivid images that stand out? What effect do these images have on the writers' purpose?

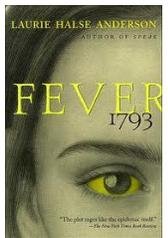
PAIRED SELECTIONS for Eighth Grade Summer Reading

Choose a pair of books below. Each pair contains a fiction and non-fiction selection concerning the same subject matter. REMEMBER, you may choose to create a pairing of your own as long **as the books are related in some way.**

CHOICE ONE- History and Medical Science Pairing



An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793, by Jim Murphy. In a powerful, dramatic narrative, critically acclaimed author Jim Murphy describes the illness known as yellow fever and the toll it took on the city's residents, relating the epidemic to the major social and political events of the day and to 18th-century medical beliefs and practices. Drawing on first-hand accounts, Murphy spotlights the heroic role of Philadelphia's free blacks in combating the disease, and the Constitutional crisis that President Washington faced when he was forced to leave the city--and all his papers--while escaping the deadly contagion. The search for the fever's causes and cure, not found for more than a century afterward, provides a suspenseful counterpoint to this riveting true story of a city under siege. Thoroughly researched, generously illustrated with fascinating archival prints, and unflinching in its discussion of medical details, this Newbery Honor-winning book offers a glimpse into the conditions of American cities at the time of our nation's birth while drawing timely parallels to modern-day epidemics.

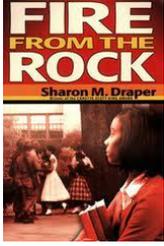


Fever, 1793, by Laurie Halse Anderson During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out. Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.

CHOICE TWO- Civil Rights History Pairing

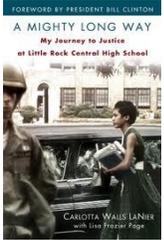
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***Fire from the Rock*, by Sharon M. Draper**

Sylvia is shocked and confused when she is asked to be one of the first black students to attend Central High School, which is scheduled to be integrated in the fall of 1957, whether people like it or not. Before Sylvia makes her final decision, smoldering racial tension in the town ignites into flame. When the smoke clears, she sees clearly that nothing is going to stop the change from coming. It is up to her generation to make it happen, in as many different ways as there are colors in the world.



***A Mighty Long Way*, by Carlotta Walls Lanier**

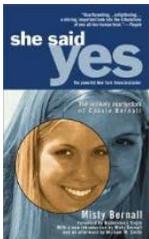
When fourteen-year-old Carlotta Walls walked up the stairs of Little Rock Central High School on September 25, 1957, she and eight other black students only wanted to make it to class. But the journey of the "Little Rock Nine," as they came to be known, would lead the nation on an even longer and much more turbulent path, one that would challenge prevailing attitudes, break down barriers, and forever change the landscape of America. For Carlotta and the eight other children, simply getting through the door of this admired academic institution involved angry mobs, racist elected officials, and intervention by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was forced to send in the 101st Airborne to escort the Nine into the building. Entry was simply the first of many trials. Breaking her silence at last and sharing her story for the first time, Carlotta Walls has written an engrossing memoir that is a testament not only to the power of a single person to make a difference but also to the sacrifices made by families and communities that found themselves a part of history.

CHOICE THREE -School Violence and Community Pairing



***Hate List*, by Jennifer Brown**

Five months ago, Valerie Leftman's boyfriend, Nick, opened fire on their school cafeteria. Shot trying to stop him, Valerie inadvertently saved the life of a classmate, but was implicated in the shootings because of the list she helped create. A list of people and things she and Nick hated. The list he used to pick his targets. Now, after a summer of seclusion, Val is forced to confront her guilt as she returns to school to complete her senior year. Haunted by the memory of the boyfriend she still loves and navigating rocky relationships with her family, former friends and the girl whose life she saved, Val must come to grips with the tragedy that took place and her role in it, in order to make amends and move on with her life.



***She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall*, by Misty Bernall**

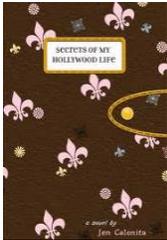
"One of the most gripping stories to come out of the shooting at Columbine High School" is told in the acclaimed national bestseller that illuminates the most remarkable aspect of 17-year-old Cassie Bernall's tragic death: her life. *She Said Yes* is an "intense and fascinating memoir" (Publishers Weekly) of an ordinary teenager growing up in suburban Colorado, and faced -- as all teenagers are -- with difficult choices and pressures. It is only now, when the world knows Cassie Bernall as one of the Columbine High students killed by two rampaging schoolmates, that the choices she made offer a profound relevance for us all. Once a rage-

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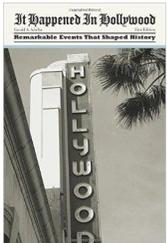
filled young woman who walked a path similar to that of her killers, Cassie found a way out of her personal snares and, through her faith and a family's love, chose to embrace life with courage and conviction. Told with unflinching honesty by her mother, Misty Bernall, Cassie's story is "a profoundly human story that should be read by every parent and every teenager" (New York Post).

CHOICE FOUR- Film and Hollywood Pairing



***Secrets Of My Hollywood Life*, by Jen Calonita**

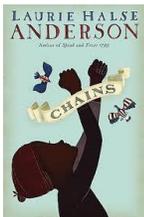
Kaitlin Burke is an overworked teen celebrity who thinks it would be cool to be ordinary for a couple of months. She also wants to get away from her competitive costar, Sky Mackenzie, who has been making her life difficult. After a bit of brainstorming, she decides to enroll, incognito, in her friend Liz's high school. During the next few weeks, she discovers how nice it is to have friends who like her for whom she is—or appears to be—rather than because she's famous. She even starts a relationship with Austin, a nice boy who, ironically, has a crush on Kaitlin Burke, but hasn't a clue that he's dating her. Things go awry when Sky is asked to host the school's spring fling, which has a Hollywood theme. Everyone dresses as a celebrity, and Kaitlin ends up going as herself. While at the dance, Sky nastily unveils Kaitlin's secret. It's not surprising that her friends, especially Austin, feel betrayed, but she manages to redeem herself in the end. The protagonist is kind, unspoiled, and upstanding—refreshingly different from the norm. Fans of Meg Cabot's *Princess Diaries* (HarperCollins) or Ann Brashares's *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* books (Delacorte) will gobble this one up.—Catherine Ensley, Latah County Free Library District, Moscow, ID



***It Happened In Hollywood: Remarkable Events That Shaped History*, by Gerald A. Schille.**

From the sleepy little town's invasion in 1910 to modern-day tales of murder and mayhem, *It Happened in Hollywood* recounts, in thirty short episodes, the behind-the-scenes events that shaped this famed city.

CHOICE FIVE- History Pairing

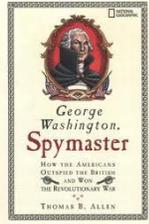


***Chains*, by Laurie Halse Anderson-** Set in New York City at the beginning of the American Revolution, *Chains* addresses the price of freedom both for a nation and for individuals. Isabel tells the story of her life as a slave. She was sold with her five-year-old sister to a cruel Loyalist family even though the girls were to be free upon the death of their former owner. She has hopes of finding a way to freedom and becomes a spy for the rebels, but soon realizes that it is difficult to trust anyone. She chooses to find someone to help her no matter which side he or she is on. With short chapters, each beginning with a historical quote, this fast-paced novel reveals the heartache and struggles of a country and slave fighting for freedom. The characters are well developed, and the situations are realistic. An author's note gives insight into issues

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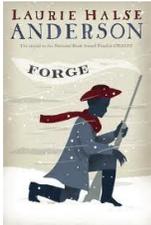
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surrounding the Revolutionary War and the fight for the nation's freedom even though twenty percent of its people were in chains. Well researched and affecting in its presentation, the story offers readers a fresh look at the conflict and struggle of a developing nation.—Denise Moore, O'Gorman Junior High School, Sioux Falls, SD



George Washington Spymaster: How the Americans Out-Spied the British and Won the Revolutionary War, by Thomas B. Allen-The award-winning National Geographic book that presents the untold story of the invisible war behind the American Revolution. A riveting tale of intrigue, spies, counterspies and secret agents, George Washington, Spymaster is a unique and entertaining account of one of the most important chapters in our nation's history. The compelling narrative reveals the surprising role played by the first commander-in-chief, General George Washington in the War of Independence.

CHOICE SIX- History Pairing



Forge, By Laurie Halse Anderson- In this compelling sequel to *Chains*, a National Book Award Finalist and winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson shifts perspective from Isabel to Curzon and brings to the page the tale of what it takes for runaway slaves to forge their own paths in a world of obstacles—and in the midst of the American Revolution. The Patriot Army was shaped and strengthened by the desperate circumstances of the Valley Forge winter. This is where Curzon the boy becomes Curzon the young man. In addition to the hardships of soldiering, he lives with the fear of discovery, for he is an escaped slave passing for free. And then there is Isabel, who is also at Valley Forge—against her will. She and Curzon have to sort out the tangled threads of their friendship while figuring out what stands between the two of them and true freedom.

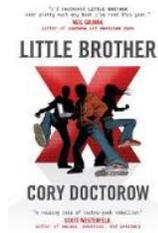


Washington at Valley Forge, by Russell Freedman- Award-winning author Russell Freedman offers up this powerful account of the survival of American soldiers while camped at Valley Forge during a crucial period in the American Revolution. George Washington's army almost perished during the winter of 1777-78. 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.

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CHOICE SEVEN- Computer Technology Pairing



Little Brother, by Cory Doctorow- When he ditches school one Friday morning, 17-year-old Marcus is hoping to get a head start on the Harajuku Fun Madness clue. But after a terrorist attack in San Francisco, he and his friends are swept up in the extralegal world of the Department of Homeland Security. After questioning that includes physical torture and psychological stress, Marcus is released, a marked man in a much darker San Francisco: a city of constant surveillance and civil-liberty forfeiture. Encouraging hackers

from around the city, Marcus fights against the system while falling for one hacker in particular. Doctorow rapidly confronts issues, from civil liberties to cryptology to social justice. While his political bias is obvious, he does try to depict opposing viewpoints fairly. Teen espionage fans will appreciate the numerous gadgets made from everyday materials. Raising pertinent questions and fostering discussion, this techno-thriller is an outstanding first purchase.—Chris Shoemaker, New York Public Library



Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho, by Jon Katz- While promoting his book *Virtuous Reality*, journalist Katz was introduced to the world of "geeks," those smart, technically savvy misfits who are ostracized by their high school peers. Katz wrote in his column on the slashdot.org Web site about the isolation, exclusion and maltreatment such kids routinely face. Tens of thousands of anguished e-mails confirmed his story. One of the e-mailers was Jesse Dailey, a working-class 19-year-old trapped in

rural Idaho, where he and his friend Eric Twilegar fixed computers for a living, and hacked and surfed the Web, convinced that they were losers and outcasts. Katz, also a writer for *Wired* and *Rolling Stone*, traveled to Idaho to meet the pair, intending to chronicle their lives. He wound up encouraging and sometimes assisting Jesse and Eric as they tried to improve their lives by moving to Chicago, where they sought better jobs and even considered applying to college. Katz takes us inside the lives of these two young men, shows us their sense of isolation, their complete absorption in the cyberworld, their distrust of authority and institutions, and their attempts to negotiate an often hostile society. He breaks through the stereotype and humanizes this outcast group of young people.

CHOICE EIGHT- Mathematics

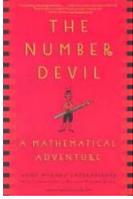


Do the Math: Secrets, Lies, and Algebra, by Wendy Lichtman- Tess loves math because it's the one subject she can trust—there's always just one right answer, and it never changes. But then she starts algebra and is introduced to those pesky and mysterious variables, which seem to be everywhere in eighth grade. When even your friends and parents can be variables, how in the world do you find out the right answers to the

really important questions, like what to do about a boy you like or whom to tell when someone's done something really bad? Will Tess's life ever stop changing long enough for her to figure it all out?

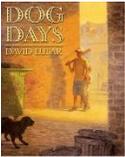
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The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure, by Hans Magnus Enzensberger- In twelve dreams, Robert, a boy who hates math, meets a Number Devil, who leads him to discover the amazing world of numbers: infinite numbers, prime numbers, Fibonacci numbers, numbers that magically appear in triangles, and numbers that expand without . As we dream with him, we are taken further and further into mathematical theory, where ideas eventually take flight, until everyone-from those who fumble over fractions to those who solve complex equations in their heads-winds up marveling at what numbers can do. Hans Magnus Enzensberger is a true polymath, the kind of superb intellectual who loves thinking and marshals all of his charm and wit to share his passions with the world. In *The Number Devil*, he brings together the surreal logic of *Alice in Wonderland* and the existential geometry of *Flatland* with the kind of math everyone would love, if only they had a number devil to teach it to them.

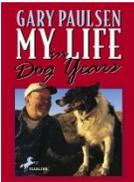
CHOICE NINE- Animal Lit Pairing



***Dog Days* by David Lubar (Fiction)**

Larry can't stop thinking about the growling dog in the alley. He already has three strays in his backyard. How can he afford to take care of another one? When his brother Paul points out a strange mark in the alley, Larry has a mystery to solve. What is the dog protecting?

What is really going on in that dark alley?



***My Life in Dog Years* by Gary Paulsen (Nonfiction)**

Gary Paulsen has owned dozens of unforgettable and amazing dogs. In each chapter he tells of one special dog, among them Cookie, the sled dog who saved his life; Snowball, the puppy he owned as a boy in the Philippines; Ike, his mysterious hunting companion; Dirk, the grim protector; and his true friend Josh, a brilliant border collie.