Ho-Ho-Kus Public School

Required Summer Reading

Seventh Grade

2020

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Welcome to the Seventh Grade Summer Reading Page

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." --- Albert Einstein

Summer offers a perfect opportunity to rediscover the pleasure of reading at a leisurely and enjoyable pace. Connecting to stories that are exciting and engaging is key to developing lifelong reading habits, and students are encouraged to read widely and sample a variety of genres. Reading, writing, and success in school are closely interrelated. Even more importantly, reading engages the imagination like no other medium, transporting readers into the hearts and minds of others.

Instructions:

All students in seventh grade read *Tale Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz and complete the activity.

Assignments should be completed before the beginning of school. **Work is due on Tuesday, September 15, and will count as a homework grade.**

If you have questions during the summer, please e-mail Mrs. Frassetto at kfrassetto@hohokus.org or Dr. Quigley at wquigley@hohokus.org

1. **Required*:*** *Tale Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz, as well as both activities
2. **Choice: *Choose one of the following novels and complete one assignment for each.***
    - *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper
    - *Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead*
    - *Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins*

Required:

Required Reading Assignment

Adam Gidwitz's A Tale Dark & Grimm

In this mischievous and utterly original debut, Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm-inspired tales. As readers follow the siblings through a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind (and beyond) the bread crumbs, edible houses, and outwitted witches.

Fairy tales have never been more irreverent or subversive as Hansel and Gretel learn to take charge of their destinies and become the clever architects of their own happily ever after.

1. **Click here to learn more about Adam Gidwitz!**
2. **Click here to complete the** Activities: Complete both activities

***Choice*: Choose one of the following novels and complete one assignment for each.**

Choice #1

Blended by Sharon M. Draper

Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: One week she's Isabella with her dad, his girlfriend Anastasia, and her son Darren living in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves.

Because of this, Isabella has always felt pulled between two worlds. And now that her parents are divorced, it seems their fights are even worse, and they're always about HER. Isabella feels completely stuck in the middle, split and divided between them more than ever. And she is beginning to realize that being split between Mom and Dad involves more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities. Her dad is black, her mom is white, and strangers are always commenting: "You're so exotic!" "You look so unusual." "But what are you really?" She knows what they're really saying: "You don't look like your parents." "You're different." "What race are you really?" And when her parents, who both get engaged at the same time, get in their biggest fight ever, Isabella doesn't just feel divided, she feels ripped in two. What does it mean to be half white or half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you're only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

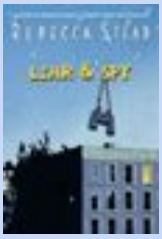
It seems like nothing can bring Isabella's family together again—until the worst thing happens. Isabella and Darren are stopped by the police. A cell phone is mistaken for a gun. And shots are fired.

Click here to learn more about Sharon M. Draper!

- Activities:

(Please make your own copy)

Choice #2



Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead

Twelve-year old Georges is intrigued with a boy in his apartment building who claims to be a spy, but Georges makes a startling discovery when the two launch a spy mission against a seemingly notorious Mr. X.

Georges, named for the nineteenth-century French painter Georges Seuret, is in the seventh grade when his father loses his job. His mother works double shifts as a nurse, but the family has to give up their house in Brooklyn and moves to an apartment. To make matters worse, Georges loses his best friend to the "cool crowd," and his classmates constantly tease him about his name. Things are looking dim for Georges until he meets twelve- year old Safer, a boy in his apartment building who claims to be an expert spy. Safer convinces Georges that Mr. X, a neighbor who wears all black and carries a suitcase, is up to something evil. When the boys embark on a spy mission, Georges uncovers a mystery, but it has nothing to do with Mr. X. It's what his mother calls "being the big picture."

1. **Click here to learn more about Rebecca Stead!**

2. **Click here to complete the** Activities: Please complete the attached activity.

(Please make your own copy.)

Choice #3

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

With the release of the *Hunger Games* trilogy, Suzanne Collins has become a favorite author for young people and adults. In her first fantasy novel, she tells an extraordinary tale of an eleven-year-old boy living in present day New York City who is chosen to save the Underlanders, a world of people who have lived for hundreds of years below the Earth's surface. Quiet, practical, and humble, Gregor has never imagined himself as a hero, but when he is entrusted to lead a quest in the Underland, he rises to the occasion.

Click here to learn about Suzanne Collins!

Please complete the attached activity.

- Activities:

(Please make your own copy)