



SUMMER READING

MIDDLE
SCHOOL

Grade 7

2021-2022

INTRODUCTION

Hi 7th Grade Jags!

I'm looking forward to working with you next year! In order to get the year started off right, please pick one of the books from the "Summer Reading Titles" list below, then select one of the assignments from the Project Menu. This assignment is required for all rising 7th grade students and will be graded for course credit in English class. If you have questions or project ideas that don't appear on this list, please email me at davis2@wellington.org.

SUMMER READING TITLES

- *The Legend of Bass Reeves* by Gary Paulsen
- *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka
- *Harbor Me* by Jaqueline Woodson
- *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds

PROJECT MENU

1. **Bundle of Letters: Character correspondence**

Doing your best to capture the voices of the characters in your story, write letters that could have been written by them as real people. Recreate this bundle of letters, making them look and seem as real as possible. As often as possible, reference details from the text that show your engagement as a reader. Also include sentences that reflect how the characters must have **felt** being in the situations described in the book that you chose.

2. **One Act Drama**

Create a one-act drama involving characters from the novel that you chose. You may create original dialogue or script out and enact a scene from the play (or a combination of both). Format your script as a playwright or movie writer would. Try to write the characters' voices so that you can tell the difference between them; understand their motivations, dreams, or concerns. You can use a narrator or stage directions to explain to the audience what the setting is like. (You can also have a character say things about the setting so that it is "visual" to the audience).

3. **Gallery with Written Commentary**

Create a collection of visual images depicting characters in your choice book, the settings it describes, or the themes that are developed in the book. (The best gallery pieces I've seen have been acrylic paintings done on small canvases, but you're free to pick your medium). Accompany each piece with written commentary that viewers can reference as they interpret your piece.

4. **Summary and Review**

YouTube is full of book reviews (some better than others) in which the reviewer recaps the plot of a book, describes its characters, and offers an opinion about how the movie should be rated. Create your own review and make sure to include plenty of details from the text to show your engagement. Also offer your opinion: Out of 5 stars, how many stars would you give the book that you chose? (You can also film this for extra points if you'd like.)