

# PILLOW ACADEMY 2019 SUMMER READING

## 2019 Pillow Academy Summer Reading

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Rising 7th graders will read two books this summer: One book is required, and the other selection is a book of choice. A test will be given on the required book on the first full day of school. An assignment (to be completed over the summer) for the book of choice will be due on the first half day of school.



#### Required Book:

#### ***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne**

Nine-year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution or the Holocaust. He is oblivious to the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country. All he knows is that he has been moved from a comfortable home in Berlin to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no one to play with until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and who, like the other people there, wears a uniform of striped pajamas. Bruno's friendship with Shmuel will take him from innocence to revelation. And in exploring what he is unwittingly a part of, he will inevitably become subsumed by the terrible process.

- Read ***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*** by John Boyne.
- A test on the book will be given on the first full day of school in August.

#### Book of choice:

Choose ONE book of choice from the list below to read. Students should select a book that they have not already read. The assignment for the book of choice is a "one-pager". This assignment is due the first half day of school in August.

- Select and read your book of choice from the list below.
- Make notes as you read to help you remember what happens in the book.
- Create a "one-pager" after reading your book of choice. One-pagers invite students to think deeply about a text and produce a single page of text analysis to represent its most important literary contents.
- The assignment on the book of choice will be due on the first half day of school in August.
- One-pager must include:
  - 2 quotes (with page numbers) from the novel which illustrate the novel's theme and a brief analysis of why the quote illustrates that theme
  - 2 symbol sketches which illustrate the novel's theme and a brief analysis of why each symbol/illustration illustrates that theme
  - 2 quotes about the main character that exemplify that character's personality traits and a brief analysis explaining why each quote illustrates that trait (Be sure to identify the traits.)

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- In addition to the above criteria, project must be neat, orderly, and exhibit effort!
- The assignment on the book of choice will be due on the first half day of school in August.

### **7th grade options for book of choice:**

#### ***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

It is 1939 Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up and closed down.

#### ***The Call of the Wild* by Jack London**

The story is set in the Yukon during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush—a period when strong sled dogs were in high demand. The novel's central character is a dog named Buck, a domesticated dog living at a ranch in the Santa Clara Valley of California as the story opens. Stolen from his home and sold into the brutal existence of an Alaskan sled dog, he reverts to atavistic traits. Buck is forced to adjust to, and survive, cruel treatments and fight to dominate other dogs in a harsh climate. Eventually he sheds the veneer of civilization, relying on primordial instincts and lessons he learns, to emerge as a leader in the wild.

#### ***The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis**

Enter the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. There's Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who's thirteen and an "official juvenile delinquent". When Byron gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up.

#### ***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen**

Brian Robeson is a thirteen-year-old son of divorced parents. As he travels from Hampton, New York on a Cessna 406 bush plane to visit his father in the oil fields in Northern Canada for the summer, Brian's plane crashes into a lake in the forest. He must learn to survive on his own with nothing but his hatchet—a gift his mother gave him shortly before his plane departed.

Throughout the summer, Brian learns how to survive in the vast wilderness with only his hatchet. Over time, Brian develops his survival skills and becomes a fine woodsman. During his time alone, Brian struggles with memories of home and the bittersweet memory of his mother, whom Brian had caught cheating on his father prior to their divorce.

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### ***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis**

Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.

### ***Summer of My German Soldier* by Bette Greene**

The summer that Patty Bergen turns twelve is a summer that will haunt her forever. When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, Patty learns what it means to open her heart. Even though she's Jewish, she begins to see a prison escapee, Anton, not as a Nazi, but as a lonely, frightened young man with feelings not unlike her own.

*\* Please Note: Summer reading selections are chosen based on literary merit and with high academic standards in mind. The books assigned by the English department at Pillow Academy represent a mix of classic and contemporary literature. Many books address complex situations and may contain adult themes and language. The attempt to expose students to challenging topics and issues is intended to serve as opportunities for students to think, theorize, question, and explore.*