

PILLOW ACADEMY 2019 SUMMER READING

2019 Pillow Academy Summer Reading 8th Grade Honors



Rising 8th grade Honors students will read three books this summer: Two books are required, and the other selection is a book of choice. A test will be given on one of the required books (*To Kill a Mockingbird*) on the first full day of school in August, and an assignment to be completed over the summer for the other required book (*Same Kind of Different As Me*) will be due on the first half day of school in August.

Required books:

***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

- Read ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee carefully.
- As you read, you may want to take notes on the following to prepare for the test:
 1. Characters: Who are they? What do other people in the book say or think about each character? What motivates the character to behave in a particular way?
 2. Theme: What ideas about life are revealed in this book?
 3. Plot: What is the series of related events that make up the story? What are the complications as the characters take steps to resolve the conflict? What is the climax of the book? What is the resolution of the book?
 4. Point of View: Who tells the story or from what vantage point is the story told?
 5. Notice when a passage surprised or puzzled you.
 6. Notice when you particularly enjoyed a passage.
 7. Notice details that seem important.
- A test on the book will be given on the first full day of school in August.

***Same Kind of Different As Me* by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, & Lynn Vincent**

Same Kind of Different as Me is a tale of an unlikely friendship, the power of redemption, and the importance of compassion. It shows how empathy and kindness can truly make a difference in the lives of others.

- Read ***Same Kind of Different As Me*** by Ron Hall carefully.
- Two assignments on this book are to be completed over the summer and are due on the first half day of school in August.
- Assignment #1:
 - Volunteering is an essential act to support those in need and to truly make a positive social change. Pillow Academy strongly encourages its students to volunteer in our community. We hope by advocating for students to go out

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and involve themselves in service that we are encouraging and developing future leaders led by compassion.

- For this assignment, you are to prayerfully consider how you can make a difference in your community and in the lives of others. Create a service project of your own; find an area of need that you are passionate about and would like to volunteer your time. The following websites offer possible ideas:
 - <https://blog.prepscholar.com/129-examples-of-community-service-projects>
 - <https://www.teenlife.com/blogs/50-community-service-ideas-teen-volunteers>
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/nonprofit/community-service-ideas.cfm>
- Consider a long-term plan and how your project may grow over the years. As soon as possible, email your project idea to rbrock@pak12.com. Once approved, get started! You must complete 4 hours of service this summer.
- The [Service Hours Form for 8th grade Honors](#) is due on the first half day of school in August.
- Assignment #2:
 - Reflective writing assignment for *Same Kind of Different as Me*: In a one-page, handwritten paper, discuss the following topic:
 - How do both Denver Moore and Ron Hall change by the end of the book? What do they learn from or teach each other? Did this book inspire you? If so, in what ways? Also, what have you learned as a result of your community service experiences over the summer? How have you changed and what have you learned as a result of your volunteer project?
 - This assignment is due on the first half day of school in August.

Book of choice:

Choose ONE book of choice from the list of John Grisham works below to read. Grisham is a celebrated novelist from Mississippi, well known for his legal thrillers. This work will serve as part of our first unit of study, focusing on southern writers. Students should select a book that they have not already read.

- Select and read your book of choice from the list below.
- There is no written assignment; however, you may want to take notes on the following:
 1. Characters: Who are they? What do other people in the book say or think about each character? What motivates the character to behave in a particular way?
 2. Theme: What ideas about life are revealed in this book?

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3. Plot: What is the series of related events that make up the story? What are the complications as the characters take steps to resolve the conflict? What is the climax of the book? What is the resolution of the book?
4. Point of View: Who tells the story or from what vantage point is the story told?
5. Notice when a passage surprised or puzzled you.
6. Notice when you particularly enjoyed a passage.
7. Notice details that seem important.

8th grade Honors options for book of choice:

***The Firm* by John Grisham**

When Mitch McDeere signed on with Bendini, Lambert & Locke of Memphis, he thought that he and his beautiful wife, Abby, were on their way. The firm leased him a BMW, paid off his school loans, arranged a mortgage, and hired the McDeeres a decorator. Mitch should have remembered what his brother Ray—doing fifteen years in a Tennessee jail—already knew: You never get nothing for nothing. Now the FBI has the lowdown on Mitch’s firm and needs his help. Mitch is caught between a rock and a hard place, with no choice—if he wants to live.

***A Time to Kill* by John Grisham**

The life of a ten-year-old girl is shattered by two drunken and remorseless young men. The mostly white town of Clanton in Ford County, Mississippi, reacts with shock and horror at the inhuman crime. Until her black father acquires an assault rifle and takes justice into his own outraged hands. For ten days, as burning crosses and the crack of sniper fire spread through the streets of Clanton, the nation sits spellbound as young defense attorney Jake Brigance struggles to save his client’s life—and then his own.

***Bleachers* by John Grisham**

High school all-American Neely Crenshaw was probably the best quarterback ever to play for the legendary Messina Spartans. Fifteen years have gone by since those glory days, and Neely has come home to Messina to bury Coach Eddie Rake, the man who molded the Spartans into an unbeatable football dynasty. Now, as Coach Rake’s “boys” sit in the bleachers waiting for the dimming field lights to signal his passing, they replay the old games, relive the old glories, and try to decide once and for all whether they love Eddie Rake – or hate him. For Neely Crenshaw, a man who must finally forgive his coach – and himself – before he can get on with his life, the stakes are especially high.

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** 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.*