

PILLOW ACADEMY 2019 SUMMER READING

2019 Pillow Academy Summer Reading 8th Grade

Rising 8th 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 Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the “Secret Annex” of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary, Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and amusing, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.

- Read *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank.
- Take notes or prepare yourself in your own study style.
- Know characters, conflicts, etc.
- 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 book review. This assignment is due the first half day of school in August.

- Select and read your book of choice from the list below.
- 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.
- Write a book review. Download and print [How to Write a Book Review](#) for a sample.
- The assignment on the book of choice will be due on the first half day of school in August.

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8th grade options for book of choice:

***Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe (Fictional Adventure)**

Robinson Crusoe is at sea when there is a great storm. His ship goes down, and his friends die. The sea throws Crusoe onto a beach. He is on an island. But which island? Are there other people on it? And are they friendly? What will Crusoe do now?

***Banner in the Sky* by James Ramsey Ullman (Fictional Adventure)**

It stands unconquered, the last great summit of the Alps. Only one man has ever dared to approach the top, and that man died in his pursuit. He was Josef Matt, Rudi Matt's father. At sixteen, Rudi is determined to pay tribute to the man he never knew and complete the quest that claimed his father's life.

***Journey to the Center of the Earth* by Jules Verne (Science Fiction)**

Journey to the Center of the Earth is an 1864 science fiction novel. The story involves German professor Otto Lidenbrock who believes there are volcanic tubes going toward the center of the Earth. He, his nephew Axel, and their guide Hans descend into the Icelandic volcano Snæfellsjökull, encountering many adventures.

***Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery (Realistic Fiction)**

Anne of Green Gables is a 1908 novel written for all ages. It has been considered a classic children's novel since the mid-twentieth century. Set in the late 19th century, the novel recounts the adventures of Anne Shirley, an 11-year-old orphan girl, who is mistakenly sent to two middle-aged siblings; Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert.

***Rifles for Watie* by Harold Keith (Historical Fiction)**

This children's novel was first published in 1957, and received the Newbery Medal the following year. Set during the American Civil War, the plot revolves around the fictional sixteen-year-old Jefferson Davis Bussey, who is caught up in the events of history. Actual historical personages and battles are seen from the viewpoint of an ordinary soldier, enabled by the choice of protagonist. Harold Keith spent many years interviewing Civil War veterans and visiting the sites depicted in the book, resulting in an authenticity that is rare for historical fiction that targets a young adult audience.

***Home Team Series* by Mike Lupica (Sports)**

Best friends Jack, Teddy, Gus, and Cassie may be star athletes on the field, but they're still trying to figure out who they are off it. Despite their love of different sports, they must find in themselves the same courage and passion to become not only the best players they can be, but the best people, too. Read one of the books from this series.

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***Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens (Serial Fiction)**

Charles Dickens's second novel was first published as a serial from 1837–39. The story centers on orphan Oliver Twist who was born in a workhouse and sold into apprenticeship with an undertaker. After escaping, Oliver travels to London, where he meets “The Artful Dodger”, a member of a gang of juvenile pickpockets led by the elderly criminal, Fagin.

***Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell (Animal Story/ Children's Fiction)**

As a young horse, Black Beauty is well-loved and happy. But when his owner is forced to sell him, his life changes drastically.

***Heroes of Olympus* by Rick Riordan (Fantasy)**

Percy Jackson & the Olympians, often shortened to Percy Jackson, is a pentalogy of fantasy adventure novels written by American author Rick Riordan. Read one of the books from this series.

** 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*

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students to challenging topics and issues is intended to serve as opportunities for students to think, theorize, question, and explore.