

Office of Secondary Language Arts

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Summer is a great time to read, especially for children. With no school and no homework, there are usually plenty of extra hours to fill. Encourage your child to fill those hours with reading. Research shows that students experience learning and reading loss when they are not taking part in active education. Participating in a summer reading activity is an excellent way to prevent such reading loss.

To support our belief in reading, the Linden district requires a summer reading assignment. This year, the assignment for grades 6 through 8 is to read **ONE** of the selected books and complete a **handwritten** Annotated Reading Log, as well as an in-class Summer Reading Assessment. Each grade level has been given a selection of four books, along with the corresponding Lexile level for each selection. In addition, a synopsis of each book has been provided. Encourage your child to challenge themselves!

HONORS LEVEL STUDENTS are required to read the highest Lexile level books at each grade level.

ELLs (English Language Learners)- Students exiting the ELL program will choose their reading from the general grade level selections. Students who are currently enrolled in the ESL program will work with their ESL teachers in order to select materials that are aligned with their individualized needs and English proficiency levels.

Students will be required to bring their **handwritten** Annotated Reading Log to school on **Friday, September 15, 2017**. In an effort to encourage individual and thoughtful responses, only **handwritten** logs will be accepted unless a student's IEP indicates otherwise. The summer reading assessment will be given in class during the first full week of school. The log and assessment will be counted towards the first marking period.

Limited copies of each book will be available at the Linden Public Library, located on E. Henry Street. In addition, the selected books will be available at Barnes and Noble on Central Avenue in Clark, on Kindle, and from various online sources. The Annotated Reading Log and book list will be on the Linden Public Schools website at www.lindenps.org. If you have any questions, or if you have difficulty obtaining a book, you may contact me at my office at (908) 486-2800 ext. 8024.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

Sincerely;



Patricia Tartivita, Ed.D
Supervisor, Secondary Language Arts

Enclosures

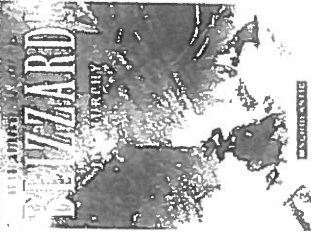
A word about Lexile levels: A Lexile level is one of many tools used to measure reading ability. It is determined by text complexity, and can be used to help a student choose material that is at an appropriate difficulty level. Within a range from 100L below to 50L above his or her Lexile measure, a reader is expected to comprehend the text well enough to understand it, while still experiencing some reading challenge.

Grade Level	Approximate Lexile Level
5	620-950
6	690-1020
7	780-1090
8	820-1140
9 through 12	1110-1385

Entering 8th grade September 2017

Author	Title	Cover	Genre	Lexile	Year/ Pages	Summary
Gaiman	<u>The Graveyard Book</u> ISBN-13: 978-0060530945		Fantasy	820	2010/ 320	After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family...
Ishmael Beah	<u>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</u> ISBN-13: 978-0374531263		Memoir	920	2008/ 229	There may be as many as 300,000 child soldiers, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s, in more than fifty conflicts around the world. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. He is one of the first to tell his story in his own words. In <i>A LONG WAY GONE</i> , Beah, now twenty-six years old, tells a riveting story. At the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a

<p>Gordon-Smith</p>	<p><u>Lockdown-</u> <u>Escape from</u> <u>Furnace</u> ISBN-13: 978-0312611934</p>		<p>Mystery /Thriller</p>	<p>1010</p>	<p>2010/ 304</p>	<p>land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. Eventually released by the army and sent to a UNICEF rehabilitation center, he struggled to regain his humanity and to reenter the world of civilians, who viewed him with fear and suspicion. This is, at last, a story of redemption and hope.</p>
						<p>Furnace Penitentiary: the world's most secure prison for young offenders, buried a mile beneath the earth's surface. Convicted of a murder he didn't commit, sentenced to life without parole, "new fish" Alex Sawyer knows he has two choices: find a way out, or resign himself to a death behind bars, in the darkness at the bottom of the world. Except in Furnace, death is the least of his worries. Soon Alex discovers that the prison is a place of pure evil, where inhuman creatures in gas masks stalk the corridors at night, where giants in black suits drag screaming inmates into the shadows, where deformed beasts can be heard howling from the blood-drenched tunnels below. And behind everything is the mysterious, all-powerful warden, a man as cruel and dangerous as the devil himself, whose unthinkable acts have consequences that stretch far beyond the walls of the prison.</p>

						<p>Together with a bunch of inmates—some innocent kids who have been framed, others cold-blooded killers—Alex plans an escape. But as he starts to uncover the truth about Furnace’s deeper, darker purpose, Alex’s actions grow ever more dangerous, and he must risk everything to expose this nightmare that’s hidden from the eyes of the world.</p>
<p>Murphy</p>	<p><u>Blizzard: The Storm that Changed America</u> ISBN-13: 978-0590673105 Required for Honors students</p>		<p>Historical Non-Fiction</p>	<p>1080</p>	<p>2006/144</p>	<p>With his powerful and intriguing narrative style, Newbery Honor Book author Jim Murphy tells the harrowing story of the Blizzard of 1888. Snow began falling over New York City on March 12, 1888. All around town, people struggled along slippery streets and sidewalks -- some seeking the warmth of their homes, some to get to work or to care for the less fortunate, and some to experience what they assumed would be the last little snowfall of one of the warmest winters on record. What no one realized was that in a very few hours, the wind and snow would bury the city in nearly 21 inches of snow and bring it to a ferocious standstill.</p>

REVIEW THIS PACKET BEFORE READING YOUR NOVEL.

Summer Reading: Annotated Reading Log

This is one of two assessments you will complete using your summer reading novel. This “Summer Reading: Annotated Reading Log” will be due the first Friday of school. The second assessment will be a handwritten IN-CLASS essay using your annotated reading log as a helpful resource.

Task: Complete the attached **Summer Reading: Annotated Reading Log**. This log that will be scored using the attached rubric. Be sure to review the rubric before answering questions. When you see the “*”, use it as a key to help define unknown or unfamiliar terms throughout the Annotated Reading Log.

Requirements: All logs must be handwritten. Typed copies will not be accepted.

“Reading furnishes the mind with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours.”

-John Locke

DUE DATE: Friday, September 15, 2017

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

Title of Book: _____

Author: _____

#	Task	Text Evidence – “Quote” and (pg. #)	Analysis of text evidence: How does this quote support your answer?
9.	Choose two quotes that show a cause & effect relationship in the story. *Cause: What happened? *Effect: Why did that happen?	Cause quote: Effect quote: 	How does this cause/ effect relationship help shape the story?
10.	Choose two quotes that contrast the main character to a minor character. *Contrast: differences	Main Character: Minor Character: 	Trait of main character: Trait of minor character: How do these two quotes show the differences between major and minor characters?:

PART II. *Directions: Short Answer Responses: Use **RACE** to respond to each short answer question.
*Restate question, Answer question, Cite textual evidence, Explain response--- **RACE***

11. Find a sentence from the book that you found surprising or intriguing. Why does this sentence deserve attention?

12. How would you have resolved the major conflict in the story?

Summer Reading Rubric: Annotated Reading Log

	Task Completed	Student Check	Teacher Points	Teacher Comments
1	READ NOVEL: I read the novel in its entirety.		____/10	
2	COMPLETED ANNOTATED READING LOG: Part I After reading the novel, I completed all five requirements of the annotated reading log on pages 1-5.		____/50	
3	COMPLETED SHORT RESPONSE QUESTIONS: Part II I responded to the short response questions on pages 6 of the Annotated Reading Log using <u>RACE</u>		____/40	

Rubric Breakdown for Annotated Reading Log

NOVEL:

- 10pts: I read the entire novel and that is evident in my responses
- 5pts: I skimmed through the novel and that is evident in my responses
- 0pts: I didn't read the novel and that is evident in my responses

ANNOTATED READING LOG PART I: graphic organizer

- 50pts: My Annotated Reading Log has all requirements: text evidence in quotation marks, page numbers, restated questions and explained analysis
- 40pts: My Annotated Reading Log is missing one of the five required elements
- 30pts: My Annotated Reading Log is missing two of the five required elements
- 20pts: My Annotated Reading Log is missing three of the five required elements
- 10pts: My Annotated Reading Log is missing four of the five required elements
- 0pts: I didn't put any effort into my Annotated Reading Log and it is evident

ANNOTATED READING LOG PART II: short answer responses

- 40pts: I constructed a well-thought out RACE response to the short answer question using textual evidence that was thoroughly explained
- 30pts: My short answer RACE response is missing one aspect of RACE
- 20pts: My short answer RACE response is missing two aspects of RACE
- 10pts: My short answer RACE response is missing three aspects of RACE
- 0pts: I did not answer the short responses at all