

Booker T. Washington Junior High 8th Grade Summer Reading List and Project

In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

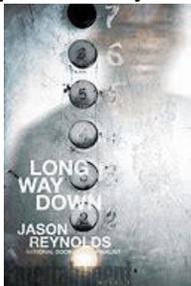
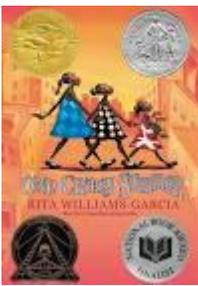
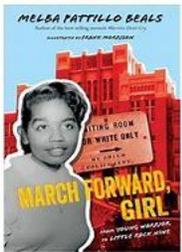
Over the summer you should read as many books as you have time and interest to read. Reading experts note that most young readers suffer a backslide in reading skills during the summer. Research shows that a consistent amount of reading each day (30-45 minutes) will increase reading and comprehension skills and benefit you in every subject, even math. Reading is a wonderful way to escape a hot, humid summer afternoon and to travel anywhere a good author can take you. It will also keep your mind sharp and prepare you for the rigors of 8th grade classes.

Every student will be required to complete a summer reading project. Your project will be due the week of **September 4 - 7 2018**. This will be counted as a quiz grade.

Part 1: Choose ONE of the following books to read over the summer.

Part 2: Book Project - Upon reading one of the following books below, you must select one project from the Project Choice Sheet that has been provided – this will be counted as a grade.

- The book list and copies of this assignment will be posted to the Washington Junior High School website at <http://washinton.conroeisd.net>. The asterisk (*) in front of the titles below indicate which books are eBooks that can be checked out throughout the summer – directions will follow.

<p><u>Now is the Time for Running</u> by Michael Williams</p> 	<p><u>Crazy House</u> by James Patterson</p> 	<p>*<u>Playing for the Devil's Fire</u> by Phillippe Diederich</p> 
<p>Readability Rating: Easy to Medium</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Medium</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Easy</p>
<p>*<u>The Long Way Down</u> by Jason Reynolds</p> 	<p>*<u>One Crazy Summer</u> by Rita Williams Garcia</p> 	<p>*<u>March Forward Girl</u> by Melba Pattillo Beals</p> 
<p>Readability Rating: Easy to Medium</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Medium</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Medium to Challenging</p>

See the synopses of each book listed before making your selection.

1. ***Now is the Time for Running:*** (Michael Williams) Deo and his friends play soccer in the dusty fields of Zimbabwe, cheered on by Deo's older brother, Innocent. It is a day like any other . . . until the soldiers arrive and Deo and Innocent are forced to run for their lives. Along the way, they must rely on the kindness of people they meet to make it through. But when tragedy strikes, Deo's love of soccer is all he has left. Can he use that gift to find hope once more?
2. ***Crazy House:*** (James Patterson) In this somewhat dystopian story, 17-year-old twins, Cassie and Becca are ultimately on their own. Their mother had been taken away for a "mind readjustment" and never returned. This left their father so distraught that he tried, but failed to commit suicide, leaving him hospitalized with little to no chance of recovery. Over-night, Becca (the rebellious one) disappears without a trace, taking with her, one of the only things of value that they have, Cassie's truck. At first angered by the loss of the truck, she soon realizes that Becca didn't disappear by free will. She was taken, like several other teens in their "cell". The story unfolds as both girls end up on death row, fighting for their lives and escape.
3. ***Playing for the Devil's Fire:*** (Phillippe Diederich) This novel is fiction pulled directly from the headlines. Things are changing in small town Mexico. The have-nots suddenly have money and young girls hanging all over them. The icing on the cake is when a decapitated head is left in the town square and then another body is found. Thirteen year old Boli's parents leave to make the short trip to another town for help – local law enforcement is not doing anything at all. His parents are never seen again. This sets up his search for answers, enlisting a has-been wrestler who ends up being a **realistic** hero. Throughout his search, his eyes are opened to the realities and his innocence lost. It seems together, they find nothing but bad news. **eBook available**
4. ***The Long Way Down:*** (Jason Reynolds) Will, 15, is following his neighborhood's well-established rules—don't cry, don't snitch, but do get revenge "if someone you love/ gets killed"—when he leaves his apartment, intent on killing whoever murdered his older brother, Shawn. He's emboldened by the gun tucked into his waistband: "I put my hand behind my back/ felt the imprint/ of the piece, like/ another piece/ of me/ an extra vertebra,/ some more/ backbone." As Will makes his way to the ground floor of his building, the elevator stops to accept passengers, each an important figure from his past, all victims of gun violence. Are these ghosts? Or is it Will's subconscious at work, forcing him to think about what he intends to do and what it will accomplish? The story unfolds in the time it takes for the elevator to descend, and it ends with a two-word question that hits like a punch to the gut. Written entirely in spare verse, this is a tour de force from a writer who continues to demonstrate his skill as an exceptionally perceptive chronicler of what it means to be a black teen in America. **eBook available**
5. ***One Crazy Summer:*** (Rita Williams-Garcia) Eleven-year-old Delphine has it together. Even though her mother, Cecile, abandoned her and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, seven years ago. Even though her father and Big Ma will send them from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to stay with Cecile for the summer. And even though Delphine will have to take care of her sisters, as usual, and learn the truth about the missing pieces of the past. When the girls arrive in Oakland in the summer of 1968, Cecile wants nothing to do with them. She makes them eat Chinese takeout dinners, forbids them to enter her kitchen, and never explains the strange visitors with Afros and black berets who knock on her door. Rather than spend time with them, Cecile sends Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern to a summer camp sponsored by a revolutionary group, the Black Panthers, where the girls get a radical new education. Set during one of the most tumultuous years in recent American history, one crazy summer is the heartbreaking, funny tale of three girls in search of the mother who abandoned them. **eBook available**

6. **March Forward Girl:** (Melba Pattillo Beals) This novel tells the extraordinary story of Beals' childhood as a member of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who first crossed the color barrier to integrate Central High School in 1957. Fear was ever-present in her life. When the Ku Klux Klan rides through her neighborhood, attacking or taking people, she recalls feeling fear, but she also experienced everyday fears such as saying the wrong thing or looking the wrong way. At first, Beals felt safe in her house, but that fragile illusion soon crumbled. Church was the only safe harbor—until the KKK took the sanctity of that place away from her, too.

Book Trailers/Audio Excerpts	
One Crazy Summer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14aLLh4gNPw	Crazy House https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccwzGuPdMzI
Playing for the Devil's Fire https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CWEFUQWx3Q	March Forward Girl https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOT7HMNBk-g
Long Way Down https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF5MRMtpEcl https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m5d5RYCD0c	Now is the Time for Running https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07a6Ai6Yu-M

- **Be prepared for extended activities as they pertain to your novel after our return to school.**

eBook Directions: This is where and how you will be able to access the eBooks over the summer from a computer or cell phone.

Go to Washington's homepage, under more, click on library.

<http://destinyweb.conroeisd.net/quest/servlet/presentquestform.do?site=213>

Your Destiny login is:

Your google **username** (not using @conroeisd.net) and **password** is stu#####.

You need to type in eBooks in the search bar. WHEN YOU ARE DONE READING, YOU NEED TO RETURN THE BOOK ONLINE.

The app is called **Destiny Discover** or **Destiny Quest** depending on your phone version. This is great for summer reading.



Summer Reading Project Choices		
On a poster or large sheet of paper, draw 10 objects or symbols to represent the book. Using complete sentences, explain what each object or symbol represents and explain how the symbol is important to the book.	Using materials like clay, wood, or soap, make 3-D models of three objects which were important in the book you read. On a card attached to each model, explain why that object was important in the book	Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during, or after the book's events. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary. The diary should contain at least 15 entries.
Write a one sentence summary of each chapter and illustrate the sentence. Turn this in on paper or poster board.	Create a timeline of 15 events for the book, including an illustration and a caption for each event. This is to be completed on poster board.	Select one character from the book you read who has the qualities of a heroine or hero. List six qualities and tell why you think they are heroic. This can be typed or hand written.
Fold card stock quality paper to create a book jacket that has a front, spine, back and flaps. The front cover should contain artwork that represents the book, the title, and author. Place the title, author and publishing company on the spine. On the back cover, write a summary of the book (using your own words). On the inside front flap, write something about the author. You may look at professionally designed book jackets, but do not copy.	Make a movie poster advertisement for your book. You must create an appealing poster so someone will want to read the novel. Include the title, author, one or more illustrations, and a description of the novel. Your illustrations should depict characters from scenes of the book. Choose actors and actresses to star as your main characters.	Use a cereal box to tell about your book. Cover your box with paper. Create a new title; place that on the front of the box. Place a short explanation of the book on the back. Add catchy phrases about the book all over the box to get people to want to read the book. Include the author, copyright date, number of pages, publisher, and city of publication.

- **Be prepared for extended activities as they pertain to your novel after our return to school.**

If you have any questions or need clarification on this assignment please feel free to email any of the 8th Grade Language Arts teachers.

Language Arts Teachers	Public Library Availability
Julie LaRoche: jlaroche@conroeisd.net	Titles available at MCML Central Library, Conroe
Sharon Kral: skral@conroeisd.net	
Nickole Maronge: nmaronge@conroeisd.net	All titles can be found at the Central Library in Conroe EXCEPT FOR The Long Way Down
Shanita Mason: smason@conroeisd.net	Titles available at CB Stewart Library, Montgomery
Aileen Salas: ailsalas@conroeisd.net	One Crazy Summer, Crazy House, The Long Way Down
Jennifer Fleming: jrfleming@conroeisd.net	