

Booker T. Washington Junior High Pre-Ap 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.

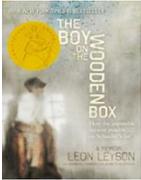
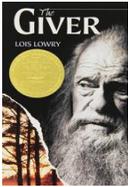
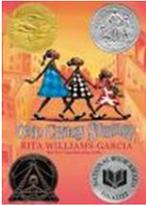
Over the summer you should read as many books as you have time and interest to read. Reading experts note that most young readers suffer a backslide in reading skills during the summer. Research shows that a consistent amount of reading each day (30-45 minutes) will increase reading and comprehension 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 Pre-Ap 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>The Boy on the Wood Box</u> by Leon Leyson</p> 	<p><u>The Giver</u> by Lois Lowry</p> 	<p><u>Heat</u> by Mike Lupica</p> 	<p>*<u>One Crazy Summer</u> by Rita Williams Garcia</p> 
<p>Readability Rating: Challenging</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Medium</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Medium</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Medium</p>
<p>*<u>Playing for the Devil's Fire</u> by Phillippe Diederich</p> 	<p>*<u>Ghost</u> by Jason Reynolds</p> 	<p><u>Crazy House</u> by James Patterson</p> 	<p>*<u>March Forward Girl</u> by Melba Pattillo Beals</p> 
<p>Readability Rating: Easy</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Medium</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Medium to Challenging</p>	<p>Readability Rating: Medium to Challenging</p>

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

1. ***The Boy on the Wooden Box (by Leon Leyson)*** Even in the darkest of times - *especially* in the darkest of times - there is room for strength and bravery. A remarkable memoir from Leon Leyson, one of the youngest children to survive the Holocaust on Oskar Schindler's list.

Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. With incredible luck, perseverance, and grit, Leyson was able to survive the sadism of the Nazis, including that of the demonic Amon Goeth, commandant of Plaszow, the concentration camp outside Krakow. Ultimately, it was the generosity and cunning of one man, a man named Oskar Schindler, who saved Leon Leyson's life, and the lives of his mother, his father, and two of his four siblings, by adding their names to his list of workers in his factory - a list that became world renowned: Schindler's List.

2. ***The Giver (by Lois Lowry)*** This novel is set in a society which at first appears to be utopian but is revealed to be dystopian as the story progresses. The novel follows a 12-year-old boy named Jonas. The society has taken away pain and strife by converting to "Sameness", a plan that has also eradicated emotional depth from their lives. Jonas is selected to inherit the position of Receiver of Memory, the person who stores all the past memories of the time before Sameness, as there may be times where one must draw upon the wisdom gained from history to aid the community's decision making. Jonas struggles with concepts of all the new emotions and things introduced to him: whether they are inherently good, evil, or in between, and whether it is even possible to have one without the other. The Community lacks any color, memory, climate, or terrain, all in an effort to preserve structure, order, and a true sense of equality beyond personal individuality. Read about a boy in an isolated community discovering the terrible secrets behind the pleasant, emotionless life he and his friends live.
3. ***Heat (by Mike Lupica)*** Michael is a twelve-year-old Cuban immigrant with an amazing baseball talent. He wants to lead his team to victory in the World Series...the Little League World Series. However, Michael has a secret that may keep him from attaining this dream if anybody finds out. Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year-old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system--or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.
4. ***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**
5. ***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**

6. **Ghost: (Jason Reynolds)** Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him? **eBook available**
7. **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.
8. **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. **eBook available**

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

Book Trailers/Audio Excerpts	
The Giver https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tr16t3ieApE	Crazy House https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccwzGuPdMzl
Playing for the Devil's Fire https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CWEFUQWx3Q	Heat https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHCbSp6XbkQ
Ghost https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahY5VcB81rc	The Boy on the Wooden Box https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qZDrL1KkHg https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcyvZGEsfkY
One Crazy Summer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14aLlh4gNPw	March Forward Girl https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOT7HMNb-k-g

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.



PreAP Summer Reading Project Choices

<p>Create a timeline of 15 events for the book, including an illustration and a caption for each event. This can be done on paper or poster board.</p>	<p>Create a children’s picture book based on your book. Draw or create pictures that illustrate the important concepts of the story line of your book and be sure to tell the main points in your picture book. At least 10 pages.</p>	<p>Stories are based on conflicts and solutions. Choose three conflicts (problems) that take place in the story and give the solutions. Pick one that you wish had been handled differently and explain how it should have been handled.</p>
<p>In a PowerPoint or Windows Movie Maker presentation, create a book talk that explains what the book is about, the theme, the author, & information from the book. Use pictures and/or video that accurately shows the contents of the book. Presentation should be no longer than three to five minutes.</p>	<p>What award would you nominate this story for? Most Exciting? Most Likely to Make You Laugh Your Head Off? Design and make an award for this novel. The award should be based on literary merit. Write a speech that describes why this novel is receiving this award.</p>	<p>Create a “soundtrack” for the book. What five songs would you choose? Give an explanation for why you chose each song and how it connects to the events or characters in the book. Include the title, artist and lyrics for each song.</p>
<p>Write a two or three paragraph proposal to have the book you’ve read made into a movie. Include which actors will play the main characters in the movie and why as well as the location the movie will be filmed and why. Create a movie poster for the book. It should include elements from a real movie poster such as slogan, the actors and the rating.</p>	<p>Find a container that represents something unique about the plot of the book. Fill the container with at least 10 objects that represent something about the character, setting, plot or conflict of the story. You may not use pictures, drawings or words (objects only). On a separate sheet of paper make a list of the objects, describe what they symbolize and why that part of the plot was important.</p>	<p>Use characters or places in the novel and draw a picture of each character/place on a separate 3 X 5 card. On the back of the cards write important information about the character or place. Include the character’s name, age and purpose in the novel. Also include relationship to other characters, what happens to the character, what happens in the scene and why that scene is important. Each trading card must be colorful. Minimum of eight trading cards.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Create a test for this novel that covers plot, theme, symbolism, conflict, setting and characters. 20 multiple choice questions, five fill in the blank, five short answer questions and 10 true and false. Include the answer key.</p>	<p>Design costumes for the main characters. Use dolls and dress them as characters from the book. Explain who these characters are and how they fit in the story. On separate paper, include the conflicts they faced and how they were resolved.</p>

If you have any questions or need clarification 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	
Shanita Mason: smason@conroeisd.net	Titles available at CB Stewart Library, Montgomery
Aileen Salas: ailsalas@conroeisd.net	The Giver, Ghost, One Crazy Summer, Crazy House, The Boy on the Wooden Box
Jennifer Fleming: jrfleming@conroeisd.net	

