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| 8th Grade Summer Reading Choices Mrs. Gertsch and Mrs. Iwanowski**ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON AUGUST 9TH! The second full day of school.**  |
| Book Title | Author | Description |
| **That was Then, This is Now** | **S. E. Hinton** | That Was Then, This Is Now is a coming-of age, young adult novel by S. E. Hinton, first published in 1971. Set in the 1960s, it follows the relationship between two brothers, Mark Jennings and Bryon Douglas, who are foster brothers, but find their relationship rapidly changing as they grow up and face the challenges of poverty and trying to cope with the violence around them. Difficult decisions are made daily in order to stay alive and somehow thrive. (same author as The Outsiders, and Ponyboy is a character in this novel as well) |
| **Little Women** | **Louisa May Alcott** | Little Women is a coming-of-age novel written by American novelist Louisa May Alcott. The story follows the lives of the four March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—and details their passage from childhood to womanhood. This novel is loosely based on the lives of the author and her three sisters. While her father, the freethinking reformer and abolitionist Bronson Alcott, hobnobbed with such eminent male authors as Emerson, Thoreau, and Hawthorne, Louisa supported herself and her sisters with "woman’s work,” including sewing, doing laundry, and acting as a domestic servant. But Alcott soon discovered she could make more money writing. Little Women brought her lasting fame and fortune, and far from being the "girl’s book” her publisher requested, it explores such timeless themes as love and death, war and peace, the conflict between personal ambition and family responsibilities, and the clash of cultures between Europe and America. |
| **The Tragedy Paper** | **Elizabeth LaBan** | This is the story of Tim Macbeth, a seventeen-year-old albino and recent transfer to the prestigious Irving School, where the motto is “Enter here to be and find a friend.” A friend is the last thing Tim expects or wants—he just hopes to get through his senior year unnoticed. Yet, despite his efforts to blend into the background, he finds himself falling for the quintessential “It” girl, Vanessa Sheller, girlfriend of Irving’s most popular boy. To Tim's surprise, Vanessa seems to like him, too, but she guards her social status and hides her feelings. Tim’s story is told parallel to Duncan’s, an Irving senior the following year, who is about to find out the truth of Tim, Vanessa, and what has happened last winter and how their story relates to all the students. |
| **The Rig** | **Joe Ducie** | Fifteen-year-old Will Drake has made a career of breaking out from high-security prisons. His talents have landed him at the Rig, a special juvenile holding facility in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. No one can escape from the Rig. After hatching some escape plans—and making the first real friends of his life—Drake quickly realizes that all is not as it seems on the Rig. The warden is obsessed with the mysterious Crystal-X, a blue glowing substance that appears to give superpowers to the teens exposed to it. Drake, Tristan, and Irene are banking on a bid for freedom—but can they survive long enough to make it? |
| **Refugee** | **Alan Gratz** | JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . .MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . .All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers — from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. |
| **The Kingdom of Back**  | **Marie Lu** | This is a historical fantasy novel based on Mozart’s older sister, Maria, that came out in March. Maria Anna is a musical prodigy in her own right. She travelled around Europe with her brother performing throughout her childhood. This story mixes the 18th century world they lived in with the fantasy world of Back, which the real Mozart siblings invented on their travels as children. Throughout the story Maria Anna must straddle the worlds: one full of magical fairy friends who may or may not have her best interest at heart and another where her brother’s gender means he will achieve musical accolades she can only dream of. |
| **A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder** | **Holly Jackson** | Everyone in Fairview knows the story.Pretty and popular high school senior Andie Bell was murdered by her boyfriend, Sal Singh, who then killed himself. It was all anyone could talk about. And five years later, Pip sees how the tragedy still haunts her town.But she can't shake the feeling that there was more to what happened that day. She knew Sal when she was a child, and he was always so kind to her. How could he possibly have been a killer?Now a senior herself, Pip decides to reexamine the closed case for her final project, at first just to cast doubt on the original investigation. But soon she discovers a trail of dark secrets that might actually prove Sal innocent . . . and the line between past and present begins to blur. Someone in Fairview doesn't want Pip digging around for answers, and now her own life might be in danger. |
| **Not my Problem** | **Ciara Smyth** | Aideen has plenty of problems she can’t solve. But when she stumbles upon overachiever Meabh Kowalska having a full-blown meltdown, she sees one that she can actually fix. Meabh is desperate to escape her crushing pile of extracurriculars. Aideen volunteers to help—by pushing her down the stairs.Problem? Solved. Meabh’s sprained ankle is the perfect excuse to ditch her overwhelming schedule. But when one of their classmates learns about their little scheme, more “clients” start asking for Aideen’s “help”—kicking off a semester of traded favors, ill-advised hijinks, and even an unexpected chance at love.Fixing other people’s problems won’t fix her own. But it might be the push Aideen needs to start. |
| **Hunger Games (#1)**  | **Suzanne Collins** | **Could you survive on your own in the wild, with every one out to make sure you don't live to see the morning?**In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. But Katniss has been close to dead before—and survival, for her, is second nature. Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weight survival against humanity and life against love. |
| **The Giver** | **Lois Lowry** | At the age of twelve, Jonas, a young boy from a seemingly utopian, futuristic world, is singled out to receive special training from The Giver, who alone holds the memories of the true joys and pain of life. |

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| 1. Write a short story explaining where Gabriel and Jonas are now.
 | 1. Research what a Dystopian Society is and explain how it plays a role in Jonas’ story.
 | 1. Choose 5 new or interesting words from The Giver. Use them in a paragraph to discuss a character or an event from The Giver. Be sure to highlight or underline the words as you use them.
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| 1. Make a character chart from 4 characters in The Giver. List at least 3 character traits for each, and choose a quote from the story that shows the reader the character possess this trait. (You should have one quote per trait.) You can make bullet points for each trait.
 | **Directions: You must complete choice 1. Then choose 3 other projects from the board to complete. Neatness, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar all count. Full headings need to be on assignments: First and Last Name and Date. Large plain paper can be used for timeline and illustrations.** **Be prepared to present one of your projects to the class.**  | 1. Illustrate your favorite scene from the book. Your illustration should include enough detail to show that you understand what waws happening in the scene and must be colored in. Label parts of the illustration and write a small (5 sentences) paragraph describing the scene and what part of the book it is from.
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| 1. Make a timeline of major events in The Giver. You must include at least **10** major events from the story, starting at the beginning and ending at the end of the book.
 | 1. Design your own bike that you would receive at the “Ceremony of 9”.
 | 1. What do you think the author means through the theme: “Taking away people’s choices will not make them happier?” Answer in a short paragraph.
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Giver Choice Board

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| 1. Write a short story that extends the novel you chose.
 | 1. Research the setting of your novel. Find a map of the location or draw a map. Tell us about the setting in a well written, complete paragraph.
 | 1. Choose 5 new words from your novel. Use them to discuss a character or event from the novel. Must be a complete paragraph.
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| 1. Make a character chart including 4 characters in your novel. List at least 3 character traits for each, and choose a quote from the story that shows the reader the character possess this trait. (You should have one quote per trait.) You can make bullet points for each trait.
 | **Directions: You must complete choice 1. Then choose 3 other projects from the board to complete. Neatness, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar all count. Full headings need to be on assignments: First and Last Name and Date. Large plain paper can be used for timeline and illustrations.** **Be prepared to present one of your projects to the class.** | 1. Illustrate your favorite scene from the book. Your illustration should include enough detail to show that you understand what waws happening in the scene and must be colored in. Label parts of the illustration and write a small (5 sentences) paragraph describing the scene and what part of the book it is from.
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| 1. Make a timeline of major events in your novel. You must include at least **10** major events from the story, starting at the beginning and ending at the end of the book.
 | 1. Make a shoebox diorama that shows major components of your novel.
 | 1. Make a poster outlining the theme of your novel. Find pictures from magazines, internet, etc. to attach to your poster that relate.
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Choice Board for Any Fiction Novel