

Dear Incoming 8th Grade Students and Parents,

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing our students with a challenging and rewarding curriculum, the Meyerland PVA Middle School English Department has created a summer reading program for our students. We believe summer reading will both enrich students and create a strong foundation for the reading and writing we will be doing during the 2020-2021 school year.

Over the summer, students will be required to read one of the books from the list below. The students will complete a project that will account for a significant portion of their first six weeks grade. The assignment is mandatory. These titles are available through the Houston Public Library system, Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, or you might find them at Half-Price Books. All HISD students have access to ebooks and audiobooks via Overdrive and Axis360 through the Houston Public Library Learning Link Program and MackinVia through HISD. Each title that is available via ebook or audiobook is linked by each title on the lists below.

Assignment:

Product for the novel – **Due September 3/4, 2020**

All students will choose one book from the list to read and one project from the attached list to complete. Points will be deducted for late projects. No projects will be accepted after the 1st progress report closes.

Assessment - 100 points

- 1 – Project is thrown together in a haphazard manner and does not satisfy project requirements
- 2 – Project somewhat satisfies project requirements but lacks creativity, originality or depth
- 3 – Project fulfills requirements and shows some evidence of creativity, originality or depth
- 4 – Project fulfills requirements and shows significant creativity, originality or depth

If you have any questions about the summer reading program, please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail (kaust@houstonisd.org) Happy reading and have a great summer!

Houston Public Library (HPL) Card Info:

Library Card # is the first letter of student's last name plus their HISD student ID number. HISD students already have an account with Axis 360 and Overdrive and will use their HPL Library Card # to sign in.

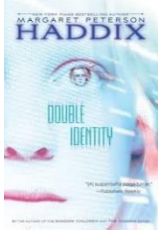
MackinVia:

Site: MPVA (Meyerland)

Username: s#####

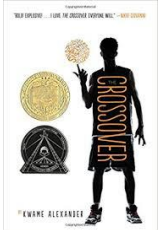
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Choose one of the books below:



Double Identity by Margaret Peterson Haddix

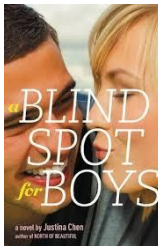
Bethany's life has always been safe and protected. But one day, when she's almost 13, her parents bundle her into the car and drive to Sanderfield, Ill., where they leave her with an aunt she never knew she had and the suspense grows...



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Fourteen-year-old twin brothers, Jordan (JB) and Josh Bell (aka Filthy McNasty) are unstoppable on the court. Growing up they face struggles, changes, and challenges.

[Axis 360](#) [Overdrive](#) [MackinVia](#)



A Blind Spot for Boys by Justina Chen

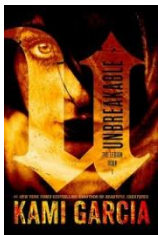
Shana Wilde is on a self imposed boy moratorium. Her priority now is to spend time with her father who is going blind. She and her parents set out on an adventure to walk the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. The last thing she needs is to fall in love, but when Quattro rides into her life in Seattle and shows up in Peru, Shana learns a lesson or two about love and life.



Buzz Kill by Beth Fantaskey

When a highly unpopular football coach is found dead, high school journalist Millie Ostermeyer is eager to uncover the truth, especially when it becomes clear that her father, the assistant coach, is the chief suspect!

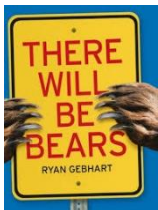
[Axis 360](#) [Overdrive](#)



Unbreakable by Kami Garcia

Kennedy discovers she is a member of an ancient society to protect the world from a demon determined to get out of his dimension and into ours. She joins the Legion to find a weapon that can defeat him.

[Axis360](#) [Overdrive](#)



There Will be Bears by Ryan Gebhart

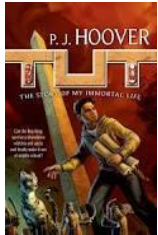
Tyson is sad to see his grandpa moved to the nursing home that is three hours away. Not only is he losing one of his best friends, he is going to miss out on his first big hunting opportunity. But when grandpa comes up with an alternate plan to take Tyson to kill his first elk in an area with recent bear activity, the hunt is back on. [Overdrive](#)



Forget Me by K.A. Harrington

Morgan Tulley is finally moving on after the hit and run death of her boyfriend Flynn, but when she posts a picture of him online, the face recognition tag suggests another boy named Evan Murphy. Is Flynn really dead or has Morgan been living a lie?

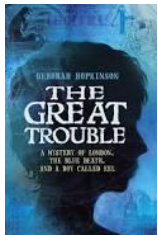
[Overdrive](#)



Tut: The Story of My Immortal Life by P.J. Hoover

Instead of dying, like the history books report, King Tut was granted the gift of immortality. He's been fourteen years old for 3,000 years. Suddenly, an enemy returns and Tut has the chance to exact revenge for betrayals long past. But at what cost?

[Axis360](#) [Overdrive](#)



The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death and a Boy Called Eel

13 year old Eel is trying to survive the mean streets of 1850s London. Life is hard, but nothing prepares him for the devastating outbreak of Cholera that kills hundreds in his neighborhood. What can one boy do to help find the cause of the outbreak and end the great trouble?

[Axis 360](#) [Overdrive](#)



The Nethergrim by Matthew Jobin

Valiant knight Tristan and the wizard Vitric destroyed the evil Nethergrim in a devastating battle decades ago...as the legend goes. No one knows for sure. The survivors aren't talking, but something dark is brewing. Edmund Bale, an aspiring wizard, is convinced the Nethergrim is back.

[Overdrive](#) [MackinVia](#)



The Great Greene Heist by Varian Johnson

Oceans 11 meets middle school. Jackson Greene is a con artist trying to go straight since his last botched con lost him his best friend and hopefully future girlfriend, Gaby. However, when he discovers her bid for StuCo President is about to be rigged by his arch enemy, he decides to end his retirement and help ensure her victory.

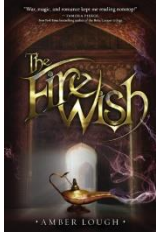
[Overdrive](#)



Proxy by Alex London

Knox has everything a patron boy born of privilege could ever want including his own proxy, Syd, who takes Knox's punishment for any wrongdoing. When Knox kills a girl in a car wreck, Syd is sentenced to hard labor and death. Syd can no longer accept the hand of fate he has been dealt, and with Knox's help, he sets out to change his destiny.

[Overdrive](#)



The Fire Wish by Amber Lough

Najwa is a jinni training to be a spy in the war against the humans. Zayele is a human girl unwillingly on her way to marry the prince of Baghdad. But when Najwa is captured by Zayele and is forced to grant her wish of switching places things get interesting

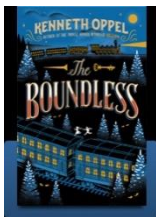
[Overdrive](#)



In the After by Demitria Lunetta

A suspenseful, fast paced, postapocalyptic page turner. Zombielike aliens invade Earth with the single motivation of eating human flesh. Fourteen year old Amy is alone during the attack and the aliens seem to have annihilated all human traces... and so begins her survival story.

[Overdrive](#) [MackinVia](#)



The Boundless by Kenneth Oppel

Adventure on the Boundless, the greatest train ever built! Teenage Will enlists the aid of a traveling circus to save the train from villains.



The Kiss of Deception by Mary E. Pearson

Lia doesn't want to marry as an alliance between countries, so she runs away. The prince is impressed by her audacity and tracks her in order to meet her. Meanwhile, a third country wants her dead to keep the alliance from happening, so they send an assassin. Consequences to Lia's decision are devastating. She must return. Time is up; the assassin must kill her and the prince must reveal the truth.

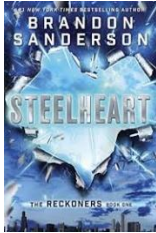
[Axis360](#) [Overdrive](#) [MackinVia](#)



The Haunting of Gabriel Ashe by Dan Poblocki

Gabriel Ashe and his friend Seth spend the summer playing a made up game of princes and monsters in the woods between their homes. It's a game passed down from Seth's older brother who supposedly ran away. What the boys don't realize is that they have awakened an evil spirit and it loves to play games.

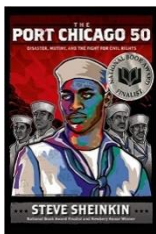
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Steelheart by Brandon Sanderson

Ten years ago Calamity appeared in the sky, and it gave ordinary humans superhuman powers. They are called Epics, and one of the worst is Steelheart who rules what was once Chicago. Steelheart seem

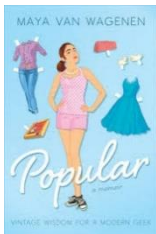
[Axis360](#) [Overdrive](#)



The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights Steve Sheinken

Littleknown Civil Rights milestone: During World War II, black sailors performed the dangerous job of loading ammunition, without training or safety procedures. After an explosion killed hundreds, sailors were courtmartialed for refusing to load ammo.

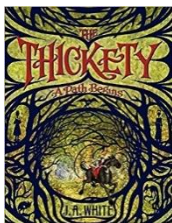
[Axis360](#) [Overdrive](#) [MackinVia](#)



Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek by Maya Van Wagenen

Maya finds a copy of a 60 year old guide on how to be popular. She decides to follow the advice given and see how her experiment turns out. She changes her clothes, diet, and most importantly her attitude.

[Axis360](#) [Overdrive](#)



The Thickety by J.A. White

Kara Westfall lives on a remote island in a community known as The Path that abhors witches. Her mother was found to be a witch and was hanged and now, five years later, Kara deals with the aftermath on a daily basis. But when she finds a book in the forbidden forest known as The Thickety things will change.

[MackinVia](#)

8th Grade Summer Reading Project Choices

Assignment: Choose one book from the summer reading list to read and one project from the list below to complete. All projects will be due September 3rd and 4th. Points will be deducted for late projects. No projects will be accepted after the 1st progress report closes.

1. Design and make your own t-shirt.
 - Illustrate a scene or character from the book on a t-shirt.
 - Write a short summary of the scene or description of the character and explain why either is important to the story.
2. Create a mobile of items related to the story.
 - Select 10 items that represent people, places, or events in the book and hang them from a hanger using string or yarn.
 - Write a key that explains each object and why you chose it.
3. Make “wanted” posters for characters in the book.
 - Choose characters from the book who could be “wanted” for crimes, failures, or mistakes.
 - Research sample wanted posters. Information to include on your posters: the “crime,” physical description, where the character was last seen, and reward amount.
4. Make a new book jacket for the book.
 - Front cover: Draw and color an illustration for the book.
 - Inside front flap: Write descriptions of the main characters.
 - Inside back flap: Write a description of the setting and a short summary of the book.
 - Back cover: Write quotes from the book that are important to understanding the story.
5. Create a collage to represent the book
 - Include at least 10 photos or illustrations.
 - Write a key describing each item on the collage and its importance.
6. Write a comic book version of your book.
 - Use comic panes, call-outs, and colored illustrations to retell the story.
7. Create a book in bag.
 - Choose 10 items that represent people, places, and events in the book.
 - Place them in a brown paper bag.
 - Write a key describing each of the items and explain its importance.
8. Write a letter to the author.
 - Include all elements of a friendly letter. Share:
 - Your opinion of the book and why
 - The character you are most like and why
 - Your favorite part of the book and why

- Questions that you have about the book.
 - Include your return address on the letter and an addressed envelope if you wish to send the letter.
9. Write an interview between you and a character. Then, answer each question as you think the character would respond based on the book.
 10. Create a board or card game about the book.
 - Include details about the setting, characters, and plot.
 - Include instructions and all game pieces.
 11. Draw and paint or color a portrait of a character.
 - Include a description of the character whom you colored or painted.
 12. Write diary entries that a character would write that include details about the story.
 - Diary entries should be at least 10 sentences each.
 - Minimum of 10 entries.
 13. Create an illustrated timeline.
 - Choose at least 10 important events from the story. Write a description of each event and draw and color an illustration for each event.
 - The events should be on the timeline in the order in which they occurred.
 14. Create a diorama of a scene from the book.
 - Create a 3-D scene from the book inside of a shoebox.
 - Write a description of what the scene shows.
 15. Make a map of places where the story took place.
 - The map should be colored.
 - Write a description of what each place is and why it is important.
 16. Create a sculpture of a character.
 - Use modeling clay or papier-mache to sculpt a character.
 - Write a description of the character whom you sculpted.
 17. Illustrate three important scenes from the book.
 - Drawings should be colored.
 - Write the description of what each scene is and why it is important.
 18. Write a letter to the main character of your book.
 - Include all elements of a friendly letter.
 19. Create a travel brochure for a book.
 - Make a colorful brochure based on the setting of your book.
 - Give reasons people should want to visit this location.
 - Describe what occurred in this location in the book.
 20. Send postcards from one of the characters to your teacher.
 - On the back of each postcard, write a short summary of an important event from the story from the character's point of view.
 - On the front, illustrate that event.
 - Do not mail. You will hand in by the due date.

21. Create a book award.
 - Create a special award for the book as well as an award ribbon.
 - Illustrate the book's cover, and attach the book award ribbon
 - On the back of the book's cover, explain why you are giving the award.
22. Create an album booklet about the book.
 - Illustrate the front cover and include the album title and band.
 - On the back, come up with 10 song titles that represent characters, settings, or events in the book.
 - On the inside of the booklet, write a short summary of the book.
23. Create a picture book version of your book.
 - Rewrite the book for a Kindergarten or 1st grade audience. Use short sentences and age-appropriate words so that they can read it easily.
 - Illustrate each page to go along with the story.
24. Write a new ending for the story or add an extra chapter.
 - Write a different ending for the story and tell how it affects the characters, OR
 - Write an extra chapter for the book that gives more details about an event that has already been described or a new event.
25. Write a test about the book you read.
 - Use information from the book to create a test that you could give other readers to check their understanding of the story.
 - The test could include matching, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions.
 - Test must be at least 25 questions.
26. Create a sports trading card for a sports figure.
 - On the front, draw and color a picture of the person.
 - On the back, write the person's statistics such as name; birthday; hometown; high school or university attended; sport played; how he or she got started in the sport; and important accomplishments.
27. Make a PowerPoint presentation about your book.
 - Include information such as title, author, plot outline, setting description, character descriptions, favorite part, book review, and facts that you learned.

Assessment - 100 points

- 1 – Project is thrown together in a haphazard manner and does not satisfy project requirements
- 2 – Project somewhat satisfies project requirements but lacks creativity, originality or depth
- 3 – Project fulfills requirements and shows some evidence of creativity, originality or depth
- 4 – Project fulfills requirements and shows significant creativity, originality or depth
- 5 – Project fulfills requirements and shows significant creativity, originality and depth

If you have any questions about the summer reading program, please do not hesitate to email kaust@houstonisd.org or ccooper8@houstonisd.org Happy reading and have a great summer!