Summer Reading Guides/2016

The assigned books will control 10% of your first quarter grade. There will be discussion and testing on one of the books the first week of school. The reading of the second book will be assessed through an essay. Bring the books with you to class in September. Use these guides to help you mark important passages in the books as you read.

Middle School

English 6

Crispin (The Cross of Lead #1) by Avi

"Asta's Son" is all he's ever been called. The lack of a name is appropriate, because he and his mother are but poor peasants in 14th century medieval England. But this thirteen-year-old boy who thought he had little to lose soon finds himself with even less - no home, no family, or possessions. Accused of a crime he did not commit, he may be killed on sight, by anyone. If he wishes to remain alive, he must flee his tiny village. All the boy takes with him is a newly revealed name - Crispin - and his mother's cross of lead.

Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs

A fifteen-year-old boy, Victor Flores, is growing up in the mountains of central Mexico. He is only concern is provided enough food and money for his family since his father died. He eventually decides that he must go north and try "crossing the wire" into the United States to find work and send money home. He begins an incredible journey that includes freezing temperatures, scorching heat, hunger, and plenty of dead ends. Will Victor make it to the States?

English 7

The Indian in the Cupboard

What could be better than a magic cupboard that turns small toys into living creatures? Omri's big brother has no birthday present for him, so he gives Omri an old medicine cabinet he has found. Although their mother supplies a key, the cabinet still does not seem like much of a present. But when an exhausted Omri dumps a plastic toy Indian into the cabinet just before falling asleep, the magic begins. Turn the key once and the toy comes alive; turn it a second time and it is an action figure again.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

In C.S. Lewis's book The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, siblings Lucy, Edmund, Susan, and Peter start the story by playing hide-and-go-seek in their Uncle Andrew's house. They are staying with their uncle because of the difficult times and the war in England. The youngest child, Lucy, decides to hide in an old wardrobe, but this is no ordinary wardrobe. It takes Lucy to the magical world of Narnia.
She comes back noticing that no time has passed, and she takes her brothers and sister along with her to this other world.

From here, the adventure has just begun. They meet talking beasts and giants, battle the evil White Witch, and learn that one of their own family members betrays them. They do this all with the help of the protector of Narnia and a lion named Aslan. This book goes beyond a fairy-tale to a much deeper meaning. The symbolism is important, and people of all ages can appreciate the book.

English 8

*Animal Farm*

Told in a humorous vein, the animals on a farm replay what happened during the Russian Revolution of 1917. The story begins on Manor Farm, which is run by a human. The animals on the farm are fed up with having to listen to a human and do his work. After a speech given by Old Major, the oldest pig on the farm, the animals build up the courage to revolt. The revolution is successful, and they run the human out.

Once this occurs, the animals are free. Then the pigs take control. The pigs, whose leaders are Napoleon and his friend Snowball, make up a set of rules for everyone to follow. In the beginning, these rules are the ideal rules for a perfect nation and everyone is equal. The rules are written on a wall for all animals to read and obey. This is all well and good, until the pigs start to stretch the rules and even start to erase them. Their perfect society goes downhill from there.

*Where the Red Fern Grows*

This is the story of Billy, Old Dan, and Little Ann—a boy and his two dogs. A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee county. Old Dan had the brawn, Little Ann had the brains—and Billy had the will to train them to be the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. And close by was the strange and wonderful power that’s only found. An exciting tale of love and adventure you’ll never forget.