

2017 Whitcomb School Summer Reading - Entering Grade 8

Choose one book from the list and complete one of the following projects.

All projects need to include: Your name, Title of Book, Author of Book

Project Options:

1. Letter to the Author

- Write a letter to the author of your book explaining why you did/did not like his/her book.
- Include at least 5 questions for your author and why you want to know about those questions.
- This should be at least one page single-spaced or two pages double-spaced.

2. Create a commercial (either radio or television)

- Create an advertisement for either television or radio.
- You can actually tape it, or perform it in class.
- Make sure you “SELL” your book to class. Why would we want to read it?? Give at least 5 reasons..
- Include a written script to turn into the teacher.

3. Interview a character

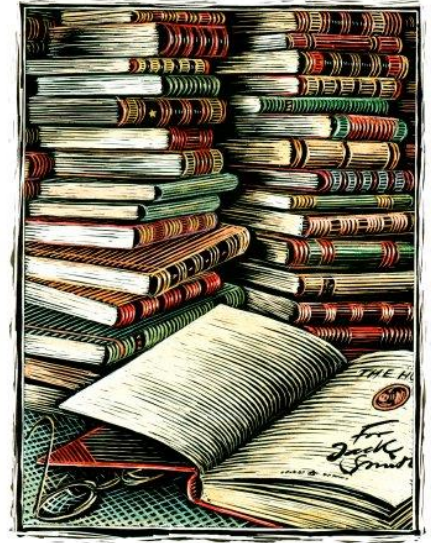
- Write **5 questions** that you are dying to know about your character. Be inventive!
- Then answer each question as completely as possible as the character might respond.
 - Each response should be a paragraph long and indicate elements of the novel.

4. Identify 10 websites the character would visit.





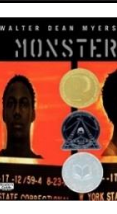

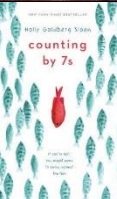
- Find **10 websites** that a character in your book would likely visit and document the URLs.
- All websites must be of an appropriate nature.
- Write a short paragraph for each website explaining why the character would like to be there and how that relates to the book

5. Write a personal letter to a character

- Write a letter to a character you admire or despise that explains why you feel the way you do.
- Be sure to include character traits, setting elements, and important incidents within the plot.



Book Options for Students Entering Grade 8

| Title | Author | Summary |
|---|--|--|
|  | <i>Out of My Mind</i> Sharon Draper | Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow. |
|  | <i>The Greatest: Muhammed Ali</i> Walter Dean Myers | An award-winning author presents a riveting account of the extraordinary career and accomplishments of boxer Muhammad Ali. This biography chronicles Ali's impact on race relations inside and outside the sports world. |
|  | <i>Fish in a Tree</i> Lynda Mullaly Hunt | Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike. |
|  | <i>Code Talker: A novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II</i> Joseph Bruchac | Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo Indians. |
|  | <i>Monster</i> Walter Dean Myers | This New York Times bestselling novel and National Book Award nominee from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives. Fade In: Interior: Early Morning In Cell Block D, Manhattan Detention Center. Steve (Voice-Over) Sometimes I feel like I have walked into the middle of a movie. Maybe I can make my own movie. The film will be the story of my life. No, not my life, but of this experience. I'll call it what the lady prosecutor called me ... Monster. |
|  | <i>The Outsiders</i> S.E. Hinton | According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser. |
|  | <i>Counting by 7s</i> Holly Goldberg Sloan | Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life...until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is <i>not</i> a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read. |