

Edward R. Murrow High School

DESIGNATED A SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ALLEN BARGE, PRINCIPAL

GAYLE ZEITLIN, AP COMMUNICATION ARTS

Summer Reading 2018

Incoming 9th Grade

Directions for Students: Your assignment is to read at least one book over the summer and complete the task on the bottom of this page. The goal is for you to come prepared to discuss the book you read with your classmates in September.

Below is a list of suggested titles of excellent books to read. We believe you will enjoy them. However, if you have a favorite author or topic you are interested in pursuing, feel free to choose your own book. You can also access a more comprehensive recommended reading list from NYC Department of Education at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/NYCReads365>.

9th Grade

The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman by Meg Wolitzer

Duncan Dorfman, April Blunt, and Nate Saviano don't seem to have much in common. Duncan is trying to manage his newfound ability to "read" with his fingers. April is striving to be accepted by her family of jocks. And Nate is struggling to meet his father's high expectations. But when a Scrabble Tournament brings them together, their stories intertwine. Driven by competition, drama, and just a touch of magic, the story will have readers flying through the pages, anxious to discover who will be the real winners . . .

Amazon Reviews

I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson

At first, Jude and her twin brother are Noah and Jude; inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red-red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them. Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways . . . but then Jude meets an intriguing, irresistible boy and a mysterious new mentor. The early years are Noah's to tell; the later years are Jude's. But they each have only half the story, and if they can only find their way back to one another, they'll have a chance to remake their world. ... *Amazon Reviews*

I Was Here by Gayle Forman

"*I Was Here* is a pitch-perfect blend of mystery, tragedy, and romance. Gayle Forman has given us an unflinchingly honest portrait of the bravery that it takes to live after devastating loss." —Stephen Chbosky, author of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Flight by Sherman Alexie

Sherman Alexie's *Flight* winds themes of alienation, revenge, and forgiveness through its narrator's time-traveling adventures.....*Amazon Reviews*

Belzhar by Meg Wolitzer

Devastated by the death of her first love, 15-year-old Jam Gallahue is having difficulty moving on with her life. After nearly a year of being mired in grief, her parents send her to a boarding school in rural Vermont that specializes in "emotionally fragile" teens.....*Amazon Reviews*

Summer Reading Task

Directions: Complete the literature log on the back of this page. Then using your notes, respond to one of the topics below in essay form. Use specific examples from the book you read.

Topics for Fiction

1. Explain how and why the protagonist changes over the course of the novel.
2. What "life lessons" does the novel offer? Do you think these lessons are valid?
3. Describe a conflict in the novel and explain whether it is resolved or not.

Topics for Non-Fiction

4. Describe how the book you read is a snapshot of the time period it depicts.
5. Describe the real life issues that the book discusses and discuss the solutions posed by the author to alleviate the problem.
6. Critically evaluate two of the author's main points. How does the author provide reasonable evidence to support their argument? Cite evidence from the text.

TURN TO THE BACK FOR THE LITERATURE LOG

Title of Book: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

<i>Vocabulary: Identify and define at least 6 new words with synonyms/antonyms</i>	<i>Key Events: In complete sentences, outline the main events of the story.</i>	<i>Key Annotations: Provide 6 or more questions and connections to the text.</i>