

7th GRADE READING CHOICES

Student chooses **one** (1).

Downsiders by Neal Shusterman

Science fiction, Futuristic

L: 1110

When fourteen-year-old Lindsay meets Talon and discovers the Downsiders' world which has evolved from the subway built by Alfred Ely Beach in New York in 1867, she and her new friend experience the clash of the two cultures.

Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen

Adventure fiction

L: 1140

Brian's Winter begins where Paulsen's Hatchet might have ended: Brian is not rescued; consequently, the city teenager fighting for survival in the Canadian wilderness, is forced to improve his survival skills especially in preparation to face the deadliest enemy—an approaching northern winter of record.

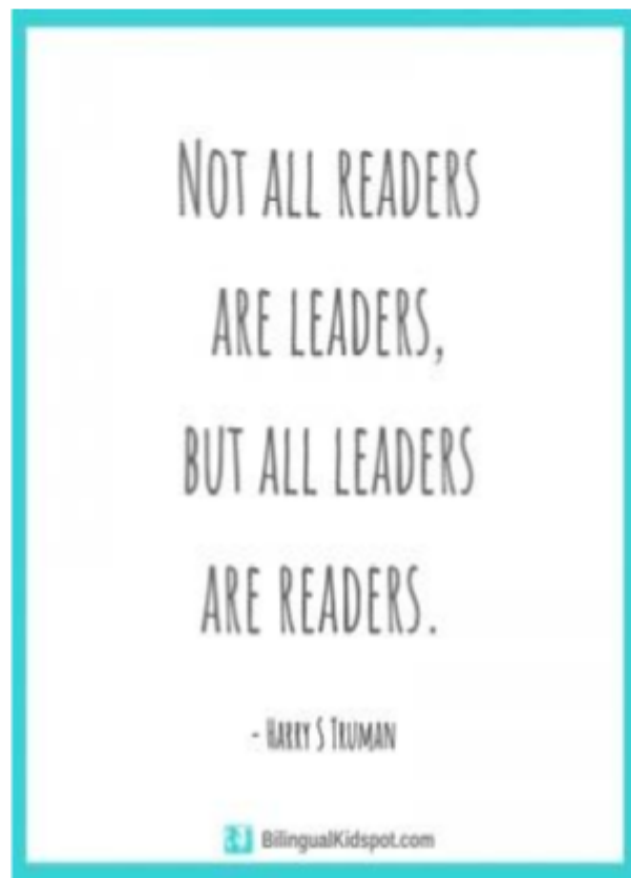
Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines in World War II

by Joseph Bruchac

Historical fiction

L: 1100

Ned Begay, forced to believe the Navajo language was useless and should be forgotten, is recruited by US Marines in the war against Japan. Only sixteen, Begay enlists and, together with other Navajos, is soon sending and receiving top-secret messages in an unbreakable code based on the Navajo language.



8th GRADE READING CHOICES

Student chooses **one** (1).

The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth Speare

Historical Fiction L: 760

The action-packed novel tells the story of Daniel, a fierce, hotheaded 18-year-old bent on revenging his father's death by forcing the Romans from his land of Israel, but then he hears the gentle lessons of the traveling carpenter, Jesus of Nazareth. A fast-paced, suspenseful, vivid tale of friendship, loyalty, and the idea of home, The Bronze Bow is a powerful, relevant read in turbulent times.



Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah

Nonfiction, a Memoir L: 960

A riveting memoir of a girl's painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s. Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. This memoir is a moving telling of the classic Cinderella story.

SUMMER NOVEL READING GUIDELINES

Students promoted to grades 7th or 8th are required to read **one (1)** book from the Summer Reading List.

During the first week of school, SHE students in seventh and eighth grades are administered a teacher-made 100-point test as well as a 100-point writing assignment relevant to the student-chosen novel.

All assessments address "Elements of Fiction"; thus, as they read their chosen novel, students are strongly encouraged to take notes as they have with classroom reading assignments. Student readers may write IN their novels and/or use a reader's journal to note what they've read each reading session. A reader notes **setting, characters, plot, conflict, point of view, symbolism** and **theme/lesson** as well as **vocabulary**.

*During testing, the student refers to both the marked up (for example, ink, pencil, highlighter, post-it notes) novel and the reader's journal as long as the notes are in **his own handwriting**.

7th and 8th Grade Summer Reading List 2023



SUMMER NOVEL WRITING GUIDELINES

The writing assignments follow "Write...For the Future" guidelines used in ELA courses and are assessed by rubric.

7th grade fiction: Write a **character analysis** focusing on character attributes, character changes, character interactions and responses, as well as on author's meaning. Provide support with quoted details, paraphrasing, figurative language, literary devices, examples and evidence from the novel itself.

8th grade fiction: Write a **novel synopsis** addressing characters, setting (time and place), major plot points and plot action, as well as the various conflicts and resolutions. The student writer presents an "overview" (analysis and/or critique), explains and supports with evidence from the book.

8th grade nonfiction: Write a **nonfiction book review** fulfilling requirements of rubric and adhering to format of example issued.

*During testing, the student refers to both the marked up (for example, ink, pencil, highlighter, post-it notes) novel and the reader's journal as long as the notes are in **his own handwriting**.