



The STEM Academy at Showalter

"Unlocking Young Minds for the Future"

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Dear STEM Families,

As we get prepared for the summer we cannot forget that in a few short months we will be back at school for the 2019/2020 school year. Everyone knows the phrase "If you don't use it, you lose it," and continuing to practice your thinking skills over the summer will help you get a good start in the fall.

We have put together list of required summer reading for our secondary students. The books listed below are available at book stores, online, and in the local libraries. Books should be read and the questions should be completed prior to the beginning of the school year; the book questions should be turned into your child's English teacher in the first week of the 2019/2020 school year.

In addition to the text required by grade level students are required to read one other self-selected grade appropriate book and answer the assigned questions. A list of suggested titles is attached.

Keep in mind that while these books are available at the local library there might be a wait, so get your reservation in early! We hope you enjoy your summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Incoming 7th graders (pick 1)

City of Ember- Jeanne DuPrau
Smiles to Go-Jerry Spinelli

Incoming 8th Graders (pick 1)

Hope Was Here- Joan Bauer
Skellig- David Almond

Incoming 9th Graders (pick 1)

The Contender- Robert Lipsyte
The House on Mango Street- Sandra Cisneros

Incoming 10th Graders (pick 1)

China Boy- Gus Lee
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian – Sherman Alexie

Incoming 11th Graders (pick 1)

In Cold Blood- Truman Capote
The Queen of Water by Laura Resau

Incoming 12th Graders (pick 1)

I am Malala- Malala Yousafzai & Christina Lamb
Blink- Malcolm Gladwell

Required questions and additional book suggestions on back

Required Summer Reading Questions

Complete questions for **BOTH** your required and your self-selected book

1. Please write a 3 paragraph summary of the book. Be sure to include important characters, setting, plot elements, and details to show your understanding of the book.
2. Do the characters in the book seem believable? Why or why not? To which characters can you most closely relate?
3. What was unique about the setting? What was the importance of the setting as it relates to the plot?
4. How authentic is the culture or era represented in this book?
5. What is the theme of this book? What is the author's message? Why do you think the author wrote this book?

Additional suggested books

Middle School

Al Capone Does My Shirts- Gennifer Choldenko

Bronx Masquerade- Nikki Grimes

Chains- Laurie Halse Anderson

Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library- Chris Grabenstein

Homeless Bird- Gloria Whelan

The Lions of Little Rock- Kristin Levine

Salt: A Story of Friendship in a Time of War- Helen Frost

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key- Jack Gantos

House of the Scorpion- Nancy Farmer

The Outsiders- S. E. Hinton

High School

The Outsiders- S. E. Hinton

The Kite Runner- Khaled Hosseini

The Reluctant Fundamentalist- Mohsin Hamid

The Skin I'm In- Sharon Flake

Beloved- Toni Morrison

Chains- Laurie Halse Anderson

The Maze Runner- James Dashner

October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard- Leslea Newman

Three Cups of Tea- Greg Mortenson

Looking for Alaska- John Green

Chocolate War- Robert Cormier

I am Malala- Malala Yousafzai