



## SUMMER READING!

June, 2017

Dear EMS Class of 2018,

There's nothing like sitting in a shady spot and reading a great book during the summer. Educational experts agree that students who read regularly perform better in class, on exams, and on standardized tests like the SAT. Plus, reading makes you more interesting! The Library Media Specialists and your English teachers have done a lot of wonderful work compiling a summer reading list of books that appeal to your interests. Here's what you need to do:

- ❖ Read Joseph Bruchac's *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two*.
- ❖ Then, select ONE ADDITIONAL BOOK from the attached book list.

### *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two*

#### Assignment to be completed before school starts

1. While reading, take active notes about character traits for the protagonist and the conflicts he faces.
2. Once the reading is completed, please construct a fully developed paragraph describing the central conflict in the novel and whether or not the conflict is resolved. Then, explain how the protagonist behaves in the face of this conflict. Cite one piece of text evidence from the novel to illustrate the conflict and one piece of evidence that shows the character's behavior in the face of this conflict.



*Free Choice Book (chosen from the attached list)*

Take notes as you read using the following model:

**If your choice is FICTION-**

1. **Setting:** time, place, and physical location of stories events
2. **Plot:** the sequence of events in a story; exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution
3. **Characterization:** Traits to describe acts, thinks, and feels, where they go and what they say.
4. **Theme:** the central message or lesson revealed through the story
5. **Conflict:** two or more opposing forces (one main conflict and often several smaller ones).  
Man vs. Man, Man vs. Self, Man vs. Society, Man vs. technology (machine), Man vs. Fate

**If your choice is NONFICTION-**

1. **Who?** – important people involved in the topic
2. **What?** – explanation/clarification of the topic
3. **Where?** – setting of the book
4. **When?** – setting of the book
5. **Why?** – reasons that the book is of interest...what impact does it have on the reader? Why is it an important enough topic to have a book written about it?
6. **How?** – explain the way the author conveys the story

***In Class Assignment regarding the free choice book (to be completed during school in the month of September):***

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the 8th grade ELA teachers. Good luck, happy summer and happy reading!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Kearns, Mrs. Montenegro, & Mr. Weiss*



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

(Lexile Level appears in parenthesis after each title)

### REALISTIC FICTION

Mikaelson, Ben. *Touching Spirit Bear* (670)  
Crutcher, Chris. *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes* (920)  
Coone, Donna. *Skinny*  
Gruener, Ruth Gruener, Jack and Gratz, Alan *Prisoner B-3087*

### SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

Almond, David. *Skellig* (490)  
Anderson, M.T. *Feed* (770)  
Cline, Ernest. *Ready Player One* (990)  
Dashner, James. *The Eye of Minds* (790)

### HISTORICAL FICTION

Anderson, Laurie. *Fever, 1793* (580)  
Avi. *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* (740)  
Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light* (700)

### GRAPHIC NOVELS

Castellucci, Cecil and Rugg, Jim. *Plain Janes* (NP)  
Spiegelman, Art. *Maus* (NP)

### NON-FICTION

Bascomb, Neal. *The Nazi Hunters* (1000)  
Blumenthal, Karen. *Steve Jobs: the Man Who Thought Different* (1110)  
Dawson, Mike. *Freddie and Me: A Coming-of-Age (Bohemian Rhapsody)* (Graphic Novel) (NP)  
Douglass, Frederick. *The Narrative of the Life* (1040)  
Freedman, Russell. *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* (1010)  
Hakim, Joy. *Einstein Adds a New Dimension* (1000)  
Johnson, Rebecca. *Zombie Makers* (800)  
Sheinkin, Steve. *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* (920)  
Walls, Jeanette. *The Glass Castle* (1010)

### ACTION ADVENTURE

O'Brien, Robert C. *Z for Zachariah* (820)