

Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences Summer Reading Program



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to your new 7th grade Language Arts classroom! Attached is a list of novels from which you are to choose your summer reading books. Every future seventh grader must read one required novel (*The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Philbrick). There will be a test on *The Last Book in the Universe* during the first week of school. *Any students who are listed as ESE, for reading, are only required to read The Last Book in the Universe. Also, you can read The Last Book in the Universe while listening to it on tape!* All other students must also read at least one of the additional listed novels.

Our program is designed to promote the skills for effective reading and learning. A reading list and corresponding assignments can be found on the school's website, www.ssas.org. The intent of this list is to give you assistance in directing your child to some quality literature.

Books will be available at Barnes and Noble and Books-A-Million in Sarasota. The requirements are as follows:

- 6th Grade: One mandatory book and one free choice book from the list
- 7th Grade: One mandatory book and one free choice book from the list
- 8th Grade: One mandatory book and two free choice books from the list.

Upon returning from summer vacation, each child will take an assessment test on the mandatory book and be required to hand in a project on the free choice book.

Thank you,
The Language Arts' Department

Sixth Grade Moving Into Seventh Grade Requirements:

1. You will have an assessment test on the mandatory novel, *The Last Book in the Universe*, during the first week of school.
2. You will read one free choice book and complete a project about the novel. Using a poster board, create a collage of your story depicting the setting (which may include location and weather), characters (which may include clothing, hobbies, and expression), the plot, and the protagonist and antagonist. This will be collected and presented by the third day of school. On the back of the collage list each time that you put on the front, and why you chose it.
 - a. For Example
Coraline by Neil Gaiman
First Name Last Name
Buttons – I put buttons on my collage because the Other Mother had button eyes.

Mandatory Novel:

Philbrick, Rodman *The Last Book in the Universe* (Science Fiction)

After an enormous earthquake destroyed most of the world, the economy dropped and everything changed. Segregation between rich and poor, physically enhanced and inferior, set in. A boy named Spaz (Osment) escapes from what he knows as home and travels to find his sister, but after finding her learns she is very ill. Spaz and his companions set out on an adventure to try and find a cure for Spaz's sister, while Spaz's old friend finishes writing the last book ever written.

Free Choice Novels:

Gaiman, Neil. *Coraline* (Horror)

The day after they moved in, Coraline went exploring....

In Coraline's family's new flat are twenty-one windows and fourteen doors. Thirteen of the doors open and close, the fourteenth is locked. On the other side is only a brick wall, until the day Coraline unlocks the door to find a passage to another flat in another house just like her own. Only it's different....

Klass, David. *Danger Zone* (Young Adult - Sports)

When he joins a predominantly black "Teen Dream Team" representing the United States in an international basketball tournament in Rome, Jimmy Doyle makes some unexpected discoveries about prejudice, racism, and politics. (Realistic Fiction)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Hidden* (Science Fiction)

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

Hinton, SE *The Outsiders* (Young Adult - Gangs)

Two teen boys are in the wrong place at the wrong time. As they run away to escape the consequences of that event, they learn about being heroes, despite their "lower-class" station.