

Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences Summer Reading Program



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to your new 8th grade Language Arts classroom! Attached is a list of novels from which you are to choose your summer reading books. Every future eighth grader must read one required novel (*Nothing But the Truth* by Avi). There will be a test on *Nothing But the Truth* during the first week of school. *Any students who are listed as ESE or ESOL are only required to read Nothing But the Truth. Also, you can read Nothing but the Truth 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 following requirements are as follows:

6th Grade: One mandatory required book and one free choice book from the list

7th Grade: One mandatory required book and one free choice book from the list

8th Grade: One mandatory required book and one free choice book 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.

Sincerely,

The Language Arts' Department

Seventh moving into Eighth Grade Requirements:

1. You will have an assessment test on the mandatory novel during the first couple of days of school.
2. Your free choice book will require you to create a ½ poster board comparing and contrasting one character from each story (*Nothing But the Truth* and Free Choice). Please use pictures, magazines, and any items that will clearly compare and contrast the characters. You may create a Venn Diagram, a chart, etc. This will be collected and presented the third day of school. On the back of the Venn diagram 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:

Avi *Nothing but the Truth* (Young Adult)

Philip Molloy discovers that humming in school during the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance can be the catalyst for action by family, friends, strangers, and teachers. This is a book that should create comment and discussion.

Free Choice Novels

Anderson, Laurie Halse *Speak* (Young Adult - Trauma)

High school freshman (and outcast) Melinda is having a harder and harder time finding the courage to speak out loud. With the help of a compassionate teacher, will Melissa finally have the courage to confront her tragic past and find her voice? **This book contains mature themes.**

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl (Non-fiction - Holocaust)

This timeless classic of a girl growing up while hiding from the Nazis during the Holocaust reminds us all of how fragile and amazing life is. Anne's unyielding optimism and insight into human relationships have universal appeal to people of all ages. **This book contains mature themes.**

Bertrand, Diane Gonzales, *Trino's Choice* (Young Adult - Gangs)

Lacking adult guidance, seventh grader Trino must decide whether to join a violent street gang or to allow new people in his life to help him choose a better path. (Mexican Americans-Fiction, Gangs-Fiction)

Budhos, Marina *Ask Me No Questions* (Young Adult - Immigration)

The Hossains have lived illegally in New York for years on an expired visa, but their years of hiding end when they seek, and are denied, asylum in Canada. Following their father's arrest and detention, teen sisters Nadira and Aisha put together the documentation and make a case that requires the judges to see them as individuals rather than terror suspects. Will Nadira and Aisha be able to work together save their father, and themselves, from deportation?

Sleator, William *The Duplicate* (Science Fiction)

Sixteen-year-old David, finding a strange machine that creates replicas of living organisms, duplicates himself and suffers the horrible consequences when the duplicate turns against him.

Wells, H.G. *War of the Worlds.* (Science Fiction - Classic)

Martians invade late 19th century England and create havoc.

Some of this information was retrieved from

http://www.haisln.org/images/HAISLN_7_8_2009_Reading_List.pdf on February 23, 2010.