



ELA 7/ ELA Honors: Mrs. Harris

Summer Reading Assignment 2026 - 2027

stephanie.harris@beechwood.kyschools.us

Dear student,

I look forward to getting to know you and working with you next school year! In the meantime, I hope you will have a wonderful summer break with your families and friends. During this time off, try to set aside time to read. As you know, the only way to improve your reading skills is to read; there's no short-cut to becoming a strong reader. All 7th graders are required to complete a summer reading assignment, and it is outlined below.

Step 1:

Choose any book that's grade-level appropriate (no *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *I Survived*, etc.) and read it. I simply want you to read something that you will enjoy! Please choose something that you haven't read before. If you need suggestions, here is a list created by [Goodreads](#). If you're not sure if your chosen book is grade-level appropriate, please email me. I'm happy to help!

Please avoid these titles that will be read over the course of 7th and 8th grade ELA.

- *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

Step 2:

Prepare a 3-minute book talk about your chosen book to share with the class. Your goal is to convince the class to read your chosen book! Your book talk should include the following elements:

1. Title and author
2. Why did you choose this book?
3. General author info: other books, relevant background, etc.
4. Genre
5. Main characters
6. Conflict that the main characters face
7. Setting
8. Brief plot overview (but don't give away the ending!)
9. Read a brief excerpt of an important passage that will capture your audience's attention.
10. Recommendation! How would you rate the book? Who else would like to read this book?

Step 3:

Decide on your preferred method of presentation and practice before recording or presenting.

You may choose to present your book talk in one of the following ways:

- 1) *Live to the class*- these presentations will begin on the second day of school. You may use note cards, but should not just read straight from them.
- 2) *Record it at home* and send it to Mrs. Harris by the due date. If you choose to email it, please put in the subject line "First Name Last Name Book Talk"- (Stephanie Harris Book Talk). Your recorded book talk will still be presented to the class.
 - [Sample Book Talk 1](#)
 - [Sample Book Talk 2](#)

- [Sample Book Talk 3](#) -extended version with discussion questions (not needed), but the first part is really good!

Assignments are due on the 2nd day of school, but if you are recording at home, you may send your finished product to the email below. Please reach out if you have any questions this summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harris

stephanie.harris@beechwood.kyschools.us