

June 7th, 2016

Dear Families,

This summer, your soon-to-be 8th grader will choose at least two books to read independently. We encourage you and your child to make trips to your local library or bookstore, or download new titles on your e-readers. The books may be any genre (including one graphic novel, if desired), and can be about a topic of the students' choosing. We recommend books that are longer than 100 pages in length and are challenging but not frustrating to read. Most importantly, we recommend books your child *likes!* We are excited to provide student choice, keeping in mind how important it is to foster a love of reading within our students. We hope this summer will be an opportunity for students to enjoy reading.

To keep track of their reading, students will use GoodReads.com to write reviews of their books, participate in discussions, and recommend books to friends and teachers at PVPA. Your child will be oriented to GoodReads during his/her Humanities classes before school ends. During this orientation, he/she/they will create an account, join the group "2016 PVPA 8th Grade Summer Reading," check out their teachers' book recommendations, and learn how to add books to their "shelves," write reviews, and join discussions. Our former librarian, Pete Smith, also created GoodReads walkthrough videos, which are posted on the PVPA library website's page for summer reading, here: <https://sites.google.com/a/pvpa.org/pvpa-summer-reading/>

Pete's informative videos will help remind students how to access GoodReads and complete each element of their summer assignment. The assignment checklist on the back of this letter will also help you and your child keep track of each portion of the assignment. The checklist and this letter will also be made available on the library summer reading site.

If you have concerns about the rigor of the books your child may choose, each Humanities teacher has posted a book on the "Humanities Teachers' Summer Picks" shelf in the 2016 PVPA 8th Grade Summer Reading group on GoodReads. The books we've chosen are challenging and engaging, great choices for one of your child's summer reading adventures. Please feel free to contact your child's Humanities teacher with any questions regarding GoodReads, the assignment, or access to books. If you prefer, an alternate, hard-copy assignment will be posted for download on the library summer reading site. Please contact your child's Humanities teacher as soon as possible if you plan to use the hard copy assignment instead of the online GoodReads version.

Thank you as always for your support, and have a great summer!

Your 8th Grade Humanities Team
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Summer Reading 2015 - The Power of Choice!

Welcome to Summer Reading 2015! You will be choosing **at least** two books to read over the summer. You will use GoodReads to keep track of your reading. The following is a list of things you'll need to accomplish along with your reading. If you need help remembering how to do any of the things below, check out the PVPA library blog here: <https://sites.google.com/a/pvpa.org/pvpa-summer-reading/>. Pete has posted some convenient walk-through videos which will help you through the processes below:

2015 8th Grade Summer Reading Checklist

1) Read at least 2 books

2) Enter at least 2 reviews. Here is an outline of what each review should contain:

- **Rating: How many stars would you give the book out of 5?**
- **Brief Plot Summary**
 - Include **title and author**. Avoid spoilers!
- **Detailed description of the main character(s)**
 - Include physical and personality traits. Give a clear picture of who the character is.
- **Your opinions on specific elements (plot, characters, theme, writing style, etc.)**
 - Please don't just say, "I liked the plot." or "The characters were great." **Be specific and explain why.**
- **Recommendations for others**
 - Example: I recommend this book for people who like _____ and _____.

3) Participate regularly (at least three different times) in at least one discussion

4) Recommend at least one book to a friend

5) Log at least two books you "want to read"

6) Things to think about:

- Log other books you've read!
- Write more reviews, especially about your FAVORITE books!
- Recommend a book to a teacher!
- Start your own discussion about a book/genre/topic/author!

Due Date: First day of school!