

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Hello, students! This is Mrs. Rogers here with your first official assignment for 7<sup>th</sup> grade English. I hope you will find it enjoyable as you will have a bit of say in what you do. I cannot in good conscience allow you to go all summer without reading—I know some of you will read regardless, but for those of you who need encouragement, **HERE YOU GO!**

Please read each of the synopses below and select **ONE** of the four titles; you may certainly read all four of them, but you will complete the written work for only one. After you have selected your title, please get a copy for yourself. You may order it from Amazon or other online source or purchase it at Barnes and Noble or another reputable book store. You might check your library at home or the public library if you prefer not to purchase. It is absolutely acceptable to use an audio version of your selection while following along with the text.

### I. Classic Selection: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

Mark Twain published this novel in 1876 after writing it while he and his family were living in Hartford, Connecticut. The novel, which tells of the escapades of a young boy and his friends in St. Petersburg, Missouri, a village near the Mississippi River, recalls Twain's own childhood in a small Missouri town. The friendship of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn is one of the most celebrated in American literature, built on imaginative adventures, shared superstitions, and loyalty that rises above social convention. Twain's American reading audience loved this novel and its young hero, and the novel remains one of the most popular and famous works of American literature. The novel and its characters have achieved folk hero status in the American popular imagination. The pleasure of reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* has kept readers coming back to the novel for over a century.

### II. Non-Fiction Selection: *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John

*Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference* is the incredible true story of the Fugees – short for refugees – a soccer team formed by refugees in Clarkston, Georgia. The author of *Outcasts United*, Warren St. John, was a journalist for the *New York Times* and has received awards from *Sports Illustrated* and others for excellence in writing on the subject of athletics. Warren's achievement in *Outcasts United*, however, goes beyond providing incisive commentary and analysis about gameplay; it also involves the way he expounds upon the social significance of the athletic activity he describes. In more concrete terms, Warren illustrates how sports, in this case soccer, have the potential to serve as the common ground that unites groups of people from otherwise diverse backgrounds.

**OVER!!!**

### III. Historical Fiction: *The Attack of the Turtle* by Drew Carlson

It's 1776, and the Revolutionary war is raging in the New York harbor. Fourteen-year-old Nathan Wade is a patriot, but he's too young to join the fight. And it's a good thing because in his tiny hometown of Saybrook, Connecticut, Nate worries about how to fight his own battles. An early childhood incident has left him terrified of water, he dreads encounters with the neighborhood bully, and he feels rejected when his father leaves to join the Continental Army.

But when his cousin David Bushnell comes to Saybrook with a secret, Nate is drawn to the intrigue. David has designed a water machine, a submarine, that can explode bombs underwater. And his mission is to launch it against British warships.

As war clouds gather over the colonies, Nate reluctantly agrees to help David build the weapon of war -- the American Turtle. He worries about getting caught, but when unlikely circumstances put Nate at the center of the action, he must face the murky waters of his fears head on.

### IV. First in a Series: *Legend* by Marie Lu

What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem.

From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT—Please type your responses to numbers 1 & 2 using an MLA heading for your identifying information as well as MLA style for font, margins, etc.

1. Select a character (in some of the titles, that character may very well be an animal) and record 10 notable things about the character. You be the judge of what is notable, but remember this is a written assignment and will be graded. Please use complete sentences for these items.
2. Write down three questions that you had when YOU FINISHED THE NOVEL. These should be "discussion" questions, not merely a question that you could answer with a yes or a no. Focus on the elements of fiction for your questions, particularly plot, character, setting, and theme.
3. Read carefully and thoroughly because you will write a brief paper during the first week of school after we have enjoyed "book clubs" to discuss your selection with others who chose the same piece.

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