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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Once again, as a way of preparing for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and the next school year, your child will be required to complete a summer reading assignment. Each student is required to read **ONE** book over the summer and complete an assignment for the book. The students have several different book options to choose from according to the grade they are entering in September. You can either buy the book or borrow it from the public library. Students must finish reading their book by the opening of school in September. For each book, there will be short answer questions that the students will be required to answer.

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, students will be responsible for handing in their short answer question responses. The completion of this assignment will count as ONE grade for their Language Arts Class. On Friday, September 10, 2021, students will be responsible for completing an evidence-based constructed response. They will report to their Language Arts class that day, prepared to complete this assignment. They will be able to use their short answer questions (completed over the summer) and the book during the in-class writing. This in-class assignment will count as ONE grade for their Language Arts class.

We believe that reading is an essential aspect of your child's education and can only benefit them throughout their lives. Keeping students academically engaged throughout the summer is one way to continue to ensure their success in the future. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Leslie Septor, Ed.D  
Program Supervisor of Literacy

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Estimado Padre / Tutor,

Una vez más, como forma de prepararse para el 7° grado y el próximo año escolar, se requerirá que su hijo complete una tarea de lectura de verano. Se requiere que cada estudiante lea UN libro durante el verano y complete una tarea para el libro. Los estudiantes tienen **cuatro** opciones diferentes de libros para elegir según el grado al que ingresan en septiembre. Puede comprar el libro o pedirlo prestado en la biblioteca pública. Los estudiantes deben terminar de leer su libro antes de la apertura de la escuela en septiembre. Para cada libro, habrá preguntas de respuesta corta que los estudiantes deberán responder.

El jueves 9 de septiembre de 2021, los estudiantes serán responsables de entregar sus respuestas a las preguntas de respuesta corta. La finalización de esta tarea contará como UN grado para su clase de artes del lenguaje. El viernes 10 de septiembre de 2021, los estudiantes serán responsables de completar una respuesta construida basada en la evidencia. Informarán a su clase de artes del lenguaje ese día, preparados para completar esta tarea. Podrán usar sus preguntas de respuesta corta (completadas durante el verano) y el libro durante la escritura en clase. Esta asignación en clase contará como UN grado para su clase de Artes del Lenguaje.

Creemos que la lectura es un aspecto esencial de la educación de su hijo y solo puede beneficiarlo a lo largo de sus vidas. Mantener a los estudiantes comprometidos académicamente durante todo el verano es una forma de continuar para asegurar su éxito en el futuro. Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, no dude en comunicarse conmigo en cualquier momento.

Leslie Septor, Ed.D  
Supervisor de Programa de Alfabetización

**Rahway 7th & 8th Grade Academy**  
**Entering Grade 7: Summer Reading Assignment**

Welcome to your summer reading assignment! Choose from the list of books below and answer the questions that follow. A rubric is also attached which clearly identifies the expectations and grading.

You will be responsible for handing in your short answer questions. The completion of this assignment will count as ONE grade for your Language Arts Class. You will also be responsible for completing an evidence-based constructed response. You will report to your Language Arts class that day, prepared to complete this assignment. You will be able to use your short answer questions (completed over the summer) and the book during the in-class writing. This in-class assignment will count as ONE grade for your Language Arts class.

**Read a book from the list, below. Use this book to complete your assignment.**  
***Book list goes onto the next page.***

**Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys** Lina is just like any other fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941. She paints, she draws, she gets crushes on boys. Until one night when Soviet officers barge into her home, tearing her family from the comfortable life they've known. Separated from her father, forced onto a crowded and dirty train car, Lina, her mother, and her young brother slowly make their way north, crossing the Arctic Circle, to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia. Here they are forced, under Stalin's orders, to dig for beets and fight for their lives under the cruelest of conditions.

Lina finds solace in her art, meticulously--and at great risk--documenting events by drawing, hoping these messages will make their way to her father's prison camp to let him know they are still alive. It is a long and harrowing journey, spanning years and covering 6,500 miles, but it is through incredible strength, love, and hope that Lina ultimately survives. *Between Shades of Gray* is a novel that will steal your breath and capture your heart.

**Red Glass by Laura Resau** With a dazzling and thoughtful voice, this critically acclaimed novel deals directly with the challenges and dangers of immigration, exploring the ties that bind us together in an age when issues threaten to divide us.

One night Sophie and her parents are called to a hospital where Pedro, a six-year-old Mexican boy, is recovering from dehydration. Crossing the border into Arizona with a group of Mexicans and a coyote, or guide, Pedro and his parents faced such harsh conditions that the boy is the only survivor. Pedro comes to live with Sophie, her parents, and Sophie's Aunt Dika, a refugee of the war in Bosnia.

Sophie loves Pedro—her Principito, or Little Prince. But after a year, Pedro's surviving family in Mexico makes contact, and Sophie, Dika, Dika's new boyfriend, and his son must travel with Pedro to his hometown so that he can make a heart wrenching decision.

**Koyal Dark, Mango Sweet by Kashmiri Sheth** - Jeeta's family is caught up in the whirlwind of arranging marriages for her two older sisters, but the drama and excitement leave Jeeta cold. She knows that tradition demands the parade of suitors, the marriage negotiations, the elaborate displays, the expensive wedding parties - but where is the love and romance that the movies promise? She dreads her turn on the matrimonial circuit, especially since Mummy is always complaining about how difficult it will be to find Jeeta a good husband, with her dark skin and sharp tongue.

As Jeeta spends more time with her new friend from school, Sarina, and her educated, liberal parents, she begins to question her tradition-bound family's expectations. And when she falls in love with Sarina's cousin Neel, Jeeta realizes that she must strike a balance between independence and duty and follow her own path. With its gentle humor and a rich sense of place, *Koyal Dark, Mango Sweet* is an engaging coming-of-age novel set in contemporary Mumbai.

**Now is the Time for Running by Michael Williams** Just down the road from their families, Deo and his friends play soccer in the dusty fields of Zimbabwe, cheered on by Deo's older brother, Innocent. It is a day like any other . . . until the soldiers arrive and Deo and Innocent are forced to run for their lives, fleeing the wreckage of their village for the distant promise of safe haven. Along the way, they face the prejudice and poverty that await refugees everywhere, and must rely on the kindness of people they meet to make it through. But when tragedy strikes, Deo's love of soccer is all he has left. Can he use that gift to find hope once more?

Relevant, timely, and accessibly written, *Now Is the Time For Running* is a staggering story of survival that follows Deo and his mentally handicapped older brother on a transformative journey that will stick with readers long after the last page.

**Rahway 7th & 8th Grade Academy**  
**Entering Grade 7: Summer Reading Assignment**

**PART 1: SHORT ANSWER RESPONSES DIRECTIONS:** Read any one of the following novels and answer all parts of the question with support from the text. Textual evidence should be a combination of paraphrasing and direct quotes from the text. Each question requires you to write at least one detailed paragraph. Responses should be typed or neatly hand-written.

1. **Setting:** Describe in detail the main setting of the story (when and where the story takes place). Describe one way that the setting affects the characters. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
2. **Conflict:** There are four types of conflict: character vs., character, character vs. self, character vs. nature, and character vs. society. Choose TWO important conflicts in the story and for each conflict:
  - a. Identify the type of conflict and the characters involved in the conflict. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
  - b. Describe the conflict in detail using textual evidence to support your answer.
3. **Theme** is a lesson learned about life or human behavior. Identify one theme in the story and choose two examples that demonstrate the theme. Describe those examples in detail using textual evidence to support your ideas about theme.

**PART 2: CURRENT EVENT DIRECTIONS:** Find ONE current event article related to the content of your summer reading book.

- Choose an appropriate article.
  - Articles should not be too short. An article with just a few paragraphs, an internet blurb, or the back-page weather report with just pictures and temperatures are all considered inappropriate for this assignment.
- Read the article and be prepared to discuss how your article is connected to your summer reading book upon your return to school in September.
- **Print out\*** a copy of your article and turn it in with your short answer responses to receive full credit for this part of your assignment.

\*If you cannot print out your article, write down the website from which you find out AND a 5-7 sentence summary of the article, instead.

## **PART 2: CURRENT EVENT**

If you cannot print a copy of your current event article, please use the template to provide your teacher with the website address/URL and a 5-7 sentence summary of your article.

<b>Current Event Title:</b>
<b>Website/ URL:</b>
<b>5-7 Sentence Summary of Article:</b>

## Summer Reading Rubric

				Grade
Student Name: _____				
<b>Each response should be at least one paragraph in length.</b>	<b>Exemplary 20</b>	<b>Proficient 15</b>	<b>Developing 10</b>	<b>Beginning 5</b>
<b>1. Setting</b>				
Writer provides a detailed description of the setting and its effect on the characters.				
<b>2. Conflict</b>				
Writer describes two conflicts and identifies type of conflict and characters involved for each one.				
<b>3. Theme</b>				
Writer accurately identifies one theme and provides two examples that demonstrate that theme.				
<b>PART 2: CURRENT EVENT ARTICLE</b>				
Student selects an article relevant to the subject matter of their summer reading book. Printed copy of article OR website URL AND 5-7 sentence summary are present.				
<b>MECHANICS</b>			-5	-10
GPS: Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling			Some errors in GPS.	Many errors in GPS.
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>				