



EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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Dear Parents of Rising Seventh Graders,

Model Laboratory School's summer reading program requires each student entering a middle school language arts class to complete a summer reading assignment. We believe this program will encourage students to explore more reading than the time in class allows and that this will also encourage and promote more active reading on the part of our students. Research shows that summer reading not only sustains reading skills among students, but that it enhances abilities.

For summer reading this year, I thought I would shake things up a bit. I wanted to highlight the social aspect of reading, and I was inspired by social media sites such as GoodReads and LibraryThing, where users share book reviews and recommendations with their friends and family. But I also wanted to protect students' privacy and comply with COPPA laws for children under 13, so I found a website that allows K-8 students to share their reading experiences with their classmates while protecting their privacy. The website is called Reading Rewards (www.reading-rewards.com). For summer reading this year, students will use Reading Rewards to log their reading, write book reviews, and discuss books online. You'll find the project requirements, book list, rubric, and helpful instructions in the pages that follow.

Summer Reading Projects are due by Tuesday, August 16, 2016. The grades for these activities will count toward the grade for the first nine-weeks grading period. Completion of the summer reading assignment is required for successful completion of the course. Please encourage your student to avoid procrastinating. Feel free to email me with any questions or concerns regarding summer reading. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy summer!

With kind regards,

Dana Kendrick

7th Grade Summer Reading Requirements

Students will:

- Sign-up for a free Reading Rewards account
- Read 2 books from the Kentucky Bluegrass Award Masterlist for Grades 6-8. Students/Parents are responsible for obtaining copies of their books.
- **Log** his/her summer reading on Reading Rewards
- Write a **book review** for both books and post them on Reading Rewards
- Post at least one thought-provoking **discussion question** per book on the Reading Rewards Blog
- For each book, **respond** (respectfully and thoughtfully) to at least one discussion question posted by another student on the Reading Rewards Blog

Book Review Requirements

Each book review should have **3 paragraphs** as follows:

- **Paragraph 1:** A summary of the book (no spoilers!) that includes brief descriptions of the main characters in the book. Be sure to include the book title, author, and genre in the first sentence.
- **Paragraph 2:** A personal response to the book. What did you dislike and/or like about the book? Why?
- **Paragraph 3:** A recommendation of the book. What kind of reader would you recommend this book to and why?

For more detailed information about the book review requirements, please see the rubric at the end of this packet.

Extra Reading Pizza Party: Read 5 Books!

I want to encourage students to read MORE than just 2 books over the summer, so students who read a TOTAL of 5 or more books over the summer will be invited to participate in a pizza party and movie in Aug/Sep.

To be invited to the pizza party, students must:

- Read 3 EXTRA books over the summer for a total of 5 books
- Log these books on his/her Reading Rewards account
- Note: you do not have to write reviews or participate in the online blog discussion question for the 3 extra books.

The 3 extra books are the student's choice and do not have to be chosen from the KBA/summer reading list. However, these 3 extra books must be new to the student (i.e. something they haven't already read), students must read the books during this summer vacation, and the books must be at an age-appropriate level and length (i.e. not Dr. Seuss) for each student's reading level.

Paper Bookmark Reading Logs

The paper bookmark reading logs that are attached at the end of this document are provided as a helpful resource only. They are not required and will not be collected. They are provided only to help keep track of reading log information for those times when you do not have Internet access. You must still transfer all reading log information to the Reading Rewards Website in order to earn all points for the summer reading project.

Reading Rewards Instructions

Setting up a Student Account (students under 13 need parent email and permission)

Step 1) Go to URL: <http://www.reading-rewards.com/sign-up.html>

Step 2) Click on the 'Sign me Up!' button in the Readers column and follow the signup instructions (unless they already have their own account from a previous year)

Step 3) Have your child Sign In to their account

Step 4) Click on 'Reading Circle > My Groups'

Step 5) Search for our group in the Search box: our group name is **Mrs. Kendrick's 7th Grade** (this must be typed in exactly as it appears here, or you will not be able to find our group). Alternatively, you can also search by the security code below.

Step 6) Click on our group, and enter the security code: **YEQR5Q**

Logging Reading Time

- To log your reading, select the “My Reading Log” tab, then “Log Reading Time.”
- If this is your first time logging this book, you’ll need to add the book to your library before you can log reading. Click on “Add New Book to My Library”
- Search for your book, select it from the list, and click “Add Book to my Library”
- Enter your reading date. Now, you can enter your reading time: put in the number of minutes you read and leave a comment about your reading. Remember that Mrs. Kendrick can read your comments. 😊
- Keep logging your reading until you’ve finished reading and logging both required books. And if you read extra books, log those too!

Posting a Book Review

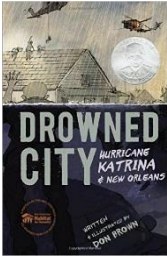
- After you indicate that you finished your book when logging it, you will be asked to review it. You can also reach the book review from “My Library” and “My Reviews” under the reading tab. Type your review in the space provided. Make sure you save the review or any changes you make to it!
- Each book review should have 3 paragraphs as follows:
 - Paragraph 1: A summary of the book first (no spoilers!)
 - Paragraph 2: A personal response to the book. What did you dislike and/or like about the book? Why?
 - Paragraph 3: A recommendation of the book. What kind of reader would you recommend this book to and why?
- You can edit your book review later if you need to. Under the “Reading” tab, go to “My Reviews” and click on “Edit my review” next to the correct book.

Posting Discussion Questions and Responses

- Under “Reading Circle” tab, click “My Groups”
- Select our group: “Mrs. Kendrick’s 7th Grade”
- Select “Blog”.
- Find the post for questions about the book that you read, then click “Respond” and post your discussion question.
- After you post your discussion question, you can click “Respond” again and respond to someone else’s question.
- Remember, you must post at least one thought-provoking discussion question per book and RESPOND (respectfully and thoughtfully!) to at least ONE discussion question per book posted by another student on the Reading Rewards Blog.

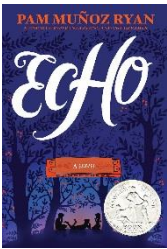
Summer Reading List

2016-2017 Kentucky Bluegrass Award Masterlist for Grades 6-8



Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans / Non-fiction Graphic Novel, 920 Lexile
Don Brown – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015.

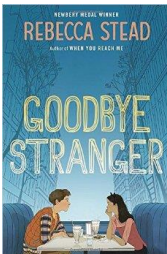
On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage--and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality.



Echo / Fiction, 680 Lexile

Pam Munoz Ryan; Dinara Mirtalipova, ill. Scholastic Press, 2015.

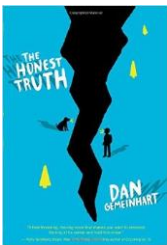
Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica--and decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.



Goodbye Stranger / Fiction, 560 Lexile

Rebecca Stead – Wendy Lamb Books, 2015.

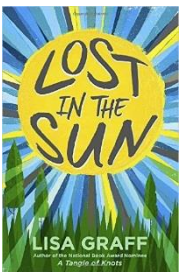
Bridge, survivor of a childhood accident, wonders why she's still alive. As she makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvaceous Em, crusader Tab, and new friend, Sherm, she finds the answers she has been seeking. Each character navigates the challenges of love and change in this captivating novel.



The Honest Truth / Fiction, 550 Lexile

Dan Gemeinhart – Scholastic Press, 2015.

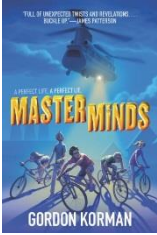
A boy named Mark, tired of being sick with cancer, conceives a plan to climb Mount Rainier, and runs away from home with his dog, Beau--but with over two hundred miles between him and his goal, and only anger at his situation to drive him on, nothing will be easy, and only his best friend, Jessie, suspects where he is heading.



Lost in the Sun / Fiction, 700 Lexile

Lisa Graff – Philomel Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), 2015.

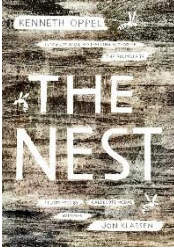
In 5th grade, Trent mistakenly shot a hockey puck into a boy's chest. Jared, who had a heart defect, died. Now Trent is filled with rage, convinced everyone hates him. It isn't until Trent gets caught up in the whirlwind that is Fallon Little--the girl with the mysterious scar across her face--that things begin to change.



Masterminds / Fiction, 720 Lexile

Gordon Korman – Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2015.

Eli Frieden lives in the most perfect town in the world: Serenity, New Mexico. Honesty and integrity are valued above all else. One day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so crazy and unexpected happens, it changes everything. Eli convinces his friends to help him investigate and it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity.



The Nest / Fiction, 640 Lexile

Kenneth Oppel; Jon Klassen, ill. – Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015.

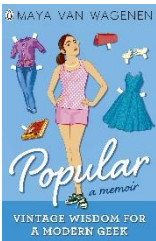
For Steve, summer is just another season of worries. Worries about his sick newborn baby brother, worries about his parents who are struggling to cope, even worries about the wasp's nest looming ominously from the eaves. So when a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams, offering to "fix" the baby, Steve thinks his prayers have been answered. But "yes" is a powerful word. And dangerous. Once it is uttered, can it be taken back?



Losers Take All / Fiction, 890 Lexile

David Klass – Farrar Strauss Giroux, 2015.

Jack Logan is the youngest brother in a family of talented football players, and he might actually enjoy sports if he were not constantly pressured into taking one up. When the new principal decides that all seniors must play on a team, Jack and a ragtag group decide to get even by starting a rebel JV soccer team whose mission is to avoid victory at any cost.



Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek / Non-fiction Memoir, 730 Lexile

Maya Van Wagenen – Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), LLC, 2014.

Maya has never been popular, but before starting eighth grade, she decides to begin a unique social experiment - spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell and record the results. Told with humor and grace, Maya's journey offers a thoroughly contemporary example of kindness and self-confidence.



Rhyme Schemer / Fiction, Novel in Verse, 520 Lexile

K.A. Holt – Chronicle Books, 2014.

This novel in verse follows one seventh grader's journey from bully-er to bully-ee, as he learns about friendship, family, and the influence that words can have on people's lives.

Social Media User Agreement

By participating in our Reading Rewards group, you agree to the following online behavior expectations:

- Post with consideration and respect at all times.
- Disagreement is an important part of a good discussion, but you must disagree politely.
- Only post about school-appropriate topics using school-appropriate language.
- Use each other's names when responding to discussion questions to avoid confusion.
- Reread your messages before sending to avoid confusion.
- Actively engage in the conversation by posting thoughtful responses to the questions

Failure to follow these guidelines could affect your student's grade for the summer reading project and result in possible disciplinary action when the school-year begins. Mrs. Kendrick has final editorial control of all book reviews and discussion posts.

Helpful Reminders

My Reading Rewards Username: _____

My Reading Rewards Password: _____

Mrs. Kendrick's email: dana.kendrick@eku.edu

Due Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016

7th Grade Summer Reading Rubric

	Distinguished 15 points	Proficient 13 Points	Apprentice 11 points	Novice 10 points
Book Review First Sentence	The first sentence includes the title, author, and a creative lead.	Title and author are both listed immediately, but the lead is not engaging.	Either the title OR the author is missing.	Title and/or author are not mentioned at all.
Plot Summary Paragraph	The plot description includes just enough detail. Events are told in chronological order. The most important characters are named and described briefly. After reading the description, the reader wants to read the book.	Events are told in chronological order. More info should have been given, or too much has been provided. The most important characters are named and described briefly. The summary may not create reader interest.	The plot description is overly complicated, overly simple, or does not make the reader feel curious. Events may also be disorganized. One or two important characters are left out.	The plot description is minimal, too detailed, or confusing due to disorganization. Only one main character is mentioned briefly, possibly not by name. Other essential characters are left out.
Personal Response Paragraph	Your opinion is so insightful that other readers will take your advice. Your opinion is thoughtful, clear, and well-supported.	You gave an honest and clear opinion about your book. You also gave a few good examples to support why you liked or disliked the book.	Your personal opinion is clear but unsupported with evidence from the text.	You only wrote one or two sentences telling me simple ideas like "The book is cool!" or "The book is boring."
Recommendation Paragraph	The review provides a clear recommendation paragraph with strong reasons and text evidence as support. The book is recommended to specific types of readers.	The review provides a clear recommendation statement. Some text evidence is used, but not enough. You assumed that every reader would feel the same about the book.	The review provides a recommendation statement, but does not include any support. You assumed that every reader would feel the same about the book.	The review provides a recommendation statement. However, it is general, such as, "This is a good book." No reasons or text details are provided as support.
Conventions/ Grammar	Book Review and discussion postings provide evidence of a consistent and strong command of grade-level conventions. Very few errors present.	Book Review and discussion postings provide evidence of an adequate command of grade-level conventions. A few errors present.	Book Review and discussion postings provide evidence of a limited command of grade-level conventions. Multiple errors present.	Book Review and discussion provide little or no evidence of a command of grade-level conventions. Errors interfere with ability to understand message.
Reading Logs	You logged both books completely and accurately.	You logged most of your reading minutes accurately and completely.	You logged less than half of your reading minutes for both books.	You did not log your reading minutes at all.
Discussion Postings	Your discussion question and response are insightful and rely on text evidence.	Your discussion question and response are clearly communicated and use some text evidence.	You may have forgotten either the discussion question or the response.	You forgot both the discussion question and the discussion response.

