

8th Grade Summer Reading Project



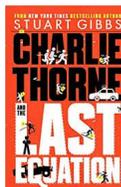
This year 8th grade at Suncoast Academy will use some of the titles from SUNSHINE STATE YOUNG READERS AWARD BOOKS 2021-2022 6-8 list for our Summer Reading Project. Because we believe it is important that our students don't fall back on the reading gains they have made over the school year, we encourage parents to support their students by providing reading opportunities throughout the summer break. Although each student will only be assessed on their project for one book, we highly recommend each student choose more books to read before the beginning of the school year.

Below are the titles of books (and a short summary) your student can pick from:



Cleo Porter and the Body Electric by Jake Burt

A woman is dying. Cleo Porter has her medicine. And no way to deliver it. Like everyone else, twelve-year-old Cleo and her parents are sealed in an apartment without windows or doors. They never leave. They never get visitors. Their food is dropped off by drones. So they're safe. Safe from the disease that nearly wiped humans from the earth. Safe from everything. The trade-off? They're alone. Thus, when they receive a package clearly meant for someone else--a package containing a substance critical for a stranger's survival--Cleo is stuck. As a surgeon-in-training, she knows the clock is ticking. But people don't leave their units. Not ever. Until now.



Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation by Stuart Gibbs

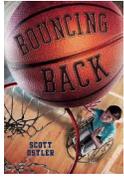
The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.



The Unteachables by Gordon Korman

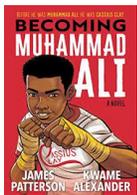
The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks. Like Aldo, with anger management issues; Parker, who can't read; Kiana, who doesn't even belong in the class—or any class; and Elaine (rhymes with pain). The Unteachables have been removed from the student body and isolated in room 117. Their teacher is Mr. Zachary Kermit, the most burned-out teacher in all of Greenwich. He was once a rising star, but his career was shattered by a cheating scandal that still haunts him. After years of phoning it in, he is finally one year

away from early retirement. But the superintendent has his own plans to torpedo that idea—and it involves assigning Mr. Kermit to the Unteachables. The Unteachables never thought they'd find a teacher who had a worse attitude than they did. And Mr. Kermit never thought he would actually care about teaching again. Over the course of a school year, though, room 117 will experience mayhem, destruction—and maybe even a shot at redemption.

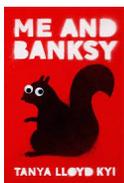


Bloom by Kenneth Oppel

The invasion begins--but not as you'd expect. It begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollens. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. They bloom--everywhere, unstoppable. Or are they? Three kids on a remote island seem immune to the toxic plants: Anaya, Petra, Seth. They each have strange allergies--and yet not to the plants. What's their secret? Can they somehow be the key to beating back this invasion? They'd better figure it out fast, because it's starting to rain, again....



Becoming Muhammad Ali by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing. Readers will learn about Cassius's family and neighbors in Louisville, Kentucky, and how, after a thief stole his bike, Cassius began training as an amateur boxer at age twelve. Before long, he won his first Golden Gloves bout and began his transformation into the unrivaled Muhammad Ali.



Me and Banksy by Tanya Lloyd Kyi

A Banksy-style protest against cameras in classrooms brings a group of middle-grade students together. Dominica's private school is covered in cameras, and someone is hacking into them and posting embarrassing moments for the whole school to see; Like Ana picking her nose. When Dominica quickly changes her shirt from inside out in what she thinks is the privacy of a quiet corner in the library, she's shocked -- and embarrassed -- to discover a video has captured this and is currently circulating amongst her school-mates. So mortifying, especially since over the past three years, they've had a half-dozen school talks about social media safety.

Who has access to the school security cameras and why are they doing this? Dominica and her best friends, Holden and Saanvi, are determined to find out, and in the process start an art-based student campaign against cameras in the classroom.

Project Assessment

Students **pick one book** from the choices above. After reading the book, students then **pick one of the project choices** below as a way to share their reading experience. Choose a project based upon the student's strengths, interests, and learning preferences. Please include the project number, and name with the final work. If the project requires the student to send a recording, be sure to format it in WMV (Windows Media). Any typewritten work should be done in single-space, Times New Roman font 12.

Make sure to have the project ready for the teacher on the first day of the school year. The teacher will ask all students to turn in their written pieces in or share their recorded files DURING THE FIRST WEEK of school. This project will be the first graded work for the school year, so it is very important it is done well and turned in on-time. The choices below are meant to make this experience a positive one rather than a chore, so help your student pick the one that appeals to him/her the most.

1. Write a letter to a character in the book. (500 words minimum)
2. Write a letter to the author inviting him/her to speak to the class about the book, and explain why you feel the author could contribute to the learning experience of your fellow students. (500 words minimum)
3. Write an obituary, eulogy, or epitaph for one of the characters in your book. (500 words minimum)
4. Pretend you are the author, and explain why you choose the title of your book. (500 words minimum)
5. Create a poster for your book. Be sure to include a written explanation for your design. (1 22"-28" poster board)
6. Describe how a character changed during the book. (500 words minimum)
7. List the protagonist, antagonist, setting, plot, theme, and point of view of the story. Offer explanations for your choices when needed. (500 words minimum)
8. Change one element of the story and explain how the change would affect the story. (500 words minimum)
9. Make a chart showing how two characters are alike and how they are different. (size of a 22"-28" poster board)
10. Write a letter to our principal explaining why every Suncoast Academy student should read your book. (500 words minimum)
11. Describe what you think happened to the main character after the book ended. (500 words minimum)
12. Create a timeline that depicts the major events of the story. (size of a 22"-28" poster board)

13. Make a shoebox diorama of a scene from the book you read. Write a paragraph (100 words) explaining the scene and attach it to the diorama.
14. Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. An explanation (100 words minimum) of how this character fits into the book should accompany the sculpture.
15. If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a travel brochure using pictures you have found (remember to cite where you found them) or drawn. Include at least 5 explanations on how this brochure relates to the setting and/or the plot of the book.