



Dear TMS Families,

Welcome to SUMMER READING for English/Language Arts/Reading at Trinity Middle School. We are so very excited to see you on campus in August. As you make your plans for summer, please keep time for books in your schedule. Consistent reading over the summer helps keep students' minds active and agile, nurturing their comprehension skills, imagination, and curiosity. Research shows that strong reading skills correlate with success in EVERY subject, and, sadly, we also know that the percentage of children and teenagers who say that they "read for pleasure" has declined in the last decade. One of the best gifts that we can give ourselves and our children is the time to curl up with a good book.

**TMS summer reading has three components:**

1. **Required All 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Book:** *A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat (see details below)  
**Required All 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Book:** *Refugee* by Alan Gratz (see details below)  
**Required All 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Book:** *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton (see details below)

During the first month of school, there will be class discussions, writing prompts, vocabulary quizzes and a test or project over the assigned core novel. To help you prepare, use the elements below to annotate your novel as you read. (Yes, this is required, and yes, we are giving students permission to write in their books! If you are using a borrowed book, you may use sticky notes for your annotations.)

- Write the following "think marks" in the margins as you read.
  - Question mark for passages that confuse you
  - Exclamation point for things you think are surprising
  - Star for passages that you find important
  - Heart for parts that you love
  - Smiley face for things you think are funny
- As you read, highlight (in PINK) examples of figurative language. You should mark a minimum of one per chapter:
  - Simile: a figure of speech that uses "like" or "as" to compare two unlike subjects
  - Metaphor: a figure of speech in which a comparison is made without the use of "like" or "as"
  - Personification: a type of figurative language in which a non-human subject is given human characteristics
  - Hyperbole: an exaggerated statement not meant to be taken literally, but to prove a point (example: "I could eat a horse!")
  - Onomatopoeia: a word that sounds like the noise it describes
- Highlight (in BLUE) any words that you don't know. Use a dictionary to write the definitions in the margins.
- Finally, highlight (in YELLOW) examples in the book that model Trinity School's mission: to nurture children in a God-centered environment, filling hearts and minds with a *passion for learning, a strong moral foundation, a commitment to social responsibility, and respect for all people.*

2. **Summer Book Choice:** In addition to their assigned core novel, students will read one book of their choice from the attached links to our Recommended Summer Reading Choice Lists. When school starts, students will have a project over their book.

6<sup>th</sup> grade: [www.haisln.org](http://www.haisln.org) (choose 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading list)

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>: [www.haisln.org](http://www.haisln.org) (choose 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade reading list)

3. **Independent Reading:** Independent Reading is a major part of the TMS literature curriculum. On a regular basis, the classes pause to read books of their own choosing. Over the summer, to sustain strong reading habits, we ask that students carve out time to make reading part of their daily routine. Our goal is to encourage reading – any subject or reading level is acceptable! Abandoning a book is also okay – if students start a pleasure book and give it a fair chance, it is perfectly fine for them to put it down if they do not find it engaging. The attached challenge is NOT MANDATORY, however, students that read more than the required two books will be entered in a drawing for awesome prizes! They will receive a draw ticket for every additional 5 books read. These should be tracked on the attached Reading Log and additional pages may be added. *They may not include books they have previously read.*

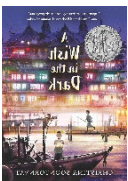
A few final thoughts... Physical, digital, or audiobook formats all are permissible for summer reading, although students must have a hard copy of their specific grade-level assigned core novel. Also note that books on the Recommended Summer Reading Lists have been recommended for student reading by the Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network and/or have been read by a faculty member. If you have a question about a book, please feel free to contact us.

Happy Reading!

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[lboeh@tesgalv.org](mailto:lboeh@tesgalv.org)

Mrs. Vanessa Rogers (6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>)  
[Vrogers@tesgalv.org](mailto:Vrogers@tesgalv.org)

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Novel:



***A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat**  
**ISBN: 1536222976**

*A 2021 Newbery Honor Book*

All light in Chattana is created by one man — the Governor, who appeared after the Great Fire to bring peace and order to the city. For Pong, who was born in Namwon Prison, the magical lights represent freedom, and he dreams of the day he will be able to walk among them. But when Pong escapes from prison, he realizes that the world outside is no fairer than the one behind bars. The wealthy dine and dance under bright orb light, while the poor toil away in darkness. Worst of all, Pong’s prison tattoo marks him as a fugitive who can never be truly free.

Nok, the prison warden’s perfect daughter, is bent on tracking Pong down and restoring her family’s good name. But as Nok hunts Pong through the alleys and canals of Chattana, she uncovers secrets that make her question the truths she has always held dear. Set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world, Christina Soontornvat’s twist on Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* is a dazzling, fast-paced adventure that explores the difference between law and justice — and asks whether one child can shine a light in the dark.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Novel:

### ***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

**ISBN: 9781338324723**

Three different kids. One mission in common: ESCAPE.

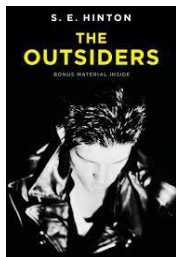
Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America...

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...

All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Novel:



### ***The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton**

**ISBN: 014240733X**

No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.

*The Outsiders* is a dramatic and enduring work of fiction that laid the groundwork for the YA genre. S. E. Hinton's classic story of a boy who finds himself on the outskirts of regular society remains as powerful today as it was the day it was first published.

# Log the Books You Read for Summer Reading Here

Turn this paper in to your ELAR teacher when school starts in August.

Name:

Parent Signature:

Title/Author	Date Completed	Any Notes?
<b>Required to Complete Summer Reading: Grade Level Core Novel + Reading Choice Assignment</b>		
<b>Book #1</b>	<i>6<sup>th</sup>: A Wish in the Dark / Christina Soontornvat</i> <i>7<sup>th</sup>: Refugee / Alan Gratz</i> <i>8<sup>th</sup>: The Outsiders / S.E. Hinton</i>	
<b>Book #2</b>		
<b>Optional! Every Additional 5 Books Read = Prize Draw Ticket</b>		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
<b>Additional Draw Ticket Earned!</b>		
1		
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<b>Additional Draw Ticket Earned!</b>		
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<b>Additional Draw Ticket Earned!</b>		

***If you read more than 15 extra books, print out another sheet. Read on!***