

FRIENDSHIP JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Summer Reading Program 2015-2016

7

Dear Seventh Grader,

Over summer break, all students entering seventh grade are expected to read **TWO** of the novels listed below that are **within their Lexile range**. This list has been developed by the English Department to provide incoming students with a variety of subjects and themes to choose from. An AR test is available for each of the novels on this list.

STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS MUST CHOOSE TITLES THAT HAVE AN ASTERISK *

Each student is expected to complete the attached packet. All seventh grade teachers will collect and grade this packet during the first days of school. The grade for this packet will be based on your ability to demonstrate that you have carefully read and understood each of the two novels you have chosen to read. This is your opportunity to ensure a great start to seventh grade!

If you do not wish to purchase these novels through Friendship Junior High, you are expected to purchase them from a local bookstore or check them out from the library.

NOVEL CHOICES ON NEXT PAGE

(Choose TWO novels)

*** You can find more information about any of these novels by searching the title at www.amazon.com ***

Novel Choices: Choose Two Novels

**** Students going into Advanced Language Arts must choose a title marked with an asterisk ****

Gregor the Overlander (Book 1 in the Underland Chronicles) by Suzanne Collins
(Lexile: 630 Reading Level: 4.8 AR points: 8)

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

Fablehaven by Brandon Mull
(Lexile: 700 Reading Level: 4.8 AR points: 11)

When Kendra and Seth go to stay at their grandparents' estate, they discover that it is a sanctuary for magical creatures and a battle between good and evil is looming.

Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life by James Patterson
(Lexile: 700 Reading Level: 4.5 AR points: 4)

When Rafe enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.

Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer
(Lexile: 770 Reading Level: 5.5 AR points: 14)

Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

The Outcasts (Book 1 in the Brotherband Chronicles) by John Flanagan
(Lexile: 780 Reading Level: 5.5 AR points: 16)

When the Skandian outcasts face off against the Wolves and the Sharks during training, they hope that their courage and cunning are enough to help them win the contest and find acceptance in Hallasholm.

Among the Hidden (Book 1 in The Shadow Children series) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
(Lexile: 800 Reading Level: 4.8 AR points: 5)

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio by Peg Kehret
(Lexile: 890 Reading Level: 5.2 AR points: 4)

The author describes her battle against polio when she was twelve and thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

* **East** by Edith Pattou

(Lexile: 900 Reading Level: 6.1 AR points: 16)

A young woman journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear who is the victim of a cruel enchantment.

* **The Kite Rider** by Geraldine McCaughrean

(Lexile: 900 Reading Level: 6.5 AR points: 10)

In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider.

* **The Ruins of Gorlan** (Book 1 in The Ranger's Apprentice series) by John Flanagan

(Lexile: 920 Reading Level: 7.0 AR points: 12)

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

* **The Dragonfly Pool** by Eva Ibbotson

(Lexile: 960 Reading Level: 6.5 AR points: 16)

Tally and her friends at Dalderton Boarding School form a dance troupe and travel to Bergania, where she befriends Karil, the crown prince, and helps him flee the Nazis after his father is assassinated.

* **Fever Crumb** (Book 1 in the Fever Crumb series) by Philip Reeve

(Lexile: 1000 Reading Level: 6.7 AR points: 13)

Foundling Fever Crumb has been raised as an Engineer, but at the age of fourteen she leaves her sheltered world and begins to learn startling truths about her past while facing danger in the present.

* **Radiance** (Book 1 in the Riley Bloom series) by Alyson Noel

(Lexile: 1020 Reading Level: 6.6 AR points: 6)

After Riley crosses a bridge into the afterlife, she is summoned before The Council and paired up with a teacher, Bodhi, who returns to Earth with Riley and helps her learn her new role as a Soul Catcher.

* **H.I.V.E.** by Mark Walden

(Lexile: 1040 Reading Level: 7.8 AR points: 12)

Swept away to a hidden academy for training budding evil geniuses, Otto, a brilliant orphan, Wing, a sensitive warrior, Laura, a shy computer specialist, and Shelby, an infamous jewel thief, plot to escape the prison known as H.I.V.E.

* **Princess Ben** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

(Lexile: 1090 Reading Level: 7.9 AR points: 11)

Princess Benevolence discovers an enchanted room while locked in the castle's highest tower by the conniving Queen Sophia and begins learning the magical arts, which may help her save her kingdom from a mortal threat.

PLOT SUMMARY

Write a brief plot summary of your chosen novel for each section listed. Be sure that you have included answers to the following questions: Who? (character names), Did what? (the events), When?, Why?, and Where? (the settings).

Beginning: A deadly virus has swept over the world, killing off everyone over the age of twelve. In a suburb of Chicago, Lisa Nelson and her younger brother Todd are trying to survive by looting abandoned houses and shops. Lisa is the first one in the neighborhood to think of: driving one of the cars parked on the street, raiding a farm, and the first to look at the supplies and groceries from warehouses. She considers relocating to a farm, but decides it will be too difficult to defend.

Middle: Lisa and her friends are approached by the “Chidester Avenue Gang,” which is led by Tom Logan. Logan offers Lisa a deal (food for protection), but Lisa declines. She gets some of the neighborhood kids together, and she forms a militia on Grand Avenue, armed with guns, Molotov cocktails, and primitive weapons. When her militia is unable to defend themselves against the Chidester Avenue Gang, Lisa comes up with the idea of moving the “child families” and all of their belongings into the local high school and transforming the building into a fortress-city. Lisa becomes the only authority, since she has the necessary leadership skills and because she came up with the idea of moving into the abandoned high school.

End: Things are going according to plan until Tom Logan and the Chidester Avenue Gagne manage to stage a successful attack on the school. During the fight, Lisa is shot in the arm, and Tom has manage to conquer the high school and is the now the leader of the “child families.” Todd and Lisa’s friend, Jill, rescue her, and Jill performs basic surgery to remove the bullet from her arm. When Lisa recovers, they retake the high school from Tom. Lisa easily overthrows Tom, and as she takes charge again, everyone is happy.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Choose four main characters from the novel. Fill in as much information for each column as you possibly can. Provide the page numbers in the novel where you have found this information, as you will be asked to prove these comments.

Character's name	Physical appearance (What does he/she look like?)	Characteristics (Use adjectives to describe his/her personality)	Significance to the story (Why is this character important to the story?)
1. Lisa Nelson	10 years-old Tall, thin Blonde hair Brown eyes Female (pages 10, 11, 19)	Brave, confident, determined, mature, clever, hardworking, intelligent, strong, kind, good storyteller, loving, courageous (pages 7, 14, 23-24, 58, 77, 89-91)	Lisa is the leader of the “City of Glenbard” and locates and stores food and supplies, and she forms the militia. She beats Tom Logan to maintain control of the “child families” in her neighborhood.
2. Todd Nelson	Younger than Lisa Short Brown hair Brown eyes Male (pages 10 and 11)	Trustworthy, lucky, smart, helpful, wise, generous, sweet, brotherly, kind of timid (pages 7, 13, 23-24, 103)	Being Lisa’s brother, Todd is very important throughout the story. He does secret “spy” work for Lisa and he learns how to drive the car. He is an unofficial leader when Lisa is not around.
3. Jill	Asian Shoulder-length black hair Brown eyes Female (page 22)	Calm, patient, worried, weary, handy, brave, opinionated, helpful (pages 22, 109-110, 157)	Jill is one of the older children in the neighborhood, so she helps take care of the younger kids. She becomes the town’s nurse and save Lisa’s life when she gets shot in the arm.
4. Craig	Tall Blonde hair Blue eyes Strong, muscular (pages 34-35)	Trustworthy, hard-working, panicky, wise, independent, brave, strong (pages 34-35, 88-89)	Craig is one of Lisa’s first alliances. He helps her take supplies from the warehouse, and he is the co-leader of the “City of Glenbard.”

SETTING, CONFLICT, THEME, AND REVIEW

SETTING is the **time** and **place** in which the action of the novel takes place. What is the setting of the novel?

This story takes place during present times in Glen Ellyn, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago).

The local high school, Glenbard West High School, is used as a fortress in this novel.

CONFLICT means “fight” or “struggle.” In most novels, the main character must fight or struggle to overcome some big obstacle (problem). This obstacle might be:

-another person

-a difficult situation (surviving in the wilderness, completing a dangerous journey, etc.)

What is the conflict the main character struggled with in the novel?

(Situational): The characters in this story must learn how to survive in a world without any adults or the modern conveniences that they are used to. (Man vs. Man) Lisa and Todd Nelson compete with the Chidester Avenue Gang, led by Tom Logan, for food, shelter, and supplies.

THEME is the message or point about life and the human experience that the author wishes to share with the reader.

-The theme of The Wizard of Oz was: **There is no place like home**

What is the theme in the novel?

The theme is: Do not ever give up in a time of need; especially on yourself.

Lisa must fight for the survival of herself and her brother, as well as for the safety and survival of the other kids in her neighborhood, due to the rivalry with the Chidester Avenue Gang. Lisa is unable to beat the gang until she finds her own strength and courage.

A **REVIEW** is a short explanation of your opinion of a novel. Why did you **like** it or why did you **dislike** it? What parts did you find interesting? What parts were dull?

Write a review of the novel.

I really enjoyed reading this novel because I felt like I could relate to the characters. First of all, the story takes place right around here, so I was familiar with some of the locations that were mentioned. Even though Lisa seems kind of stubborn, I really liked reading to see what she would do next because I found her to be both clever and brave. My favorite scene was when Lisa had to learn how to drive a car for the first time. I was nervous for her, but it was really funny to watch her struggle through the learning process. One thing I did not like about this book was all the violence. I did not think it was realistic or appropriate for the kids to be using the weapons (guns and small bombs) they used to fight one another.

SCENE IMAGING

In the space provided, draw a picture of one scene from the novel you have chosen to read. Use details from the text to help you draw this representation. Be sure to use the entire space and to color your illustration.



In the space below, write at least a one-paragraph summary of the scene you have chosen. Be sure to include the names of important characters involved in this scene, a detailed description of the setting, and the important events that occurred.

This is a picture of Glenbard West High School. When the Chidester Avenue Gang takes over the streets of Glen Ellyn, Lisa Nelson realizes she needs a safer place to stay in order to protect her little brother Todd and the other “child families” that she has taken watch over. She realizes that the high school would make an excellent place, so she moves the children, the food, and all of their supplies into the school. Once they have made some changes to the building so that it is more like a fortress, they are able to protect themselves from the rival gangs. The children begin to refer to the school as “The City of Glenbard” and they life there safely with Lisa as their leader.

NAME: _____ NOVEL ONE: _____

PLOT SUMMARY

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Beginning: _____

Middle: _____

End: _____

NAME: _____ NOVEL ONE: _____

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

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2.			
3.			
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SETTING, CONFLICT, THEME, AND REVIEW

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What is the conflict the main character struggled with in the novel?

THEME is the message or point about life and the human experience that the author wishes to share with the reader.

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What is the theme in the novel?

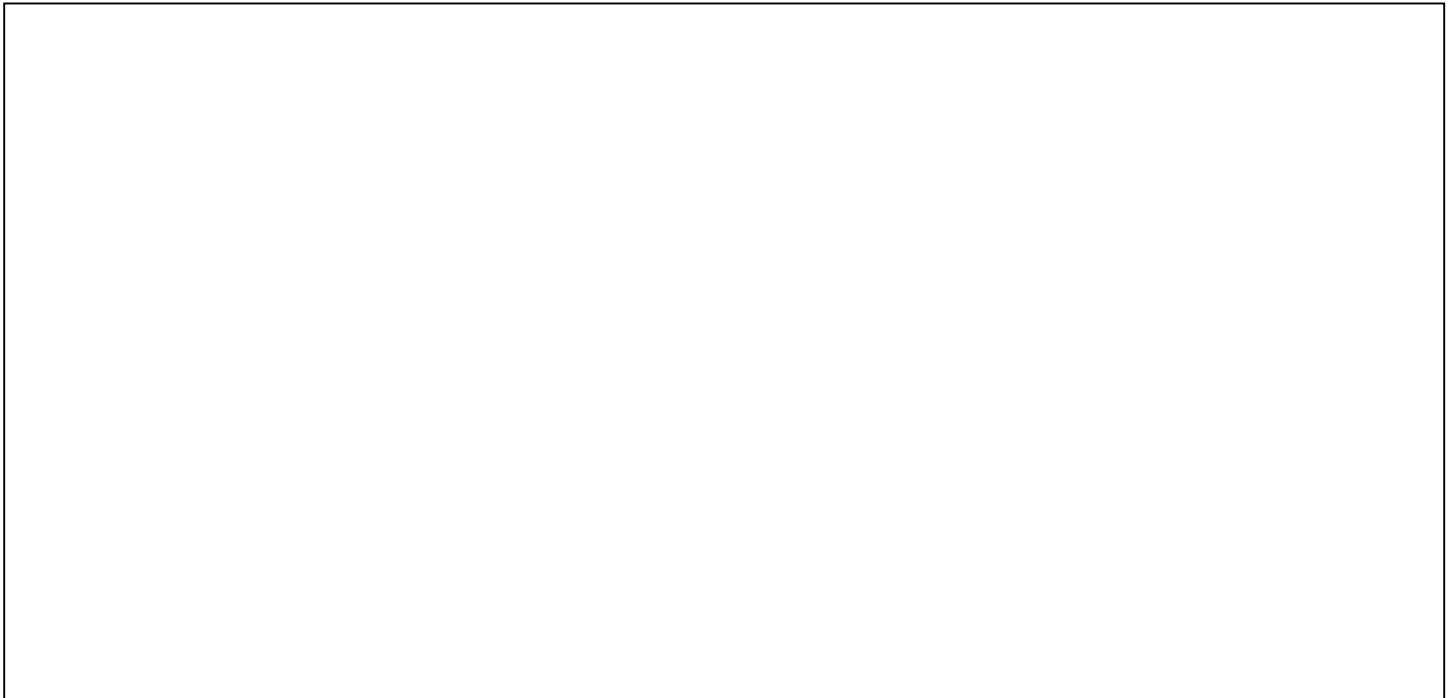
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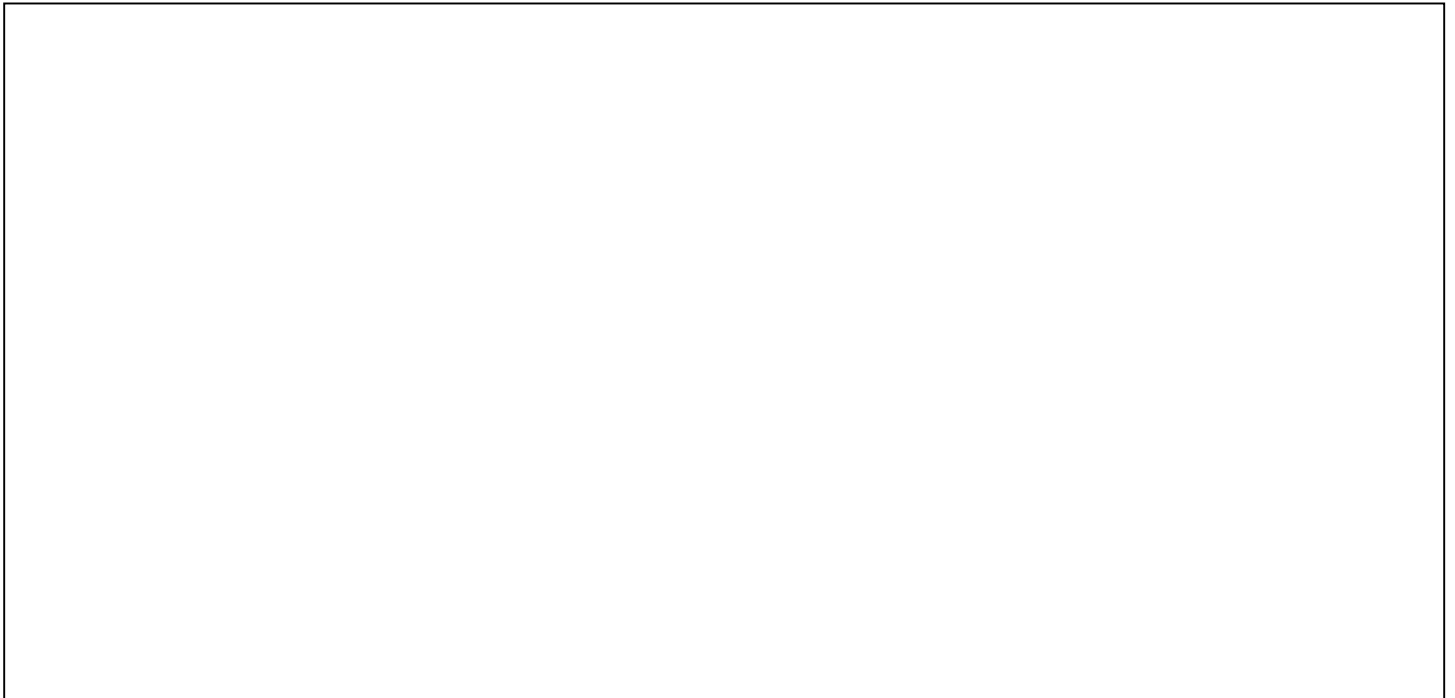
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