

7th Grade Summer Reading

2015

The following summer reading books were selected to allow you to explore the theme of **life's journey**. Read at least one of the books from the list and complete the double-entry journal that follows. When you return to school in September, you will be asked to analyze, summarize, discuss, and write about the text you read.

Title and Author

Synopsis

The Alchemist: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel
Michael Scott

Twin 15-year-old siblings Sophie and Josh Newman take summer jobs in San Francisco across the street from one another: she at a coffee shop, he at a bookstore owned by Nick and Perry Fleming. In the very first chapter, armed goons garbed in black with “dead-looking skin and... marble eyes” (actually Golems) storm the bookshop, take Perry hostage and swipe a rare book (but not before Josh snatches its two most important pages). The stolen volume is the Codex, an ancient text of magical wisdom. Sophie and Josh learn that they are mentioned in the Codex’s prophecies: “The two that are one will come either to save or to destroy the world.” Mayhem ensues, as Irish author Scott draws on a wide knowledge of world mythology to stage a battle between the Dark Elders and forces of good.

Divergent
Veronica Roth

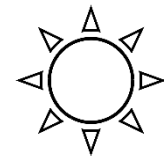
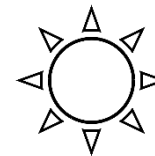
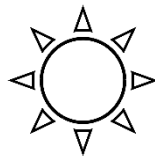
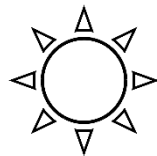
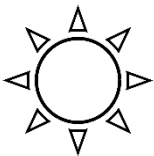
In Beatrice Prior’s dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue – Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is – she can’t have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself. (Emotionally mature interactions between male and female characters)

The Dreamer
Pam Muñoz Ryan & Peter Sís

From the time he is a young boy, Neftali hears the call of a mysterious voice. He knows he must follow it – even when the neighborhood children taunt him, and when his harsh, authoritarian father ridicules him, and when he doubts himself. It leads him under the canopy of the lush rain forest, into the fearsome sea, and through the persistent Chilean rain, until finally, he discovers its source.

Island on Bird Street
Uri Orlev

When the entire Warsaw Ghetto is evacuated during World War II, one boy still remains hidden, waiting in obedience for his father to return as he told him he would. There, the young boy must struggle to survive in the midst of fear and danger.



Name _____

Book Title _____

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The book you have chosen to read this summer will help you to learn about the personal challenges involved in life's journeys. Consider the following questions as you read the book and complete the double-entry journal.

1. In what ways can personal challenges help people develop courage and wisdom?
2. How do life experiences influence the way people see, understand, and interpret the world around them?
3. In what ways are personal choices influenced by the society/culture of an individual and the age in which he/she lives?
4. How do people find meaning and purpose in the personal challenges faced along life's journey?

Textual evidence of an event or challenge that is important in the character's life journey.	Explain what the character learned from the event or personal challenge he/she experienced on this journey.
<p>Example from <i>The Dreamer</i> by Pam Muñoz and Peter Sís <i>"Stop that incessant daydreaming!" The white tip of Father's yellow beard quivered as he clenched and unclenched his narrow jaw. "And why are you out of bed?"</i> <i>Neftali averted his eyes.</i> <i>"Do you want to be a skinny weakling forever and amount to nothing?"</i> <i>"N-n-n-no, Father," stammered Neftali (10).</i></p>	<p><i>Neftali is ridiculed by his father for his imagination and daydreaming. His father is harsh. Many children would be defeated by this. However, Neftali continues his journey of self-understanding and knows that he must follow his inner voice</i></p>

