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Dear Families of Incoming Seventh Grade Students,

Your seventh-grade English Language Arts teachers are pleased to introduce the summer reading list. The selections on this list represent a variety of genres, authors, and readability levels.

Students are required to read at least **ONE** title over the summer. They must complete **TWO TASKS** based on ONE of the book selections.

Task 1- Character Captain (REQUIRED)

Task 2- Choice Assignment (REQUIRED)

- The assignment must be **typed and printed** out before submission.
- It will be **due on the first day of school.**
- Assignments will be assessed and used to launch a written response in the classroom.

Students are encouraged to read more than one book over the summer; however, students are only required to complete the two required tasks for one title. One task is a graphic organizer and the second task is more creative in nature, allowing students to choose a “passion project” from a list of choices.

We have taken the time to choose works that we believe your child will enjoy. Please encourage your child to select an appropriate title, and please consider reading the book with him/her, and/or helping your child to find a reading partner. In addition, we encourage students to be active readers by continuing their practice of reading while using post-it notes.

We have also included a short description of each work. These descriptions are included to help you and your child make an informed selection.

Please check your local library and Woodmere Middle School’s Sora App for digital copies as well as local bookstores. The Sora App is available to students throughout the entire summer.

The assignment can also be found on the WMS website, www.hewlett-woodmere.net.

Finally, start off the year a star and support our WMS #GETbooked initiative. Take a picture of your child reading during the summer, and it will be displayed on our #GETcaughtREADING bulletin board.

We hope that your family will enjoy sharing the great adventure of reading. Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Your English Language Arts teachers

BOOK SELECTIONS

Author	Title	Genre
Creech, Sharon	<i>Walk Two Moons</i>	realistic fiction
Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo	<i>Ruby in the Sky</i>	realistic fiction
Lupica, Mike	<i>Travel Team</i>	sports/realistic fiction
Miller, Sarah	<i>Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller</i>	nonfiction
Korman, Gordan	<i>The Unteachables</i>	realistic fiction
Korman, Gordan	<i>Unplugged</i>	realistic Fiction
Sarno, Melissa	<i>A Swirl of Ocean</i>	realistic fiction
Peterson Haddix, Margaret	<i>Found</i>	mystery
Barnhill, Kelly	<i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i>	fantasy/adventure
London, Jack	<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	classical, adventure
DasGupta, Sayantani	<i>The Serpent's Secret</i>	fantasy
Murphy, Jim	<i>The Great Fire</i>	nonfiction
Patterson, James	<i>Witch and Wizard</i>	fantasy
Esplin, J.L.	<i>96 Miles</i>	adventure
Kamkwamba, William	<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>	nonfiction: memoir
Klages, Ellen	<i>Out of Left Field</i>	sports/historical fiction
Holt, K.A.	<i>House Arrest</i>	fiction written in verse

Woodson, Jacqueline	<i>Harbor Me</i>	realistic fiction
Gratz, Alan	<i>Grenade</i>	historical fiction
Rhodes, Jewell Parker	<i>Ghost Boys</i>	realistic fiction
Howe, James	<i>The Misfits</i>	realistic fiction

In ***Walk Two Moons***, as Salamanca entertains her grandparents with Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold — the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother. In her own award-winning style, Sharon Creech intricately weaves together two tales, one funny, one bittersweet, to create a heartwarming, compelling, and utterly moving story of love, loss, and the complexity of human emotion.

In ***Ruby in the Sky***, twelve-year-old Ruby Moon Hayes does not want her new classmates to ask about her father. She does not want them to know her mother has been arrested. And she definitely does not want to make any friends. Ruby just wants to stay as silent and invisible as a new moon in the frozen sky. She and her mother won't be staying long in Vermont anyway, and then things can go back to the way they were before everything went wrong. But keeping to herself isn't easy when Ahmad Saleem, a Syrian refugee, decides he's her new best friend. Or when she meets "the Bird Lady," a recluse named Abigail who lives in a ramshackle shed near Ruby's house. Before long Ahmad and Abigail have become Ruby's friends—and she realizes there is more to their stories than everyone knows. As ugly rumors begin to swirl around the people Ruby loves, she must make a choice: break her silence, or risk losing everything that's come to mean so much to her.

Lupica writes for the thoughtful sports enthusiast in ***Travel Team***. Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court -- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured.

Annie Sullivan was little more than a half-blind orphan with a fiery tongue when she arrived at Helen Keller's home in 1887. Desperate for work, she'd taken on a seemingly impossible job—teaching a child who was deaf, blind, and as ferocious as any wild animal. But if anyone was a match for Helen Keller, it was the girl who'd been nicknamed Miss Spitfire. Told in the first person, Annie Sullivan's past, her brazen determination, and her connection to the girl who would call her Teacher are vividly depicted in ***Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller***.

The Unteachables (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), 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.

In ***Unplugged***, the son of the world's most famous tech billionaire, spoiled Jett Baranov has always gotten what he wanted. So when his father's private jet drops him in the middle of the Arkansas wilderness, at a place called the Oasis, Jett can't believe it. He's forced to hand over his cell phone, eat grainy veggie patties, and participate in wholesome activities with the other kids, who he has absolutely no interest in hanging out with. As the weeks go on, Jett starts to get used to the unplugged life and even bonds with the other kids over their discovery of a baby-lizard-turned-pet, Needles. But he can't help noticing that the adults at the Oasis are acting really strange. Jett is determined to get to the bottom of things, but can he convince everybody that he is no longer just a spoiled brat who is making trouble?

In ***A Swirl of Ocean***, twelve-year-old Summer loves the ocean. The smell, the immensity, the feeling she gets when she dives beneath the surface. She has lived in Barnes Bluff Bay since she was two years old, when Lindy found her on the beach. It's been the two of them ever since. But now, ten years later, Summer feels uncertainty about her place with Lindy and starts to wonder about where she came from. One night, Summer goes for a swim and gets caught in a rip tide, swallowing mouthfuls of seawater. And that night, she dreams of a girl. A girl her age living in the same town, but not in the same time. Summer's not persuaded that this girl is real, but something about her feels familiar.

One night a plane appeared out of nowhere, the only passengers aboard: thirty-six babies. As soon as they were taken off the plane, it vanished. Now, thirteen years later, two of those children are receiving sinister messages, and they begin to investigate their past. In ***Found***, their quest to discover where they really came from leads them to a conspiracy that reaches from the far past to the distant future. In this exciting series, readers are kept on the edge of their seats.

First published in 1903, ***The Call of the Wild*** is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece. Buck, a sturdy crossbreed canine (half St. Bernard, half Shepard), is a dog born to luxury and raised in a sheltered Californian home. But then he is kidnapped and sold to be a sled dog in the harsh and frozen Yukon Territory. Passed from master to master, Buck embarks on an extraordinary journey, proving his unbreakable spirit. Based on London's experiences, his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, this is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the Alaskan Klondike.

The Serpent's Secret opens on the morning of Kiranmala's twelfth birthday. Kiranmala is just a regular sixth grader living in Parsippany, New Jersey... until her parents mysteriously vanish and a drooling rakkhosh demon slams through her kitchen, determined to eat her alive. Turns out there might be some truth to her parents' fantastical stories—like how Kiranmala is a real Indian princess and how she comes from a secret place, not of this world.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge—with dangerous consequences.

In the nonfiction book, ***The Great Fire***, Mrs. O'Leary and her cow have shouldered the blame for Chicago's infamous Great Fire of 1871. Murphy lays out the facts concerning one of the biggest disasters in American history demonstrating that the fire could have been contained: he unfolds a tale of poor communication, class discrimination, and plain bad luck. Strategically quoting the written accounts of witnesses who include a 12-year-old girl and a newspaper editor—Murphy both charts the 31-hour spread of the fire and conveys the atmosphere in the streets. Historic photos, engravings and newspaper clippings appear on nearly every page.

In ***Witch and Wizard***, the world is changing: the government has seized control of every aspect of society, and now, kids are disappearing. For 15-year-old Wisty and her older brother Whit, life turns upside down when they are torn from their parents one night and slammed into a secret prison for no reason they can comprehend. The New Order, as it is known, is clearly trying to suppress Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Being a Normal Teenager. But while trapped in this totalitarian nightmare, Wisty and Whit discover they have incredible powers they'd never dreamed of. Can this newly minted witch and wizard master their skills in time to save themselves, their parents—and maybe the world?

96 Miles: 21 days without power. **2 brothers** on a desperate trek. **72 hours** before time runs out... The Lockwood brothers are supposed to be able to survive anything. Their dad, a hardcore believer in self-reliance, has stockpiled enough food and water at their isolated Nevada home to last for months. But when they are robbed of all their supplies during a massive blackout while their dad is out of town, John and Stew must walk 96 miles in the stark desert sun to get help. Along the way, they're forced to question their dad's insistence on self-reliance and ask just what it is that we owe to our neighbors, our kin, and to ourselves.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was a mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger, and a place where hope and opportunity were hard to find. But William had read about windmills in a book called *Using Energy*, and he dreamed of building one that would bring electricity and water to his village and change his life and the lives of those around him. His neighbors may have mocked him and called him *misala*—crazy—but William was determined to show them what a little grit and ingenuity could do.

Out of Left Field follows Katy Gordon, the best baseball pitcher in town, even though she's a girl. But when she tries out for Little League, it's a whole different story. Girls are not eligible, period. It is a boy's game and always has been. It's not fair, and Katy's going to fight back. Inspired by what she's learning about civil rights in school, she sets out to prove that she's not the only girl who plays baseball. With the help of friendly librarians and some tenacious research skills, Katy discovers the forgotten history of female ballplayers and works to change people's minds about what girls can do.

In ***House Arrest***, Timothy is on probation. It's a strange world—something that happens to other kids, to delinquents, not to kids like him. And yet, he is under house arrest for the next year. At times touching and funny, and always original, *House Arrest* is a middle-grade novel in verse about one boy's path to redemption as he navigates life with a sick brother, a grieving mother, and one tough probation officer.

Harbor Me starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for “A Room to Talk”), they discover it's safe to

talk about what's bothering them—everything from legal issues and fears of profiling to the adjustments that must be made due to changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world.

Grenade: It's 1945, and the world is in the grip of war. Hideki lives with his family on the island of Okinawa, near Japan. When WWII crashes onto his shores, Hideki is drafted into the Blood and Iron Student Corps to fight for the Japanese army. He is handed a grenade and a set of instructions: Don't come back until you've killed an American soldier. Ray, a young American Marine, has just landed on Okinawa. This is Ray's first-ever battle, and he doesn't know what to expect or if he'll make it out alive. He just knows that the enemy is everywhere, with ambushes and dangerous traps. But then the two of them collide in the middle of the battle...and choices they make in that single instant will change everything.

In **Ghost Boys**, twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.

In **The Misfits**, the main characters declare that kids who get called the worst names oftentimes find each other. That's how it is for Skeezie Tookis and Addie Carle and Joe Bunch and Bobby Goodspeed. Bobby says, "We call ourselves the Gang of Five, but there are only four of us. We do it to keep people on their toes. Make 'em wonder. Or maybe we do it because we figure that there's one more kid out there who's going to need a gang to be a part of. A misfit, like us." Skeezie, Addie, Joe, and Bobby -- they've been friends forever. They laugh together, have lunch together, and get together once a week at the Candy Kitchen to eat ice cream and talk about important issues. Life isn't always fair, but at least they have each other -- and all they really want to do is survive the seventh grade.

REQUIRED Task 1—Character Captain

- Select **two different internal character traits** to describe the main character with two pieces of **textual evidence** to support **each** trait. Evidence should come from **various parts** of the text.
- An **internal character trait** is a word that directly describes the **character’s personality, not his or her physical attributes**. **DO NOT** use external and/or physical traits such as pretty or athletic.
- Textual evidence** is defined as **direct quotations from the text**.

Main Character: _____

INTERNAL CHARACTER TRAIT #1 _____

<p>First Direct Quote from the text</p> <p>“</p> <p>”</p> <p>(Page _____).</p>	<p>How does the direct quote demonstrate/support the trait?</p>
<p>Second Direct Quote from the text</p> <p>“</p> <p>”</p> <p>(Page _____).</p>	<p>How does the direct quote demonstrate/support the trait?</p>

INTERNAL CHARACTER TRAIT #2 _____

<p>First Direct Quote from the text</p> <p>“</p> <p style="text-align: right;">”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Page _____).</p>	<p>How does the direct quote demonstrate/support the trait?</p>
<p>Second Direct Quote from the text</p> <p>“</p> <p style="text-align: right;">”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Page _____).</p>	<p>How does the direct quote demonstrate/support the trait?</p>

REQUIRED Task 2 – Choice Assignment (CHOOSE ONE)

Directions:

*Select **ONE** of the following tasks to complete.

*All written responses should be a **minimum of one page, TYPED, from top to bottom.**

*Proofread your work. It counts.

All written work **must be typed** in the following format:

- Size 12 font
- Times New Roman
- Double-spaced
- Include a heading and the choice # at the top of the page.

Choice 1: Write long about a lesson learned by one of the main characters in the novel. You must describe the lesson that was learned and then explain how this lesson can apply to your own life. Use specific details/evidence from the text to support your response. Your response should be written using multiple paragraphs.

Choice 2: Select an important scene in the novel. Rewrite the scene from another character’s point of view that appears in that scene. Imagine what the character is thinking, seeing, and feeling. This should be written in first-person narration.

Choice 3: Choose FOUR quotes from outside sources that relate to one or more characters in the novel. (*Suggested websites include: thinkexist.com, quotationspage.com, brainyquote.com, quoteland.com*). Write the quote and cite the speaker. Beneath each quote, explain the meaning of the quote **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** and follow up with a brief description of how the quote is relevant to a character. Would the character live by this quote? What about the quote would a character like or dislike?

Choice 4: Create a “Spotify” Playlist consisting of 8 *school-appropriate* songs for the main character of the novel. Songs could relate to the character’s traits, conflicts, and/or lessons learned. Write the title and

artist for each song. Beneath each song and artist give a brief description (at least 5-7 sentences) of how this song is **relevant** to your character. Why did you choose it? When would he or she listen to it? What about it (the beat, the lyrics, etc) would your character like or what represents him or her in it?

Choice 5: Create a one-page interview with a secondary character. The interview should include at least 10 questions and answers. Answers should be 4-5 sentences long and reflect on conflicts, themes, or big ideas in the novel. Be creative!

Choice 6: Create a Netflix "Playlist" consisting of 8 *school-appropriate* shows for the main character of the novel. Shows could relate to the character's traits, conflicts, and/or lessons learned. Write the title and genre for each show. Beneath each title and genre give a brief description (at least 5-7 sentences) of how this show is **relevant** to your character. Why did you choose it? When would he or she watch to it? What about it (the plot, the tone, the characters, etc) would your character like or what represents him or her in it?

****Extra Credit-** #GETcaughtReading- Take a picture of yourself reading a book this summer and bring it to school on the first day. Support #GETBOOKED