

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
106 Washington Avenue
Plainview, New York 11803



June, 2017

Dear parents, guardians, and incoming grade eight students,

Summer reading provides an excellent opportunity for students to continue to enhance literacy skills developed throughout the school year. It is also an opportunity to engage students in reading for fun and at their own level of interest and ability. To this end, the Plainview–Old Bethpage School District is issuing a Summer Reading List to all middle school students.

Please make every effort to read as much as possible over the upcoming summer. It would be helpful to keep track of the titles and authors of books read to share with teachers upon the return of school in September. While we strongly encourage reading multiple titles, **students must read one book from the attached list.** For the summer of 2017, and in an effort to meet the needs of different styles of learners, students are being given a choice of the type of assessment they can complete to present their understanding and appreciation of their book. Students can choose to complete a traditional writing assignment crafted by their classroom teacher during the third or fourth week of September. They also have the option of creating either a “book talk video” or “book talk movie” that must be uploaded by (Friday) September 15, 2017. Please consult the following pages in this packet for more details about the requirements and scoring rubrics for this style of assessment. **Please be aware that whichever assessment students choose to complete (the book talk video, the book talk movie, or the traditional writing assignment), their score will contribute to their first quarter average.** Please find two different *optional* reading worksheets enclosed which can serve as note-taking resources toward the first quarter assessment. While it is not a formal assignment, it will certainly help to assist students with their reading comprehension and the organization of their thoughts.

The Middle School teachers and librarians developed a diverse list from titles recommended by the American Library Association, professional journals, and the librarians at our local public library. We invite parents and guardians to carefully review the list in an effort to guide children in making appropriate selections in terms of text difficulty as well as the subject matter discussed. While a text might be appropriate in terms of its complexity, some books might address themes that some families see as too mature for a certain age group. If a student is not able to find an acceptable title from the grade-level list due to content or text complexity, please reach out to Eileen Annino at eannino@pobschools.org so an alternate plan can be set *in advance of the opening of the school year*.

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library has received copies of our Summer Reading Lists and will be happy to help you select books. Public libraries provide a great opportunity to use computers, search the Internet, and socialize with peers. In addition, a link will be provided on the district's website to connect you with the 2017 statewide summer reading program, "Build a Better World through Reading." For students interested in participating in summer reading contests, please visit the following links:

- <http://www.scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2017>
- http://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/summer-reading/_/N-rs9

On behalf of the Plainview-Old Bethpage schools, we wish you a healthy and enjoyable summer. Please enjoy frequent visits to libraries and book stores. Make literacy, in all of its aspects, a part of the time you spend together this summer.

Ms. Eileen Annino	Ms. Alice Bowman	Joseph Coladonato, Ed.D	Mr. Jeffrey Yagaloff
<i>Literacy Coordinator</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>ELA Chair</i>

"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are."

~ Mason Cooley

Summer Reading 2017 / Book Talk Video Project

- A book talk video is an attention grabbing presentation created to catch the audience's attention and persuade them to read the book that you have read. In a sense, you need to be both a salesperson and a performer.
- A book talk movie includes the same required content but, instead of students appearing in the video, they can deliver the same message using various forms of media such as images, video, audio, and voice-overs. *However, this should not be a PowerPoint presentation.*

Length of Book Talk Video or Movie:

- Three to four minutes

Procedures:

- Your book talk video or movie should include the following elements:
 - **Introduce the book**
 - Show the book and share with your audience its title, author, publication date, and genre.
 - **Provide a brief summary of the book that includes telling:**
 - The setting of the book
 - Who the main characters are
 - A brief plot summary including the central conflict
 - *You cannot reveal the conflict's resolution because that would take the joy away from a potential reader of the book.*
 - The theme or message of the book
 - Share what you believe the author wants readers to take away from the experience of reading the book.
 - **Conclusion / Recommendation**
 - Tell the audience if you would recommend the book or not and provide reasons why or why not
 - Explain the type of reader this book would appeal to

General tips:

- Remember to be responsible and keep your presentation appropriate to a school setting.
- You should be comfortable enough with your presentation that you do not need to read directly from note cards.
- Present with enthusiasm and speak in a loud, clear, and slow enough manner so you can be easily understood
- If you are presenting using the video format, maintain eye contact with your audience

Samples:

- To get some inspiration, feel free to visit the following links to see some sample videos:
 - http://www.schooltube.com/channel/scholastic_booktalks/
 - <http://www.booktrailersforreaders.com/>

Submission:

- A Google Classroom has been set up for you to upload your video to. Submit your presentation using the following steps:
 - Go to classroom.google.com
 - Log in to your POB GAFE account if needed
 - Username = [first initial][last name]@pobschools.org
 - Password = User specific
 - Navigate to upper right corner +
 - Choose JOIN CLASS
 - Enter the proper code that is specific to the grade and school you will be in for the 2017-18 school year:
 - For students entering into 8th grade at Mattlin Middle School: **xdymcv**
 - For students entering into 8th grade at POB Middle School: **icrdpep**
 - Within the classroom STREAM click OPEN within the “*Video Submission*” assignment
 - Once open, click on the ATTACHMENT ICON (*paperclip*) to upload your video submission
- To receive full credit for this project, it must be uploaded by (Friday) September 15, 2017.
- The English Department and librarians have done their best to develop an electronic database and bulletin boards in the buildings to provide links to videos and movies created by students in the past. In the future, other students will be able to watch your recommendations when trying to decide if they should take out the book that you read!

Summer Reading 2017 - Book Talk <i>Video</i> Rubric				
Criteria	Mastery	Proficient	Emerging	Incomplete
Introduction	20 points	17 points	13 points	0 points
	All of the information is presented (title, author, publication date, and genre)	Most of the information is presented (title, author, publication date, and genre)	Some of the information is presented (title, author, publication date, and genre)	No information is presented (title, author, publication date, and genre)
Summary	40 points	35 points	26 points	0 points
	All of the information is presented (setting, main characters, brief plot summary with conflict, theme/message)	Most of the information is presented (setting, main characters, brief plot summary with conflict, theme/message)	Some of the information is presented (setting, main characters, brief plot summary with conflict, theme/message)	No information is presented (setting, main characters, brief plot summary with conflict, theme/message)
Conclusion	20 points	17 points	13 points	0 points
	Provides the viewer with a well-supported recommendation and explains to whom the book would appeal to	Provides the viewer with a supported recommendation and explains to whom the book would appeal to	Provides the viewer with a recommendation and/or explains to whom the book would appeal to	Does not provide the viewer with a recommendation or explains to whom the book would appeal to
Eye Contact and Oral Clarity	5 points	4 points	3 points	0 points
	Always maintains eye contact with clear voice, correct pronunciation, and appropriate tempo	Maintains eye contact and voice is mostly clear and audible using somewhat correct pronunciation	Sometimes maintains eye contact and is difficult to understand at times	There is little to no eye contact and it is very difficult to understand
Creativity	5 points	4 points	3 points	0 points
	The presentation is highly creative and uses costumes, props, and creative elements in an exciting and original manner.	The presentation is creative and uses costumes, props, and creative elements to engage the viewer.	The presentation attempts to engage the viewer through some creative element.	There is little to no attempt to engage the viewer through creative elements.
Time Limit	10 points	8 points	6 points	0 points
	Adheres to the four to five-minute time limit	Presentation spans six minutes or longer or in the three to four minute range	Presentation is exceeds seven minutes or spans between two and three minutes	Presentation is less than two minutes

Summer Reading 2017 - Book Talk <i>Movie</i> Rubric				
Criteria	Mastery	Proficient	Emerging	Incomplete
Introduction	20 points	17 points	13 points	0 points
	All of the information is presented (title, author, publication date, and genre)	Most of the information is presented (title, author, publication date, and genre)	Some of the information is presented (title, author, publication date, and genre)	No information is presented (title, author, publication date, and genre)
Summary	40 points	35 points	26 points	0 points
	All of the information is presented (setting, main characters, brief plot summary with conflict, theme/message)	Most of the information is presented (setting, main characters, brief plot summary with conflict, theme/message)	Some of the information is presented (setting, main characters, brief plot summary with conflict, theme/message)	No information is presented (setting, main characters, brief plot summary with conflict, theme/message)
Conclusion	20 points	17 points	13 points	0 points
	Provides the viewer with a well-supported recommendation and explains to whom the book would appeal to	Provides the viewer with a supported recommendation and explains to whom the book would appeal to	Provides the viewer with a recommendation and/or explains to whom the book would appeal to	Does not provide the viewer with a recommendation or explains to whom the book would appeal to
Creativity	10 points	8 points	6 points	0 points
	The presentation is highly creative and uses images, video, and/or audio in an exciting and original manner	The presentation is creative and uses images, video, and/or audio to engage the viewer	The presentation attempts to engage the viewer through the use of images, video, and/or audio	There is little to no attempt to engage the viewer through the use of images, video, and/or audio
Time Limit	10 points	8 points	6 points	0 points
	Adheres to the four to five-minute time limit	Presentation spans six minutes or longer or in the three to four minute range	Presentation exceeds seven minutes or spans between two and three minutes	Presentation is less than two minutes



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

10 Easy Ways to Get Children to Read this Summer

1. Get your child a library card at your local public library. It's free!
2. Sign your child up for Summer Reading at the local public library and enjoy free programs with fun activities, storytelling, reading contests, crafts and more.
3. Read with your child every day. Take advantage of "waiting" time to share books: on trips, at the doctor's office, in line at the grocery store.
4. Take a basket of books for reading breaks from the sun, water, and sand at the beach, lake, or pool.
5. Read on your own and talk to your child about what you're reading.
Families who share reading experiences raise children who read well.
6. Visit the library every week and bring the whole family.
7. Need books in languages other than English? Ask a librarian!
8. Use the closed captioning during TV shows so children see the words as they hear them.
9. Keep a list on the refrigerator of the books everyone has read during the summer.
10. Discover the world by reading books from your local public library.
Choose a subject of interest for the entire family, so that every family member can share what they have learned and share ideas.

For more information, visit www.summerreadingnys.org

Summer Reading at New York Libraries is a program of the Office of Cultural Education in the New York State Education Department and is funded through the Federal Library Services and Technology Act, with funds awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Plainview-Old Bethpage School District
Mattlin & Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle Schools
Incoming Grade 8 Summer Reading List - Summer 2017

- Adlington, L.J. *Cherry Heaven*
Science Fiction
Kat and Tanka J move with their adoptive parents to the New Frontier and settle into a home called Cherry Heaven, but Luka confirms their suspicion that New Frontier is not the utopia it seems to be.
- Alexie, Sherman *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
Realistic/Mature
Junior leaves his school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.
- Almond, David *Kit's Wilderness*
Printz Award/Fantasy
Kit goes to live with his grandfather in an old coal mining town and finds him and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.
- Anderson, M.T. *Feed*
Science Fiction/Mature
Humans are hard-wired to get feeds from Internet/Television and the result is consumer driven teenagers constantly encouraged to buy, buy, buy.
- Avi *City of Orphans*
Historical
In 1893 New York, Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works, in a book that includes historical notes.
- The Traitors Gate*
Historical
When his father is arrested as a debtor in 1849 London, fourteen-year-old John Huffman must take on unexpected responsibilities, from asking a distant relative for help to determining why people are spying on him and his family.
- Bauer, Joan *Stand Tall*
Realistic/Humor
Tree, a six foot three-inch-tall twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' divorce, his failure as a basketball player.
- Blackwood, Gary L. *The Year of the Hangman*
Historical
In 1776, the rebellion of the American colonies against British rule was crushed. Now, in 1777 - the year of the hangman - George Washington is awaiting execution, Benjamin Franklin's banned rebel newspaper, *Liberty Tree*, has gone underground, and young ne'er-do-well Creighton Brown, a fifteen-year-old Brit, has just arrived in the colonies. As battles unfold and falsehoods are exposed, Creighton must decide where his loyalties lie...a choice that could determine the fate of a nation.
- Bloor, Edward *Tangerine*
Realistic
A legally blind 15-year-old comes to learn the truth about his football hero brother.
- Blume, Judy *Forever*
Realistic/Mature
Two high school seniors believe their love to be so strong that it will last forever.

- Bradbury, Jennifer *Shift*
Mystery
Best friends Chris and Win head out on a cross country bicycle trek at the end of which Win goes missing.
- Brooks, Bruce *The Moves Makes the Man*
Realistic/Newbery Honor
Jerome, a black athlete, shares his skills and interest in basketball with Bix, a white baseball player.
- Bunce, Elizabeth C. *A Curse Dark as Gold*
Fantasy
Charlotte struggles to keep her woolen mill running in the face of a huge mortgage and what the villagers believe is a curse.
- Carey, Janet Lee *Dragon's Keep*
Fantasy
Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island, has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, while hiding from her people the dragon's claw she was born with that reflects only one of her mother's dark secrets.
- Carter, Ally *I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You* (and all titles in the Gallagher Girls series)
Mystery/Suspense
This is a novel about a sophomore girl who attends spy school. It is an entertaining novel about a teenage girl living a double life as a spy and as a normal girl in love with a normal boy.
Cross My Heart and Hope to Spy (and all titles in the Gallagher Girls series)
Mystery/Suspense
After staking out, obtaining, and then being forced to give up her first boyfriend, Josh, all Cammie Morgan wants is a peaceful semester. But that's easier said than done when you're a CIA legacy and go to the premier school in the world ... for spies.
- Clements, Andrew *Things Not Seen* (all titles in the series)
Science Fiction
Fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up to find himself invisible.
- Collier, James *My Brother Sam is Dead*
Historical
A classic that recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while his family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.
- Conner, Leslie *Waiting for Normal*
Realistic
Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, NY.
- Cooney, Caroline B *Diamonds in the Shadow*
Realistic
A Connecticut family sponsors an African refugee family, all of whom have been scarred by a civil war, and who inadvertently put their benefactors in harm's way.
- Cormier, Robert *We All Fall Down* (all titles by author)
Realistic/Mature
All is not peaceful in small-town Burnside: drunk teenagers trash a house, a girl is thrown down the stairs, a murderer is quietly planning revenge, and Jane falls in love.

- Elliott, Laura *Give Me Liberty*
 Historical
 Thirteen-year-old Nathaniel, an indentured servant in colonial Virginia, and his master must decide whether or not to join in the fight for liberty as the American Revolution erupts.
- Farmer, Nancy *The House of the Scorpion* (and its sequel, *The Lord of Opium*)
 Newbery Medal/Science Fiction
 Matt is the clone of El Patron, a drug lord, in this science fiction work that explores the social implications of technological advances and their effect on humanity.
- Fogelin, Adrian *Crossing Jordan*
 Realistic
 When African American Jemmie moves in next door, Cass' father builds a fence separating the houses, but the girls become friends anyway and form the "Chocolate Milk" running team.
- George, Madeline *Looks*
 Realistic/Mature
 An anorexic poet and an obese loner form an unlikely friendship and take revenge on the one who hurt them both.
- Gier, Kerstin *Ruby Red* (and the remaining books in the trilogy – *Sapphire Blue* and *Emerald Green*)
 Time Travel
 Gwyneth discovers that she carries a time-travel gene, and soon she is journeying with Gideon, who shares the gift, through historical London trying to discover whom they can trust.
- Going, K.L. *Fat Kid Rules the World*
 Realistic
 Troy, a 300-pound HS student, is befriended by a punk rock guitarist who convinces him to join his band.
- Hesse, Karen *Music of Dolphins*
 Using computer technology, a fifteen-year-old girl who has been raised by dolphins, records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world.
- Hiassen, Carl *Skink No Surrender*
 Realistic
 When their reckless cousin runs off with a guy she met online to avoid going to boarding school, long-suffering Richard and renegade Wild Skink brave storms, wildlife, and violence in a swampy region of Florida to find her.
- Kadohata, Cynthia *Cracker! Best Dog in Vietnam*
 Historical Fiction
 A young soldier bonds with his bomb sniffing dog.
- Outside Beauty*
 Realistic
 Three sisters are sent to live with their respective fathers while their mother recuperates from a car accident.
- Klages, Ellen *The Green Glass Sea*
 Historical
 While her father works on the Manhattan Project, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp, and becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.

- Konigsburg, E.L. *Silent to the Bone* and companion novel *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place*.
 Realistic/Mature
 Branwell becomes unable to speak when the au pair accuses him of hurting his baby sister, and only his best friend can reach him to find out what really happened.
- Kostick, Conor *Epic* (all titles in the series)
 Fantasy
 Fantasy and video games meet in *Epic*, a society where violence is banned, people must settle their disputes and, at the same time, try to stay alive in order to accumulate wealth and status in both the game world and reality.
- Krakauer, Jon *Into Thin Air*
 Non-Fiction
 A controversial account of the most recent Mount Everest disaster by a man who was there.
- Larson, Kirby *Hattie Big Sky*
 Historical Fiction
 Hattie inherits her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana and has a year to make it successful in order to keep it.
- LeGuin, Ursula *Gifts*
 Fantasy
 Uplanders have wondrous gifts - deadly gifts. Two children vow never to use their gifts lest they hurt someone.
- Marrin, Albert *Volcano Beneath the Snow: John Brown's War Against Slavery*
 Biography
 Considers the character and influence of the abolitionist, discussing the religious beliefs that prompted his use of terrorism to combat slavery while assessing his role in the Harper's Ferry raid that helped trigger the Civil War.
- Mass, Wendy *A Mango-Shaped Space*
 Realistic
 Sounds, numbers and letters have color for Mia, which leads to trouble in school.
- Meyer, Marissa *Cinder* (all titles in the series)
 Science fiction
 As plague ravages the Earth, observed by a ruthless lunar people, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world.
- Myers, Walter Dean *A Handbook for Boys*
 Realistic
 Sixteen-year-old Jimmy, on probation for assault, talks about life with three old men in a Harlem barbershop and hears about the tools he can use to get what he wants.
- Lockdown*
 Realistic
 Teenage Reese, who is serving time at a juvenile detention facility, gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past.
- O'Dell, Scott *Sarah Bishop*
 Historical
 Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother, who take opposite sides in the War of Independence, Sarah Bishop flees from the British who seek to arrest her and struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.

- Oates, Joyce Carol *Big Mouth & Ugly Girl*
Realistic/Mature
Accused of plotting to blow up the school, Matt finds an ally in an outspoken social outcast.
- Orlev, Uri *Run, Boy, Run*
Historical Fiction
An eight-year-old Jewish boy struggles to survive in Warsaw during World War II.
- Paulsen, Gary *The Transall Saga*
Science fiction
While backpacking in the desert, thirteen-year-old Mark falls into a tube of blue light and is transported into a more primitive world, where he must use his knowledge and skills to survive.
- Peck, Richard *Are You in the House Alone?*
Realistic/Mature
After receiving a series of threatening notes, Gail is raped by one of the richest and most popular boys in her school - but nobody believes her story.
- The River Between Us*
Historical Fiction
The Pruitt family takes in two mysterious girls who have fled New Orleans to come to Illinois during the Civil War.
- Peterson, P.J. and Ivy Ruckman *rob&sara.com*
Realistic
A military brat and a troubled teen email each other and develop a romance. But are they who they say they are?
- Reedy, Trent *If You're Reading This*
Realistic
Mike was seven when his father was killed in mysterious circumstances in Afghanistan. Eight years later, the family still hasn't recovered. Then, out of the blue, Mike receives a letter from his father -- the first of a series Dad wrote in Afghanistan, just in case he didn't come home. But who's been keeping the letters all these years? And how did Dad actually die? As the answers to these mysteries are revealed, Mike and his family find a way to heal and move forward at last.
- Rinaldi, Ann *Or Give Me Death: A Novel of Patrick Henry's Family*
Historical
This book explores the possibility that Patrick Henry's immortal cry of "Give me liberty, or give me death," which roused a nation to arms, was first spoken by his wife, Sarah, as she pleaded to be released from her confinement. Told from the point of view of Patrick Henry's children, *Or Give Me Death* eloquently depicts the secret life and tremendous burdens borne by one famous American.
- Rinaldi, Ann *The Fifth of March: A Story of the Boston Massacre*
Historical
Fourteen-year-old Rachel Marsh, an indentured servant in the Boston household of John and Abigail Adams, is caught up in the colonists' unrest that eventually escalates into the massacre of March 5, 1770.
- Salisbury, Graham *Hunt for the Bamboo Rat*
Historical
Based on a true story, this World War II novel tells how Zenji, 17, is sent from Hawaii to the Philippines to spy on the Japanese.

- Schmidt, Gary D. *Trouble*
 Realistic
 In order to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, Henry sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog, but on their trek they encounter the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin.
- Sonnenblick, Jordan *Zen and the Art of Faking It*
 Realistic
 When San Lee moves to a new town and school and is looking for a way to stand out. His knowledge of Zen Buddhism provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.
- Soto, Gary *The Afterlife*
 Fantasy
 After Chuy is stabbed to death he floats around the city of Fresno and recounts what he sees.
- St. John, Warren *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team*
 Nonfiction
 This is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh.
- Stork, Francisco *Marcelo in the Real World*
 Realistic
 Marcelo, who is has a form of autism, finds romance and injustice when he goes to work in the mailroom.
- Stratton, Allan *Chanda's Secrets*
 Realistic/Mature
 Chanda Kabelo, a sixteen-year-old in a small South African town, faces down shame and stigma in her efforts to help friends and family members who are dying of AIDS.
- Swanson, James *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*
 Nonfiction
 The book is useful for those hoping for a rapid-fire, abridged version of the narrative of the pursuit for John Wilkes Booth.
- Thompson, Kate *The New Policeman*
 Fantasy
 Fifteen-year-old J.J. leaves his Irish home in search of fairies to give his busy mom more time and uncovers a family secret.
- Wagenen, Maya Van *Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek*
 Biography
 Presents a memoir of a one-year social experiment in which teen author Maya Van Wagenen followed a 1950's popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell.
- Wein, Elizabeth *Code Name Verity (all titles in series)*
 Historical
 In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must to survive while keeping secret all that she can.
- Williams-Garcia, Rita *One Crazy Summer*
 Historical
 After travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, Delphine and her two sisters discover that their mother, a dedicated poet, wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

- Woodson, Jacqueline *After Tupac & Foster*
Newbery Honor
Three girls from Queens become fast friends reinforced by their love of Tupac's rap music.
Miracle's Boys
Realistic
Three teenage boys struggle to survive without their parents.
- Zevin, Gabrielle *Elsewhere*
Fantasy
After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."
- Zindel, Paul *The Gadget*
Historical Fiction
Stephen becomes caught in a web of secrecy and intrigue when he joins his father at Los Alamos where he and other scientists are working on a secret project to end World War II.

Student Name: _____

Summer Reading 2017

This is a note-taking worksheet for you to log information on concerning your reading selection. This is *optional* and is not the actual assignment your teacher will be giving you in the first quarter. It is a great way for you to record your thoughts during the process of reading as well as immediately after completing your text choice. This can be especially important if you plan on reading your choice very early into the summer because it can serve as a study tool as you prepare for your first quarter assignment.

- What is the **title** of your selection?
 - _____
- What is the **author's name** of your selection?
 - _____
- Describe the **setting** of your selection:
 - What are the key **locations** where your story takes place? Describe them briefly.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - Explain **when** your story takes place. Does it take place during a certain month, year, season, or time period? Does most of the action occur during day or night? Ask yourself if there is anything of importance concerning this.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

- Describe **two major characters** and **one minor character** from your selection.

- **Major Character One:**

- Name:

- _____

- Describe the physical appearance of this character:

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- Provide a few comments about this character's actions, personality, and what others think of him/her:

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- **Major Character Two:**

- Name:

- _____

- Describe the physical appearance of this character:

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- Provide a few comments about this character's actions, personality, and what others think of him/her:

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

○ **Minor Character One:**

▪ Name:

▪ _____

▪ Describe the physical appearance of this character:

▪ _____

▪ Provide a few comments about this character's actions, personality,
and what others think of him/her:

▪ _____

- The **conflict** is the major problem that occurs in a story. Stories almost always have an external conflict that exists between the central character and an additional source (for example, person vs. person, person vs. society, person vs. nature) and often have an internal conflict, such as when a character has a “battle” with him/herself over something such as a tough decision.

○ What are the external and internal conflicts in the story that you selected?

○ _____

- The **plot** of a story is its basic storyline and it generally follows a classic pattern of development. Reflect on how the plot progresses and summarize each step of its development.

- **Exposition** (This usually occurs at the very beginning of the story and provides background information and serves to introduce the characters, conflict, and setting):

- ---

- **Rising Action** (This is the portion of the story when the conflict develops beyond its initial introduction):

- ---

- **Climax** (This describes the turning point in a story when things change for the better or worse):

- ---

- **Falling Action** (This concerns the resolution of the conflict when a protagonist often “wins” or “loses” against his/her antagonist. It helps lead the story to its conclusion):

- ---

- **Resolution** (This serves as the conclusion of a story when conflicts are resolved, creating a sense of normalcy for characters):

- ---

- **Themes** are topics and broad ideas discussed in a story (for example, relationships, maturity, or freedom) and **morals** are lessons that readers take away from a story based on the featured characters’ experiences (for example, “Never judge a book by its cover.”).

- What topics are featured in your selection?

- ---

- What lesson about life does the author want you to learn from this story?

- ---

- What are your **general reactions** to your reading selection now that you have finished reading it? Would you rate this book as poor, fair, good, or excellent? Did you enjoy the story? Do your respect the author's craftsmanship? Is there a certain type of reader that you would recommend this book to?

- _____
