



Summer Reading 2020

Dear NOMMA Cadets,

Reading over the summer is critical to your academic success – not to mention it is fun! The research is very clear that students who don't read over the summer suffer academic loss in the fall. In order to combat this "summer slide" and to encourage the enjoyment of reading, we have carefully selected several titles for you to choose from to prepare for your upcoming English courses.

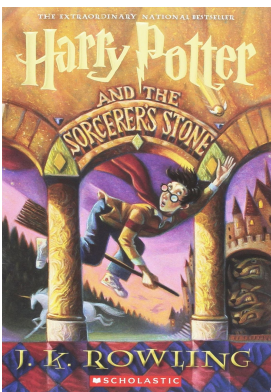
Parents, please research the content of the books before allowing your cadet to make a selection. A website that may be useful for this purpose is commonsensemedia.org. If you'd like to review the reading levels of the books, you may find this information at arbookfind.com.

If you have any questions or concerns about the summer reading assignment, please email Ms. Crutchfield at hcrutchfield@nomma.net.

Use the list below to locate the course you are enrolled in, or are likely to be enrolled in, for next school year. Then, read the directions and summaries to make the appropriate reading choice for you.

Grade 8 English, English I, English I Honors

Incoming 8th graders and English I students should select one book from the following four titles.



Title: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Author: J.K. Rowling

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

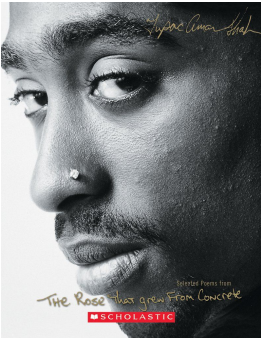
Difficulty Level: Easy Read

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.



Grade 8 English, English I, English I Honors (Continued)

Title: *The Rose that Grew from Concrete*



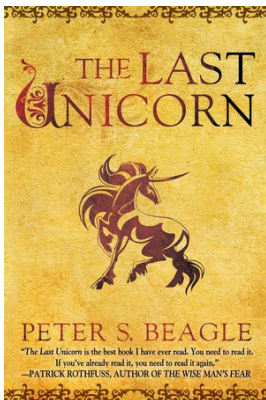
Author: Tupac Shakur

Genre: Poetry

Difficulty Level: On Grade Level

Written in his own hand at the age of nineteen, this collection of poems conveys Tupac Shakur's most honest and intimate thoughts, giving insight into his enigmatic life and its many contradictions. It captures the unrivaled passion and candor that made him one of America's best selling solo recording artists.

Title: *The Last Unicorn*



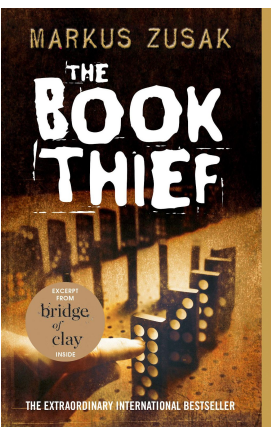
Author: Peter S. Beagle

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

Difficulty Level: On Grade Level

The unicorn had lived since before memory in a forest where death could touch nothing. Maidens who caught a glimpse of her glory were blessed by enchantment they would never forget. But outside her wondrous realm, dark whispers and rumours carried a message she could not ignore: "Unicorns are gone from the world." Aided by a bumbling magician and an indomitable spinster, she set out to learn the truth, but she feared even her immortal wisdom meant nothing in a world where a mad king's curse and terror incarnate lived only to stalk the last unicorn to her doom...

Title: *The Book Thief*



Author: Markus Zusak

Genre: Historical Fiction

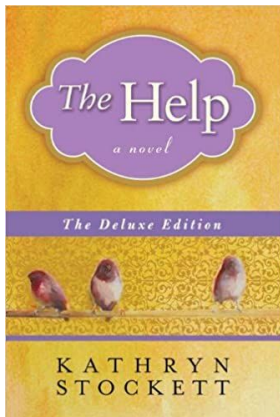
Difficulty Level: Challenging

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times.



English II , English II Honors, English III, English III Honors, English IV, English IV Honors, AP, and Jumpstart Courses.

Incoming English II - IV, AP, and Jumpstart students should select one book from the following six titles.



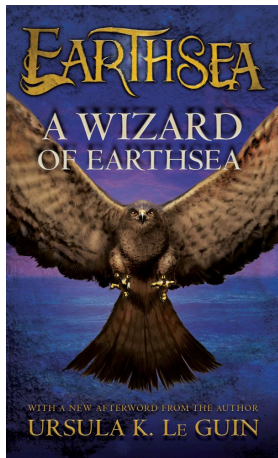
Title: *The Help*

Author: Kathryn Stockett

Genre: Historical Fiction

Difficulty Level: Easy Read

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South.



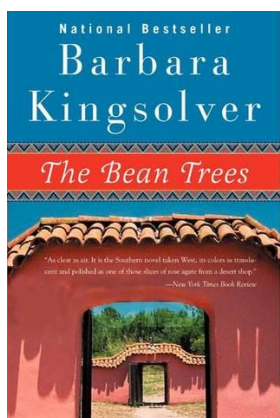
Title: *A Wizard of Earthsea*

Author: Ursula K. Le Guin

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

Difficulty Level: On Grade Level

Ged was the greatest sorcerer in Earthsea, but in his youth he was the reckless Sparrowhawk. In his hunger for power and knowledge, he tampered with long-held secrets and loosed a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tumultuous tale of his testing, how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed an ancient dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance.



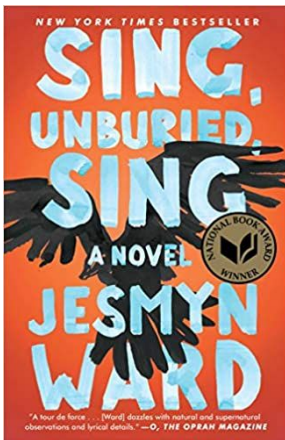
Title: *The Bean Trees*

Author: Barbara Kingsolver

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Difficulty Level: On Grade Level

The Bean Trees begins when Taylor (whose real name is Marietta) decides that it's time to leave Pittman, Kentucky, where she lives with her mother, and make something of herself. She buys a 1955 Volkswagen and embarks on a personal journey of self-discovery, leaving everything behind, including her name.



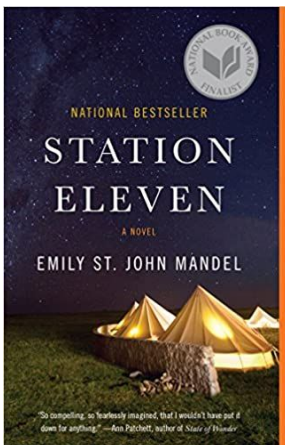
Title: *Sing, Unburied, Sing*

Author: Jesmyn Ward

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Difficulty Level: On Grade Level

Jojo is thirteen years old and trying to understand what it means to be a man. He doesn't lack in fathers to study, chief among them his Black grandfather, Pop. But there are other men who complicate his understanding: his absent White father, Michael, who is being released from prison; his absent White grandfather, Big Joseph, who won't acknowledge his existence; and the memories of his dead uncle, Given, who died as a teenager.



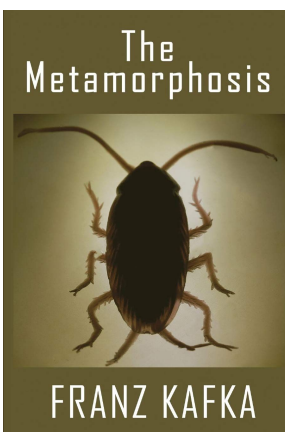
Title: *Station Eleven*

Author: Emily St. John Mandel

Genre: Dystopian Fiction

Difficulty Level: On Grade Level

A devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end. Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. As the story takes off, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed.



Title: *The Metamorphosis*

Author: Franz Kafka

Genre: Novella / Fantasy Fiction

Difficulty Level: Challenging

The story begins with a traveling salesman, Gregor Samsa, waking to find himself transformed (metamorphosed) into a large, monstrous insect-like creature. The cause of Samsa's transformation is never revealed, and Kafka himself never gave an explanation. The rest of Kafka's novella deals with Gregor's attempts to adjust to his new condition as he deals with being burdensome to his parents and sister, who are repulsed by the horrible, verminous creature Gregor has become.