

Summer Reading Assignments

Summer 2023

Incoming Grade 8 Students:

-Grade 8 students will read from the novel *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer (description below).

NOTE: The entire first nine-week grading period is based on this novel. Students will only perform well if they complete the summer reading assignment. Accommodations will not be made for students who do not complete this assignment.

-Students should have received a copy of the novel from their grade 7 ELA teacher, but extra copies will be available in the middle school office throughout the summer if you are a new student or have yet to receive your copy.

-We suggest that you take notes to help you remember major events in the novel, but this will not be required or collected. You will find notes helpful as we start projects at the beginning of the new school year.

Students who scheduled Advanced ELA 8: You must read the entire novel for the start of the school year.

Students who scheduled ELA 8: You must read pages 2-257 for the start of the school year.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- Digital copy of the novel: [The House of the Scorpion Novel PDF](#)
- Full audiobook of the novel: [The House of the Scorpion Full Audiobook Reading](#)

Novel Description:

Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested.

His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium--a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once called Mexico. Matt's first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster--except for El Patrón. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself, because Matt is himself.

As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters, including El Patrón's power-hungry family, and he is surrounded by a dangerous army of bodyguards. Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive. But escape from the Alacrán Estate is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked by his difference in ways he doesn't even suspect.

Incoming Grade 7 Students:

-Grade 7 students will read from the novel *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix (description below).

-Students should have received a copy of the novel from their grade 6 ELA teacher, but extra copies will be available in the middle school office throughout the summer if you are a new student or have yet to receive your copy.

-We suggest that you take notes to help you remember major events in the novel, but this will not be required or collected.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- Digital copy of the novel: [Among the Hidden Novel PDF](#)
- Full audiobook of the novel: [Among the Hidden Full Audiobook Reading](#)

Novel Description:

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm in this start to the Shadow Children series from Margaret Peterson Haddix. Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows—does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan?

Incoming Grade 6 Students:

-Grade 6 students were able to choose a book from this list:

Wonder - RJ Palacio

Holes - Louis Sachar

Loser - Jerry Spinelli

Ungifted - Gordon Korman

Maniac Magee - Jerry Spinelli

Bridge to Terabithia - Katherine Paterson

Where the Red Fern Grows - Wilson Rawls

-Books were delivered to the students at East Union before the end of the school year. Extra copies will be available in the middle school office throughout the summer if you are a new student or have not received your copy.

-We would suggest that you take notes to help you remember significant events in the novel, but this will not be required or collected.

-Students will complete a project based on their summer reading book when they return to school.

Helpful Information

- Full audio of each novel can be found on YouTube by searching the title and author.

-A book trailer summarizing each novel can be found on the attached Google Slide.

[Sixth Grade Summer Reading Book Trailers](#)