

## **Summer of 2023 Summer Reading Projects**

All students and teachers will read at least one book from the enclosed book list. After reading the book, students will complete one project (see choices and rubric on page 4). **Remember that all projects include a writing component.**

Summer reading counts as a significant grade for English class. During the second week of school, students and teachers will meet in book groups to discuss the book and share student projects. Discussion groups give both students and teachers the chance to connect to the literature by sharing their reactions, questions, and insights.

*Per School Board Policy 2240, Leon County Schools recognizes that certain instructional materials may conflict with a student's or parent's value system. In such cases, a parent may request in writing an alternative Summer Reading Assignment. Please direct inquiries to Emily Bell at [belle@leonschools.net](mailto:belle@leonschools.net)*

- Choose one book to read from the list.
- Read the book.
- Choose one project from the list.
- Complete the project.
- Come to school the first week ready to discuss the book and present your project.

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### **Be prepared to answer the following types of questions in your discussion group:**

1. What surprised or intrigued you about the book? How did this keep you involved/interested in the book?
2. What did you like/dislike about the book?
3. What is one of your favorite parts of the book and why is it your favorite? Be Specific!
4. What dialogue and/or descriptions exemplified the author's style as it relates to setting, theme, or characterization?
5. Compare an experience you have had to the experience of one of the characters in the book. Use details from both the story and your own experiences in the comparison.
6. What would you have done in the main character's place?
7. Choose one character from the book. What influenced or inspired the character to act the way they did or say what they said?

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## 2022 Summer Reading Choices

### FUZZ



#### Fuzz by Mary Roach

What's to be done about a jaywalking moose? A bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? Three hundred years ago, animals that broke the law would be assigned legal representation and put on trial. The answers are best found not in jurisprudence but in science. Combining little-known forensic science and conservation genetics with a motley cast of laser scarecrows, langur impersonators, and trespassing squirrels, Roach reveals as much about humanity as about nature's lawbreakers.

#### Hard Wired by Len Vlahos

Quinn thinks he's a normal fifteen year-old. He plays video games, spends time with his friends, and crushes on a girl named Shea. But a shocking secret brings his entire world crashing down: he's not a boy. He's artificial intelligence. After Quinn "wakes up," he sees his world was nothing more than a virtual construct. He's the QUantum INtelligence Project, the first fully-aware A.I. in the world--part of a grand multi-billion-dollar experiment led by the very man he believed to be his dead father.



#### On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

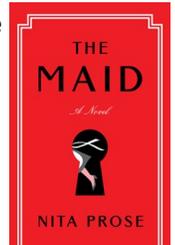


Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least win her first battle. As the daughter of an underground hip hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill. But it's hard to get your come up when you're labeled a hoodlum at school and your fridge at home is empty after your mom loses her job. So Bri pours her anger and frustration into her first song, which goes viral...for all the wrong reasons.

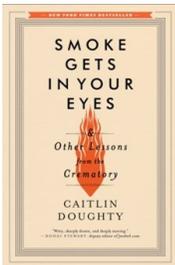
Bri soon finds herself at the center of a controversy, portrayed by the media as more menace than MC. But with an eviction notice staring her family down, Bri doesn't just want to make it—she has to. Even if it means becoming the very thing the public has made her out to be.

#### The Maid by Nita Prose

Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by. Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanor has the police targeting her as their lead suspect. She must solve this murder-mystery to clear her name.



#### Smoke Gets in Your Eyes by Caitlin Doughty



Armed with a degree in medieval history and a flair for the macabre, Caitlin Doughty took a job at a crematory and turned morbid curiosity into her life's work. She cared for bodies of every color, shape, and affliction, and became an intrepid explorer in the world of the dead. In this best-selling memoir, brimming with gallows humor and vivid characters, she marvels at the gruesome history of undertaking and relates her unique coming-of-age story with bold curiosity and mordant wit.

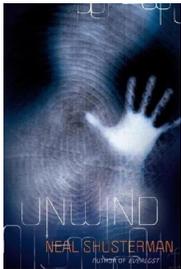
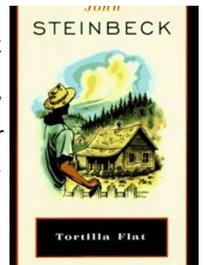
#### The Once and Future Witches by Alix Harrow

In 1893, there's no such thing as witches. But there will be. There used to be, in the wild, dark days before the burnings began, but now witching is nothing but tidy charms and nursery rhymes. If the modern woman wants any measure of power, she must find it at the ballot box. But when the Eastwood sisters--James Juniper, Agnes Amaranth, and Beatrice Belladonna--join the suffragists of New Salem, they begin to pursue the forgotten words and ways that might turn the women's movement into the witch's movement.



### Tortilla Flats by John Steinbeck

Adopting the structure and themes of the Arthurian legend, John Steinbeck created a “Camelot” on a shabby hillside above the town of Monterey, California, and peopled it with a colorful band of knights. At the center of the tale is Danny, whose house, like Arthur’s castle, becomes a gathering place for men looking for adventure, camaraderie, and a sense of belonging—men who fiercely resist the corrupting tide of honest toil and civil rectitude.



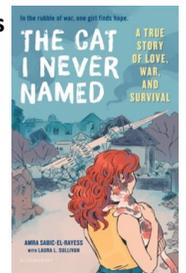
### Unwind by Neal Shusterman

Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, parents can have their child "unwound," whereby all of the child's organs are transplanted into different donors, so life doesn't technically end. Connor is too difficult for his parents to control. Together, they may have a chance to escape and to survive.

Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen.

### The Cat I Never Named a memoir By Amra Sabic-El-Rayess

In 1992, Amra was a teen in Bihac, Bosnia, when her best friend said they couldn't speak anymore. Her friend didn't say why, but Amra knew the reason: Amra was Muslim. It was the first sign her world was changing. Then Muslim refugees from other Bosnian cities started arriving, fleeing Serbian persecution. When the tanks rolled into Bihac, bringing her own city under seige, Amra's happy life in her peaceful city vanished. But there is light even in the darkest of times, and she discovered that light in the warm, bonfire eyes of a stray cat. Even in the brutality of war, she ever wavered in her determination and the cat who gave comfort, hope, and maybe even served as the family's guardian spirit.



### The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, The Kite Runner transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

### The Complete Persepolis: Parts 1 and 2 by Marjane Satrapi

Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming—both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.



# Project Guidelines

## 1. Artistic Work, i.e. Quilt Square, Needlework, Painting, Sculpture, Mixed Media Art, etc.

As you read the book, think about the important concepts, images, or themes of the book. Design a piece that incorporates these ideas, images, or themes and reflects the book. The piece should measure at least 9 x 9 inches. **In a paragraph explain why you chose the images, colors, media, etc. for your work, include at least 5 quotations that influenced your artistic choices.**

## 2. Alternative Ending

How many times have you wished you could rewrite the ending of a book? Here's your chance to tie up all of the loose ends and resolve the story in a way you like. **Write at least five paragraphs to retell the ending and include at least 5 specific references to quotations that influenced your new ending.**

## 3. Book Map (Ideal for Non-fiction)

Create a map or collection of maps that reference important locations in the book. You can create a poster or digital map. You may use your illustrations, art, photos, collages from actual maps, etc. **You must include at least 5 significant quotations from the book and explain how these impacted your maps.**

## 4. Video Book Talk (Ideal for Non-fiction)

Design and produce a commercial to “sell” your book and hook readers. The video should be at least 5 minutes long. Review the book, explaining its strengths as well as your own recommendations or similar/related books. Be sure to explain what type of reader will enjoy this book and why.

**You must choose at least 5 quotations from the book and in a paragraph explain their significance and how these passages affected the review.**

## 5. Museum Exhibit (Ideal for non-fiction)

Create a museum exhibit, or a digital version of a museum exhibit, to explain, demonstrate, or illustrate key ideas or concepts from your book. Your exhibit must include at least 5 elements. Elements can include objects, pictures of objects, demonstrations, videos, photos, primary documents, etc. **You must include a paragraph for each element explaining what it is and how it relates to the topic.**

## 6. Original Play

Continue the story line or show interactions between characters outside the story. Write a script including dialogue, stage directions, scenery, and any necessary commentary in proper format. **In a paragraph explain why you have chosen to write the scene, include at least 5 quotations from the book, and show how these influenced your play/scene.**

## 7. Postcards From There

Create a series of four or more postcards that one of the characters has written throughout the course of the story to a friend. The front side should have an artistic image that represents the storyline. **The back side should include an address and stamp side, along with a message (minimum 1 paragraph) from one of the novel’s characters.**

## Summer Reading Project Grading Rubric

	<b><u>4 points</u></b>	<b><u>3 points</u></b>	<b><u>2 points</u></b>	<b><u>1 point</u></b>
<b>Understanding of the Text</b>	The product reflects thorough understanding of complex ideas and concepts in the text.	The product reflects understanding of the text beyond just the recall of facts.	The product reflects a basic understanding of the text.	The product reflects limited understanding of the text; there is little evidence that the text was read.
<b>Mechanics of Writing</b>	The writing reflects appropriate spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence formation.	The writing has few spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sentence formation errors which do not interfere with comprehension.	The writing has many spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sentence formation errors. The errors interfere with comprehension.	The writing reflects minimal control of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and/or sentence formation. It is difficult to read.
<b>Writing/Art/Video Product</b>	The product reflects careful attention to detail and effort, and guidelines were completely followed.	The product reflects some attention to detail and effort, and guidelines were followed.	The product reflects minimal attention to detail and effort, and guidelines were not followed.	The product reflects poor effort, and the guidelines were not followed.
<b>Group Discussion</b>	The student participates and his/her contribution to the discussion reflects a thorough understanding of the concepts and themes of the text.	The student participates and his/her contribution to the discussion reflects an understanding of the text beyond just the recall of facts.	The student participates and his/her contribution to the discussion reflects a basic understanding of the text.	The student does not participate or his/her contribution reflects a limited understanding of the text; there is little evidence that the text was even read.