



**SAIL High School**

## Steps To Success

# Summer of 2025 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.

Some books may contain strong language or content that may not be suitable for all readers. Students and parents with concerns about content are encouraged to preview the books using websites like [Common Sense Media](#) or [Goodreads](#) to choose a book that is suitable for them, and students may switch books at any time. 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)

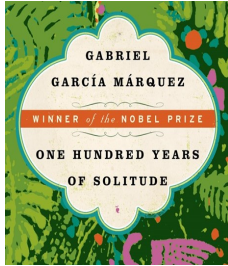
- Choose one book to read from the list.
- Read the book.
- Choose one project from the list.
- Complete the project.
- Come to school the first week ready to discuss the book and present your project.

## Be prepared to discuss 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?

**Summer Reading is a significant grade for your English class.**

## 2025 Summer Reading Choices



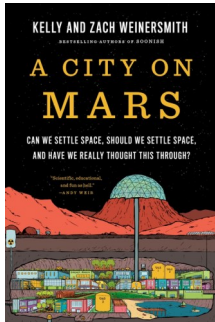
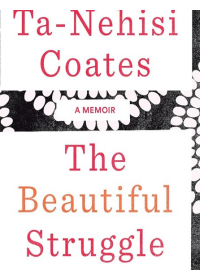
### One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez (FICTION)

One of the most influential literary works of our time, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* remains a dazzling and original achievement by the masterful Gabriel García Márquez, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. *One Hundred Years of Solitude* tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad and alive with unforgettable men and women—brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul—this novel is a masterpiece in the art of fiction.

**Free Digital Copy:** [https://ia803406.us.archive.org/32/items/OneHundredYearsOfSolitude\\_201710/One\\_Hundred\\_Years\\_of\\_Solitude.pdf](https://ia803406.us.archive.org/32/items/OneHundredYearsOfSolitude_201710/One_Hundred_Years_of_Solitude.pdf)

### The Beautiful Struggle: A Memoir by Ta-Nehisi Coates (NON-FICTION)

Paul Coates was an enigmatic god to his sons: a Vietnam vet who rolled with the Black Panthers, an old-school disciplinarian and new-age believer in free love, an autodidact who launched a publishing company in his basement dedicated to telling the true history of African civilization. Most of all, he was a wily tactician whose mission was to carry his sons across the shoals of inner-city adolescence—and through the collapsing civilization of Baltimore in the Age of Crack—and into the safe arms of Howard University, where he worked so his children could attend for free.



### A City on Mars: Can we settle space, should we settle space, and have we really thought this through? (NON-FICTION)

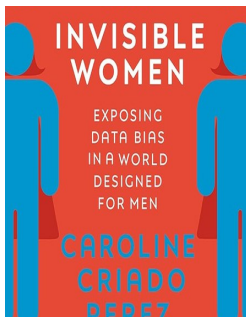
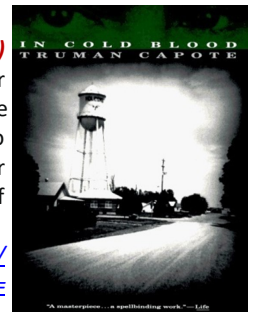
Earth is not well. The promise of starting life anew somewhere far, far away—no climate change, no war, no Twitter—beckons, and settling the stars finally seems within our grasp. Or is it? The authors answer every question about space you've ever wondered about, and many you've never considered: *Can you make babies in space? Should corporations govern space settlements? What about space war? Why do astronauts love taco sauce? Speaking of meals, what's the legal status of space cannibalism?* Get in, we're going to Mars.

**Free online audiobook available at the Leon County Public Library:** [https://lcp1.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/lcp1/search/results?qu=a+city+on+mars&te=](https://lcp1.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/lcp1/search/results?qu=a+city+on+mars&te=)

### In Cold Blood by Truman Capote (NON-FICTION)

The most famous true crime novel of all time "chills the blood and exercises the intelligence" and haunted its author long after he finished writing it. On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by blasts from a shotgun held a few inches from their faces. There was no apparent motive for the crime, and there were almost no clues. In one of the first non-fiction novels ever written, Truman Capote reconstructs the murder and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers.

**Free online audiobook / ebook available at the Leon County Public Library:** [https://lcp1.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/lcp1/search/results?qu=in+cold+blood&te=](https://lcp1.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/lcp1/search/results?qu=in+cold+blood&te=)



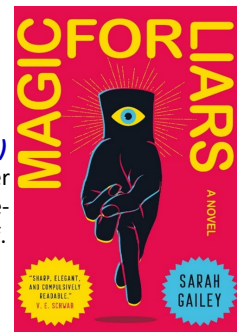
### Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men by Caroline Criado Perez (NON-FICTION)

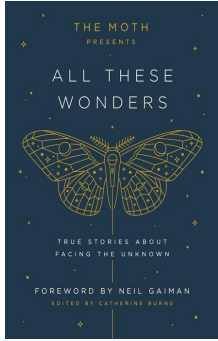
Data is fundamental to the modern world. From economic development to health care to education and public policy, we rely on numbers to allocate resources and make crucial decisions. But because so much data fails to take into account gender, because it treats men as the default and women as atypical, bias and discrimination are baked into our systems. Built on hundreds of studies in the United States, in the United Kingdom, and around the world, and written with energy, wit, and sparkling intelligence, this is a groundbreaking, highly readable exposé that will change the way you look at the world.

**Free online audiobook / ebook available at the Leon County Public Library:** [https://lcp1.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/lcp1/search/results?qu=invisible+women&te=](https://lcp1.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/lcp1/search/results?qu=invisible+women&te=)

### Magic for Liars: A Novel by Sarah Gailey (FICTION)

When a gruesome murder is discovered at The Osthorne Academy of Young Mages, where her estranged twin sister teaches Theoretical Magic, reluctant detective Ivy Gamble is pulled into the world of untold power and dangerous secrets. She will have to find a murderer and reclaim her sister—without losing herself.





**The Moth Presents All These Wonders: True Stories About Facing the Unknown by Catherine Burns (Editor) (NON-FICTION)**

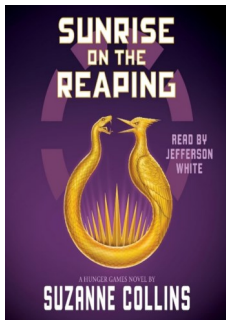
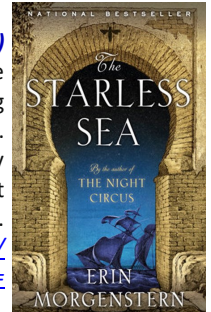
Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the podcast storytelling phenomenon The Moth—45 unforgettable true stories about risk, courage, and facing the unknown. All These Wonders features voices both familiar and new: an astronomer gazing at the surface of Pluto for the first time, an Afghan refugee learning how much her father sacrificed to save their family, a hip-hop star coming to terms with being a “one-hit wonder,” a young female spy risking everything as part of Churchill’s “secret army” during World War II, and more. The storytellers share their ventures into uncharted territory—and how their lives were changed indelibly by what they discovered there. With passion, and humor, they encourage us all to be more open, vulnerable, and alive.

**The Starless Sea by Erin Morgenstern (FICTION)**

Zachary Ezra Rawlins is a graduate student in Vermont when he discovers a mysterious book hidden in the stacks. As he turns the pages, entranced by tales of lovelorn prisoners, key collectors, and nameless acolytes, he reads something strange: a story from his own childhood.

Bewildered by this inexplicable book and desperate to make sense of how his own life came to be recorded, Zachary uncovers a series of clues - a bee, a key, and a sword - that lead him to a masquerade party in New York, to a secret club, and through a doorway to an ancient city hidden far below the surface of the earth.

**Free online audiobook / ebook available at the Leon County Public Library:** [https://lcpl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/lcpl/search/results?qu=the+starless+sea&te=](https://lcpl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/lcpl/search/results?qu=the+starless+sea&te=)



**Sunrise on the Reaping: A Hunger Games Novel by Suzanne Collins (FICTION)**

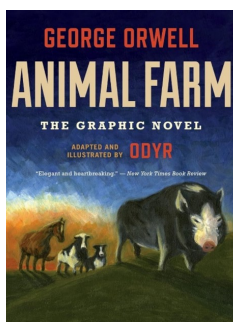
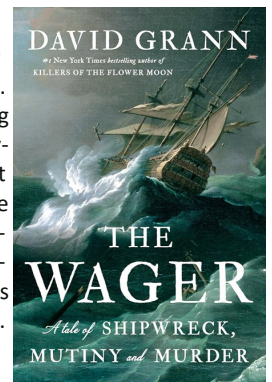
The phenomenal fifth book in the Hunger Games series! As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honor of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes. Back in District 12, Haymitch Abernathy is trying not to think too hard about his chances. All he cares about is making it through the day and being with the girl he loves. When Haymitch's name is called, he can feel all his dreams break. He's torn from his family and his love, shuttled to the Capitol with the three other District 12 tributes. As the Games begin, Haymitch understands he's been set up to fail. But there's something in him that wants to fight . . . and have that fight reverberate far beyond the deadly arena.

**The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder by David Grann (NON-FICTION)**

On January 28, 1742, a ramshackle vessel of patched-together wood and cloth washed up on the coast of Brazil.

Inside were thirty emaciated men, barely alive, and they had an extraordinary tale to tell. The men, after being marooned for months and facing starvation, built the flimsy craft and sailed for more than a hundred days, traversing nearly 3,000 miles of storm-wracked seas. But then ... six months later, another, even more decrepit craft landed on the coast of Chile. This boat contained just three castaways, and they told a very different story. The thirty sailors who landed in Brazil were not heroes – they were mutineers. The first group responded with countercharges of their own, of a tyrannical and murderous senior officer and his henchmen. As accusations of treachery and murder flew, the Admiralty convened a court martial to determine who was telling the truth. The stakes were life-and-death—for whomever the court found guilty could hang.

**Free online audiobook / ebook available at the Leon County Public Library:** [https://lcpl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/lcpl/search/results?qu=the+wager%2C+David+Grann&te=](https://lcpl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/lcpl/search/results?qu=the+wager%2C+David+Grann&te=)



**Animal Farm: A Graphic Novel by George Orwell (Author) and Odyr (Illustrator) (FICTION)**

“All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” George Orwell created an enduring, devastating story of new tyranny replacing old, and power corrupting even the noblest of causes. Today it is all too clear that Orwell’s masterpiece is still fiercely relevant wherever cults of personality thrive, truths are twisted by those in power, and freedom is under attack.

# 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

	<u>4 points</u>	<u>3 points</u>	<u>2 points</u>	<u>1 point</u>
<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.