

Augusta Raa Performing Arts Magnet Middle School

Summer 2023

Summer Reading Project Options

If 7th and 8th grade students choose to participate in summer reading, they must choose ONE of the novels from the **2022-2023 Sunshine State Young Readers Award Book list**. The 6th grade summer reading book is **Coop Know the Scoop by Taryn Sounders**. Students may select one of the optional projects and earn extra credit in the assessment category of the grade book. The assignment is due the second Friday of School.

Summer Reading Project Option #1: Book Trailer

Your summer reading book has been made into a movie, and you are in charge of creating the trailer. You want to be as creative as possible. You also want your project to be visually appealing. Remember, you want viewers to watch the movie but not give the ending away! Use PowerPoint or iMovie to create a movie trailer for your book.

Pay attention to the following details:

1. Introduces the main characters of the novel.
2. Outlines the basic plot of the book (WITHOUT GIVING AWAY THE ENDING!).
3. Describes the main conflicts of the novel.
4. Includes the setting in pictures and words.
5. Includes your name, the author's name, and the title of the book.
6. Includes background music and special effects.
7. Plays by itself with appropriate transitions.

Summer Reading Project Option #2: Character Interview

You are a reporter tasked with interviewing a major character from your novel. Follow the steps below to make sure you include everything your boss expects to see in your interview.

Step 1: Questions

- Craft 10 quality, interview questions that you would like to ask a key character in your novel. Question MUST be open-ended. So, you cannot ask questions like what is your favorite color, or what is your sister's name?

Step 2: Responses

- Put yourself in that character's shoes and answer the 10 questions. Each answer should be at least THREE sentences long and demonstrate knowledge of the story.

Step 3: Recording

- Make some kind of audio or video recording of your interview with the character. Be creative! If you cannot get someone to help you do the interview, try and make voices for the interviewer and interviewee unique!

Summer Reading Option #3: Questions

Answer all these questions in complete sentences.

Story: Plot and Setting

1. What is the setting (time and place) of your novel?
2. List the ten most important events from your novel.
3. What is the problem (conflict) in your novel?
4. What is the resolution of your novel?

Characters:

1. Choose ONE character and answer the following questions:

1. In one word, describe your character. Find a quote in the novel that supports your answer.
2. In two or three sentences, explain how your character changes from the beginning of the novel

to the end.
3. In another two or three sentences, explain what might cause this change.

Theme:

Theme is what the author believes about the topic addressed in the novel.

1. What is the theme/life lesson of this novel?
2. Find a quote from the text to support your answer.
3. Why might the author want to teach this lesson to middle schoolers?

Life Connections: CHOOSE ONE TO ANSWER!

1. Text to self: Explain in two or three sentences a connection that you can make to your life.
2. Text to text: Explain in two or three sentences how this novel or a character from the novel, might

relate to another character from another story.
3. Text to school: Explain in two or three sentences how something in your novel can relate to

something at school.

Issues:

1. Choose an issue that is in your novel. This can be anything – bullying, friendship, loss of a family member...etc. In a paragraph, explain the issue in the novel AND how you feel about it.

Rating:

1. Out of five stars, what would you rate your novel?
2. Explain in about three to five sentences why!

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2022-2023 List for Grades 6-8



***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston**

Amari Peters has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive. So when she discovers a ticking briefcase in his closet containing a nomination for a tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain the secretive organization holds the key to locating Quinton--if only she can wrap her head around the idea of magicians, fairies, aliens, and other supernatural creatures all being real.



***Archimancy Shadow School* by J. A. White**

Cordelia Liu knew Shadow School was going to be different with black gates and ivied walls as well as long hallways lined with old paintings. There is a tower with a window that looks like an eye. *Different* she expected and *different* she could handle. Still, Cordelia can't shake the feeling that something's not right, and that she's being carefully watched by someone or something.



***Concealed* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez**

Whatever her name is, it won't last long. Katrina doesn't know any of the details about her past, but she does know that she and her parents are part of the Witness Protection Program. Whenever her parents say they have to move on and start over, she takes on a new identity. A new name, a new hair color, a new story.



***Curse of the Night Witch* by Alex Aster**

On Emblem Island all are born knowing their fate. Their lifelines show the course of their life and an emblem dictates how they will spend it. Twelve-year-old Tor Luna was born with a leadership emblem, just like his mother. But he hates his mark and is determined to choose a different path for himself. So, on the annual New Year's Eve celebration, where Emblemites throw their wishes into a bonfire in the hopes of having them granted, Tor wishes for a different power.



***Double the Danger and Zero Zucchini* by Betsy Uhrig**

Books aren't supposed to be dangerous. Are they?

Alex Harmon prefers running over and sitting still reading. His aunt offers to pay him to point out the boring parts in her children's books; he figures it's an easy way to make ten bucks. The problem is that her book is about a grumpy frog and prize-winning zucchini. Find out how things change for Alex!



***Dragon Ops* by Mari Mancusi**

One wrong move, and it's game over.

Welcome to DRAGON OPS, the world's first augmented-reality video-game theme park. Set on a once-deserted island, our three beta players--classic gamer geek Ian; his adventure-seeking sister, Lily; and their too-cool-for-gaming cousin, Derek--have been lucky enough to score an invite to play before the fully immersive experience opens to the public.



***The Elephant in the Room* by Holly Goldberg Sloan**

It's been almost a year since Sila's mother traveled halfway around the world to Turkey. The long separation is almost impossible for Sila to withstand. But things change when Sila accompanies her father (who is a mechanic) outside their Oregon town to fix a truck. There, behind an enormous stone wall, she meets a grandfatherly man who only months before won the state lottery. Why not find out what happens next? What can Sila, a grandfatherly man and an elephant have in common?



***Coop Knows the Scoop* by Taryn Souders**

The whole town is talking about what's buried beneath the playground...

Windy Bottom, Georgia is usually a peaceful place. Coop helps his mom at her café and bookstore, hangs out with his grandpa, bikes around with his friends, Justice and Liberty, and is determined to live up to his dad's legacy. Windy Bottom is full of all kinds of interesting people, but no one has ever caused a problem. Until now. And somehow, Gramps is taking all the blame! It seems like there are a lot of secrets that were buried in their small town after all... Will Coop and his friends get to the bottom of the mystery and clear Gramps's name before it's too late?

Sunshine State Young Readers Award

Books 2022-2023 List for Grades 6-8, Page 2



Lola Benko, Treasure Hunter by Beth McMullen

Having a world-traversing archaeologist dad means twelve-year-old Lola Benko is used to moving around not putting down roots anywhere. But every day and every hunt for something hidden is an adventure, and no matter what, she and her dad are an unbeatable team. Then her father disappears. What will Lola do next?



Pixie Pushes On by Tamara Bundy

Pixie's defenses are up, and it's no wonder. She's been uprooted, the chickens seem to have it in for her, and now her beloved sister, Charlotte, has been stricken with polio and whisked away into quarantine. So it's not surprising Pixie lashes out. But her habit of making snap judgements--and giving her classmates nicknames like "Rotten Ricky" and "Big-Mouth Berta"--hasn't won her any friends. At least life on the farm is getting better with the delivery of its newest resident--a runt baby lamb.



Quintessence by Jess Redman

Three months ago, twelve-year-old Alma moved to the town of Four Points. Her panic attacks started a week later, and they haven't stopped, even though she told her parents that they did. Every day she feels less and less like herself. Then Alma meets the ShopKeeper in the town's junk shop, The Fifth Point. The ShopKeeper gives her a telescope and this message: Read the book to find the secret message!



Rivals by Tommy Greenwald

The people of Walthorne love their basketball—and one of the things they love most is the special rivalry between the Walthorne North Middle School Cougars and the Walthorne South Middle School Panthers. As the season begins, two star players are feeling the heat: Austin Chambers, captain of Walthorne North, worries that he's not good enough to live up to his father's legacy, while across town, the brilliantly talented Carter Haswell, captain of Walthorne South, is already under pressure to get a scholarship that might ease his family's financial stress.



Scratch Scratch by Lindsay Currie

Claire has absolutely no interest in the paranormal. She's a scientist, which is why she can't think of anything worse than having to help out her dad on one of his ghost-themed Chicago bus tours. She thinks she's made it through when she sees a boy with a sad face and dark eyes at the back of the bus. There's something off about his presence, especially because when she checks at the end of the tour...he's gone.



The Smartest Kid in the Universe by Chris Grabenstein

Jake's middle school is about to be shut down. Jake and his friends know their school's worth saving—if they could only figure out how! When Jake spies a bowl of jelly beans at the hotel where his mom works, he eats them. But uh-oh—those weren't just jellybeans, one of the scientists at his mom's conference is in the process of developing the first ingestible information pills. And THAT'S what Jake ate. Find out what happens next!



Starfish by Lisa Fipps

Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules—like “no making waves,” “avoid eating in public,” and “don't move so fast that your body jiggles.” And she's found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. Find out how Ellie does something about being her own fabulous self!



Words on Fire by Jennifer Nielsen

Danger is never far from Audra's family farm in Lithuania. She always avoids the occupying Russian Cossack Soldiers, who insist that everyone must become Russian. They have banned Lithuanian books, religion, culture, and even the language. Audra knows her parents are involved in something secret and perilous in June 1893. Audra embarks on a dangerous journey to deliver a mysterious package for her parents after Russian Cossacks arrest them. Can joining the underground network of book smugglers give Audra a chance to rescue her parents?