2019/2020 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Overview
At ASE, we believe that education is ongoing and lifelong. As such, even our summers are an exercise in education, and should be used to both refresh our spirits between school years and keep our minds sharp. Students are asked to read two of the following books, and complete short book reviews, over the summer with this goal in mind. It is imperative that students complete these assignments, as they will not only be the first grades of the school year, but the summer reading books will also be used to complete the very first project during the first week. Please note that these summer assignments are not optional.

Assignment
Students will be required to submit two short book reports during the first week of school. These reports will be due that first Friday (any reports submitted afterwards will receive late penalties). Reports must be 1-2 pages typed and printed. Reports should be made up of a summary and review. Summaries need to cover main characters, plot details, and theme. Reviews provide students an opportunity to share their response and feedback to the readings. The project requirements will not be released until class starts, but it is crucial that students are well-versed with at least one of their two book choices in order to complete the assignment.

Book Options
Students must choose two of the following ten books, chosen from the master list of the 2019 7th & 8th Grade Summer Reading List of The Packer Collegiate Institute. No replacement books will be accepted. Because this assignment allows for choice, parents are recommended to help students pick their books based on what is appropriate for each individual students. Some books on this list may not be appropriate for all students.

The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

Jane, Unlimited by Kristin Cashore
Looking for direction after the loss of her guardian aunt, Jane accepts an unexpected invitation to an island mansion gala, where she considers five choices that will determine the course of her life.

How To Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals by Sy Montgomery
A naturalist and adventurer discusses the personalities and quirks of thirteen animals who have profoundly affected her, exploring themes of learning to become empathetic, creating families, coping with loss, and the otherness and sameness of people and animals.

Puddin’ by Julie Murphy
When circumstances put Millie Michalchuk and Callie Reyes together over the course of a semester, the girls realize they have more in common than they ever imagined.

And The Ocean Was Our Sky by Patrick Ness
Patrick Ness presents a twist on themes from Moby Dick in the story of a proud warrior whale pod that attacks a ship before pursuing a near- mythical adversary on a vengeful hunt that risks the worlds of both whales and humans.

Symphony for the City of the Dead by M.T. Anderson (Non Fiction)
An account of the Siege of Leningrad reveals the role played by Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony in rallying and commemorating their fellow citizens.

Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac
After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Turtles All The Way Down by John Green
Aza Holmes is a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

Lucy and Linh by Alice Pung
In Australia, Lucy tries to balance her life at home surrounded by her Chinese immigrant family, with her life at a pretentious private school.

The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater (Non Fiction)
Documents the true story of two Oakland high school students, a white girl from a privileged private school and a black youth from a school overshadowed by crime, whose fateful interaction triggered devastating consequences for both, garnering national attention and raising awareness about hate.