

## PHILLIPS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

### Eighth Grade Summer Reading List (2019-20)

#### \*\*Required:

*The Hunger Games* (Collins) The questions for this book are discussion in nature and should be answered in complete sentences. The questions are available on the PPS website.

#### \*\*\*Reader's Choice: (Choose one)

*Canyons* (Paulsen) Cornered in a canyon during his first coming-of-age horse raid, a young Apache brave, Coyote Runs, is shot execution-style by soldiers from Fort Bliss. One hundred years later, 15-year-old Brennan Cole discovers a skull with a hole through its forehead in a canyon where he's been camping and becomes obsessed by the need to find out the who, what, and why of the skull. With the help of a pathologist, his high-school biology teacher, and someone from the Western Historical Archives in Denver, Brennan pieces the story together. The bond between the two boys, a century apart in time but so close in age and spirit, grows stronger as Brennan now searches for the final answer: why is Coyote Runs' spirit so restless, and what does it want of him? (Great mystery, esp. for people interested in forensics.)

*A Day No Pigs Would Die* (Peck) The story of growing up on a Shaker farm touches the whole cycle of life and death. A painful incident that involves the slaughter of Rob's beloved pet pig is instrumental in urging him toward adulthood. The death of his father completes the process of his accepting responsibility. (Coming of age story, animal lovers will cry!)

*Don't Look Behind You* (Duncan) Seventeen-year-old April finds her comfortable life changed forever when death threatens to her father, a witness in a federal case, force her family to go into hiding under assumed names (in the Witness Protection Program) and flee the pursuit of a hired killer. (Great suspense story!)

*The Grey King* (Cooper) Will Stanton must defy the evil powers of the Grey King in this finely constructed contribution to the high fantasy genre. Winner of the 1976 Newbery Medal (This book is for students who love books like *Eragon*.)

*Hoops* (Myers) Seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson hopes that basketball will be his ticket out of Harlem until the savage underworld of sports and big money forces him to make a choice. (For sports lovers!)

*Mockingjay* (Collins) Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has survived the Hunger Games twice. But now that she's made it out of the bloody arena alive, she's still not safe. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge. Who do they think should pay for the unrest? Katniss. And what's worse, President Snow has made it clear that no one else is safe either. Not Katniss's family, not her friends, not the people of District 12. Powerful and haunting, this is the thrilling final installment of Suzanne Collins's groundbreaking The Hunger Games trilogy.

*A Ring of Endless Light* (L'Engle) Sixteen-year-old Vicky Austin is saddened by the fact that her beloved grandfather has terminal cancer and the death of a family friend who died rescuing a would-be suicide. She becomes friends with Adam, who realizes that Vicky has telepathic powers and can communicate with the dolphins at his marine biology station. Winner of the 1981 Newbery Honor Medal (What girl wouldn't like to have 3 different guys interested in her? The fact that she can communicate with the dolphins is very cool. A big part of the story is Vicky learning to deal with loss.)

*Speak* (Anderson) High school freshman Melinda barely speaks. She is a social outcast for making the 911 call that ended a wild party, one at which she was assaulted - something she has been unable to tell anyone. (Better than the movie - even for Kristen Stewart fans!)

*Summer of My German Soldier* (Greene) The moving story of a dangerous friendship between a twelve-year-old Jewish girl and a German prisoner of war during World War II. Patty's relationship with Anton helps her somewhat in dealing with her father's cruelty and neglect.

*We Beat the Street* (Davis, Jenkins, Hunt, Draper) "What started out as three boys skipping class turned out to be the most significant experience of our lives," says George Jenkins, who, together with Sampson Davis and Rameck Hunt, made a teenage pact to leave their impoverished New Jersey neighborhood, attend medical school, and become doctors. Author Sharon Draper helped shape chapters, written in the third person, describing each doctor's challenging childhood experiences. Readers will be riveted by their profoundly inspirational TRUE stories.

\*\*You will respond to the required book in a teacher-given test the first two weeks of school. The study questions for the novel should be completed as the book is read; the completed question packet is due at the beginning of class on the day of the test.

\*\*\*Your first composition will be a written assignment (but NOT a summary) on the reader's choice book and will be completed in class the first week of school for a test grade. Merely skimming through the book or reading internet book notes will NOT prepare you for this assignment!

## *Hunger Games* Discussion Questions

Answer each of the following discussion questions in neatly-written and carefully-constructed complete sentences. Store these responses in a paper folder. This review work for the novel is due on the day of the test for that book. *DO YOUR OWN WORK.*

YOU WILL NEED BOTH BOOKS IN CLASS THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL! Keep this in mind, especially if you use books from the public library.

### Part I Questions

1. The story is set in the future, so when Katniss references her ancestors, she is referring to us. What has happened to North America? How might we have contributed to the destruction of it?
2. Gale makes the comment that the Capitol wants the districts to be divided, that it is to their advantage. What does he mean by this?
3. Would you volunteer for your little sister (or brother, or older sibling, or friend)? Why or why not? What does it tell you about Katniss?
4. How do you feel about the victors of the Hunger Games earning free food for their fellow citizens? What problems might arise?
5. Why doesn't Katniss want to get close to any of the tributes, including Peeta?

### Part II Questions

6. Peeta says that he doesn't want to lose himself once the Games begin and that he wants to prove he's not just a "piece in their Games." What does he mean by this?
7. Peeta aligns with the Careers and Katniss eventually aligns with Rue. What are the benefits of alliances? What are the downfalls?
8. Would you join an alliance or play the game on your own? Why?
9. What is the Capitol's attitude about living things? What about their creations, like the mutations? The Capitol people/government left the male jabberjays to die out and did not destroy the tracker jacker nests around the districts (only those near the Capitol). What does this say about the Capitol?
10. What does the word "rue" mean? What does it mean to "rue the day"? How is this symbolic of Rue's death?

### Part III Questions

11. Katniss's first reaction when she hears the news about the rule change is to call out Peeta's name, despite the dangers of alerting the tributes to her presence. Our first reactions usually are truest; so how does Katniss really feel about Peeta? Is it true that she thinks she must seek him out because no one in district 12 would forgive her? Or is there more to it?

12. Katniss is constantly thinking about how the audience is perceiving her, whereas Peeta (we think, anyway) just says what he feels. Why?

13. Why is Katniss willing to go to the feast to get the medicine for Peeta?

14. Discuss the issue of "paybacks." List examples of characters who feel as though they owed another character something.

15. Why do you think some characters (like Katniss and Thresh) feel as though they "owe" someone for kindness, and others (like Peeta) never expect "payment" for their kindness shown?

16. Why does Katniss wait so long to kill Cato? How does she feel when she finally does?

17. Katniss's first reaction to the second rule change (which revokes the first rule change) is to shoot Peeta so she can be the winner. When she realizes that he does not intend to defend himself, she feels ashamed of her gut reaction to kill him. Do you think she could really kill him, as she almost did? Why or why not?

18. Why is the moment with the berries an act of rebellion against the Capitol?