

**7th grade Language Arts**  
**MCC Summer Reading Assignment 2020**  
**Directions: Begin by reading this policy!**

Muskegon Catholic Central English department provides a solid college preparation program for all its students, taking great measures to ensure that each student has multiple opportunities to spend time reading independently from the course they are registered for. As a department we are ever changing in order to better fit the needs of our students, and the more rigorous expectations they will have from year to year.

All students, grades 7 -12, will be required to complete an independent reading assignment.

This year, each student will have the opportunity to read a book of their choice off of the list below according to grade level; this "choice" will vary depending on the level of the course (see instructions on grade appropriate extended reading assignment). The book *may not* be one that has already been read by the student.

All assignments are due on **Friday, August 21, 2020**. The assignment will be posted on the Muskegon Catholic website. [www.muskegoncatholic.org](http://www.muskegoncatholic.org) under the heading "Summer Reading/Extended Reading."

If you have any questions you may email to: Mrs. Lee [alee@muskegoncatholic.org](mailto:alee@muskegoncatholic.org) or Mrs. Meissner [ameissner@muskegoncatholic.org](mailto:ameissner@muskegoncatholic.org)

## 7<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Reading (2020)

**Required Reading- Choose ONE (1) of the following books to read and complete the assignment that follows.**

***Fast Break*, Mike Lupica (Realistic Fiction)**

Forced to live on his own after his mom dies and her boyfriend abandons him, 12-year-old Jayson does whatever it takes to get by. He will do anything to avoid the foster care system. Besides, his real home has always been the beat-up basketball court behind the projects in the North Carolina hills, and his family has always been his friends and teammates. He manages to get away with his deception until the day he gets caught stealing a new pair of basketball sneakers. Game over. Within a day a social worker places him with a family from the other side of town, the Lawtons. New home, new school, new teammates. Jayson, at first, is combative, testing the Lawtons' patience at every turn. He wants out, yet the Lawtons refuse to take the bait. But not everyone in Jayson's new life is so ready to trust him--and even Jayson's old friends give him a hard time now that he's attending a school full of rich kids. It's on Jayson to believe that he deserves a better life than the one he once had. The ultimate prize if he can? A trip to play in the state finals at Cameron Indoor Stadium--home to the Duke Blue Devils and launching pad to his dream of playing big time college ball. Getting there will be a journey that reaches far beyond the basketball court.

***The Benefits of Being an Octopus*, Ann Braden (Realistic Fiction)**

Seventh-grader Zoey has her hands full as she takes care of her much younger siblings after school every day while her mom works her shift at the pizza parlor. Not that her mom seems to appreciate it. At least there's Lenny, her mom's boyfriend—they all get to live in his nice, clean trailer. At school, Zoey tries to stay under the radar. Her only friend Fuchsia has her own issues, and since they're in an entirely different world than the rich kids, it's best if no one notices them. Zoey thinks how much easier everything would be if she were an octopus: eight arms to do eight things at once. Incredible camouflage ability and steady, unblinking vision. Powerful protective defenses. Unfortunately, she's not totally invisible, and one of her teachers forces her to join the debate club. Even though Zoey resists participating, debate ultimately leads her to see things in a new way: her mom's relationship with Lenny, Fuchsia's situation, and her own place in this town of people who think they're better than her. Can Zoey find the courage to speak up, even if it means risking the most stable home she's ever had?

***Chains*, Laurie Halse Anderson (Historical Fiction)**

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

***Ghost*, Jason Reynolds (Realistic Fiction)**

Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been basketball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?

***Peak*, Roland Smith (Realistic Fiction)**

In After 14-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. He wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit — and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life. He encounters the dangers of climbing, experiencing physical and emotional challenges that bring him to critical decisions testing his strength and maturity. Roland Smith has created an action-packed adventure about friendship, sacrifice, family, and the drive to take on Everest, despite the incredible risk. *Peak* is a novel that readers won't be able to put down.

***Restart*, Gordon Korman (Realistic Fiction)**

Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again . . . starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is--it's a question of who he was . . . and who he's going to be.

***Out of My Mind*, Sharon Draper (Realistic Fiction)**

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow. In this breakthrough story—reminiscent of *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*—from multiple Coretta Scott King Award-winner Sharon Draper, readers will come to know a brilliant mind and a brave spirit who will change forever how they look at anyone with a disability.

***Touching Spirit Bear*, Ben Mikaelson (Fantasy)**

Within Cole Matthews lie anger, rage, and hate. Cole has been stealing, fighting, and lying for years. His attack on a classmate has left the boy with permanent physical and deep psychological damage and Cole in the biggest trouble of his life. To most, Cole seems beyond hope. But when he's offered a chance at an alternative path called Circle Justice, based on Native American tradition, Cole finds himself banished to a remote Alaskan island, where his rage and isolation lead him to another brazen attack. This time, his intended victim is the Spirit Bear of Native American legend—and the clumsy assault ends with Cole mauled nearly to death, desperately clinging to the life he has tried so hard to waste.

Rescuers arrive to save Cole's life, but it is the attack of the Spirit Bear that is the start of Cole's long journey to accepting responsibility for his life and saving his soul.

***Counting By 7s*, Holly Goldberg Sloan (Realistic Fiction)**

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

***Freak the Mighty*, Rodman Philbrick (Realistic Fiction)**

Maxwell Kane, a lumbering eighth grader has lived with grandparents Grim and Gram ever since his father was imprisoned for murdering his mother. Mean-spirited schoolmates and special ed (for an undetermined learning disability) haven't improved his self-image, so he is totally unprepared for a friendship with Kevin, aka Freak, a veritable genius with a serious birth defect that left him in braces and using crutches. Max is uplifted by Freak's imagination and booming confidence, while Freak gets a literal boost--hoisted onto Max's shoulders, he shares Max's mobility. Together they become Freak the Mighty, an invincible duo.

## Required Reading Assignment

Directions: Enter the following information in the heading- your name, book title and author. Finally, give your book a rating based on 1-5. (1 being horrible 5 being the best book you've ever read) Also, give a brief explanation of why you give that rating. Next, type your responses to the questions below. Be sure to **number each question with the number you are responding to.**

Complete the following sections to show your understanding of the book you chose to read. Be sure to be thorough and complete in your responses. Make sure each response is different and doesn't simply repeat plot elements or characters that other responses include. Notice how you'll be completing questions of your choice from each of the sections for a **total of 4 responses**. (Do NOT do all of the questions. Choose 1 from each category) Each response must be a minimum of 4 sentences each. Use examples and details to support your answers. Be sure to label each response with the category and question number. Do your best and take your time. Be sure to proofread when you are finished. Be ready to discuss your novel with the class when school begins.

**Type your responses in 12 point Times New Roman single-space.**

Characters: Answer any 1 question from this section

1. What conflict do the characters in your book experience and what are you learning about them through this conflict?
2. What are the problems the main character faces and how are they solved?
3. How do two characters in your book differ from each other?
4. Which character has gone through the biggest change in your book and why?
5. Which character can you connect with the most in your book? Why?
6. What decision has a character made in your book that you totally disagree with?

Plot: Answer any 1 question from this section

7. Which part of your book did you have the most difficulty understanding or connecting with? Why?
8. How would you solve the problem that the main character has?
9. What part of the story caused the most intense feelings for you?
10. How realistic is the plot of your book? Why?
11. What historical event is mentioned in your book and why? How was it important to the story?

12. Which part of your story would you like to go back to and reread? Why?

Theme: Answer 1 question from this section

13. What kind of message does the author want the reader to get from this book?

14. How has the story changed your thinking?

15. How has the story supported your thinking? Who did the characters remind you of and why?

16. What other events, people, or situations has this book caused you to think about and why?

Miscellaneous: Answer 1 question from this section

17. What hints did the title give you as to what this book was going to be about? How and why is the title important to the story?

18. Why do you think the author wrote this book?

19. What information or knowledge did you already have that helps you to understand this but better?

20. What has been the most difficult part of this book and why do you think that is so?

**Due Date: Friday, August 21, 2020**