

All Universal School students are asked to closely read their summer reading novel, paying attention to key literary devices such as: figurative language (metaphors, similes, personification, etc.), character development, plot, syntax (word order) and diction (word choice). Also keep in mind potential themes, as well as the audience that the story may have been written for, and the overall purpose of such a text. Students will be assessed on their close readings within the first two weeks of school by either having to take a multiple choice quiz, write an essay, or a combination of both. Also, students will need to complete a quarter-project that will be assigned during the first week of classes. These quarter- projects will be an assessment grade for first quarter so it would be beneficial for all students to read actively by marking up the text and annotating any key elements (listed above) or ideas that stand out to them and relate to the themes. Good luck and have a safe and enjoyable summer!

**8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>:** Choose one book within your grade level from the attached link. All AP students must read both novels and complete the assigned tasks as well.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade: The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster**

“For Milo, everything’s a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he’s got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the Island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason! Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it’s exciting beyond his wildest dreams.” – Penguin

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Freak the Mighty by Rodham Philbrick**

“A brilliant, emotionally charged novel about two boys. One is a slow learner, too large for his age, and the other is a tiny, disabled genius. The two pair up to create one formidable human force known as "Freak the Mighty". MAX. FREAK. BEST FRIENDS. FOREVER. I never had a brain until Freak came along. . .That's what Max thought. All his life he'd been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn't help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn't help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone. At least until Freak came along. Freak was weird, too. He had a little body, and a really big brain. Together Max and Freak were unstoppable. Together, they were Freak the Mighty. “A wonderful story of triumph over imperfection, shame, and loss.” - School Library Journal

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Wonder by R.J. Palacio**

“After being homeschooled for years, Auggie Pullman is about to start fifth grade, but he’s worried: How will he fit into middle-school life when he looks so different from everyone else?Auggie has had 27 surgeries to correct facial anomalies he was born with, but he still has a face that has earned him such cruel nicknames as Freak, Freddy Krueger, Gross-out and Lizard face. Though “his features look like they’ve been melted, like the drippings on a candle” and he’s used to people averting their eyes when they see him, he’s an engaging boy who feels pretty ordinary inside. He’s smart, funny, kind and brave, but his father says that having Auggie attend Beecher Prep would be like sending “a lamb to the slaughter.” Palacio divides the novel into eight parts, interspersing Auggie’s first-person narrative with the voices of family members and classmates, wisely expanding the story beyond Auggie’s viewpoint and demonstrating that Auggie’s arrival at school doesn’t test only him, it affects everyone in the community. Auggie may be finding his place in the world, but that world must find a way to make room for him, too. A memorable story of kindness, courage and wonder.”- Kirkus Reviews

## 8<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Summer Reading Book List: 2017-2018

8 <sup>th</sup>		
Title/ Author	ISBN	Publisher and Year
House on Mango Street/ Sandra Cisneros	978-0679734772	Vintage Books; 1991
Monster/ Walter Dean Myers	978-0064407311	Amistad Press; 2004
Nobody Nowhere/ Donna Williams	978-1853027185	Jessica Kingsley Publishers; 1998

9 <sup>th</sup>		
Title/ Author	ISBN	Publisher and Year
The Joy Luck Club/ Amy Tan	978-0143038092	Penguin Books; 2006
The Things They Carried/ Tim O'Brien	978-0544309760	Mariner Books; 2009
Funny in Farsi/ Firoozeh Dumas	978-0812968378	Random House Trade Paperbacks; 1 edition (January 13, 2004)

10 <sup>th</sup>		
Title/ Author	ISBN	Publisher and Year
A Separate Peace/ John Knowles	978-0743253970	Scribner (September 30, 2003)
Dracula/ Bram Stoker	978-1503261389	CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (November 28, 2014)
The Time Machine/ H.G Wells	978-0486284729	Dover Publications (April 3, 1995)

11 <sup>th</sup>		
Title/ Author	ISBN	Publisher and Year
In Cold Blood/ Truman Capote	978-0679745587	Vintage (February 1, 1994)
The Great Gatsby/ F. Scott Fitzgerald	978-0743273565	Scribner (September 30, 2004)
Fences/ August Wilson	978-0452264014	Plume; Reissue edition (June 1, 1986)

12 <sup>th</sup>		
Title/ Author	ISBN	Publisher and Year
Pride and Prejudice/ Jane Austen	978-0141439518	Penguin Books; Penguin Classics edition (December 31, 2002)
Great Expectations/ Charles Dickens	978-0141439563	Penguin Classics; Revised edition (December 31, 2002)

AP		
Title/ Author	ISBN	Publisher and Year
The Jungle/ Upton Sinclair	978-1503331860	CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (November 29, 2014)
The Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass/ Fredrick Douglass	978-0486284996	Dover Publications; Unabridged edition (April 13, 1995)