

# 2019 Whitcomb School Summer Reading - Entering

## Grade 8

Choose one book from the list and complete one of the following projects.

**All projects need to include: Your name, Title of Book, Author of Book**

### ***Project Options:***

#### **1. Letter to the Author**

- Write a letter to the author of your book explaining why you did/did not like his/her book.
- Include at least 5 questions for your author and why you want to know about those questions.
- This should be at least one page single-spaced or two pages double-spaced.

#### **2. Create a commercial (either radio or television)**

- Create an advertisement for either television or radio.
- You can actually tape it, or perform it in class.
- Make sure you “SELL” your book to class. Why would we want to read it?? Give at least 5 reasons..
- Include a written script to turn into the teacher.

#### **3. Interview a character**

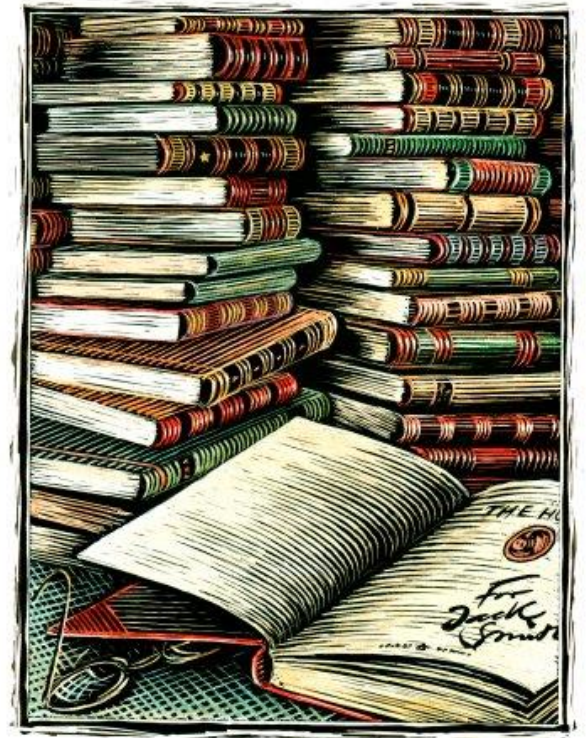
- Write **5 questions** that you are dying to know about your character. Be inventive!
- Then answer each question as completely as possible as the character might respond.
  - Each response should be a paragraph long and indicate elements of the novel.

#### **4. Identify 10 websites the character would visit.**

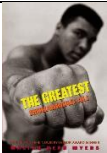

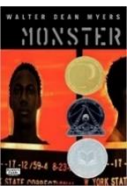

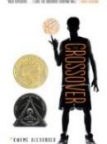
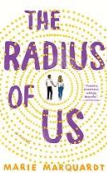
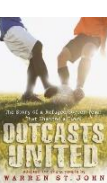
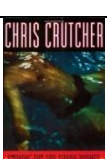
- Find **10 websites** that a character in your book would likely visit and document the URLs.
- All websites must be of an appropriate nature.
- Write a short paragraph for each website explaining why the character would like to be there and how that relates to the book

#### **5. Write a personal letter to a character**

- Write a letter to a character you admire or despise that explains why you feel the way you do.
- Be sure to include character traits, setting elements, and important incidents within the plot.



## Book Options for Students Entering Grade 8

Title	Author	Summary
	<i>The Greatest: Muhammed Ali</i> Walter Dean Myers	An award-winning author presents a riveting account of the extraordinary career and accomplishments of boxer Muhammad Ali. This biography chronicles Ali's impact on race relations inside and outside the sports world.
	<i>Fish in a Tree</i> Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.
	<i>Monster</i> Walter Dean Myers	This <b>New York Times</b> bestselling novel and National Book Award nominee from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives. Fade In: Interior: Early Morning In Cell Block D, Manhattan Detention Center. Steve (Voice-Over) Sometimes I feel like I have walked into the middle of a movie. Maybe I can make my own movie. The film will be the story of my life. No, not my life, but of this experience. I'll call it what the lady prosecutor called me ... Monster.
	<i>The Outsiders</i> S.E. Hinton	According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser.
	<i>The Crossover</i> Kwame Alexander	The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences—Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks—both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart. With a former professional basketball player dad and an assistant principal mom, there is an intensely strong home front supporting sports and education in equal measures. When life intervenes in the form of a hot new girl, the balance shifts and growing apart proves painful. An accomplished author and poet, Alexander eloquently mashes up concrete poetry, hip-hop, a love of jazz, and a thriving family bond.
	<i>The Radius of Us</i> Marie Marquardt	What happens when you fall in love with someone everyone seems determined to fear? The story of Gretchen, a victim of a traumatic incident and Phoenix, a refugee seeking asylum from the gang that inducted him and tried to recruit his brother. So how will the ninety seconds of Gretchen and Phoenix's first encounter change their lives? Told in alternating first person points of view, The Radius of Us is a story of love, sacrifice, and the journey from victim to survivor. It offers an intimate glimpse into the causes and devastating impact of Latino gang violence, both in the U.S. and in Central America, and explores the risks that victims take when they try to start over. Most importantly, Marie Marquardt's The Radius of Us shows how people struggling to overcome trauma can find healing in love.
	<i>Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference</i> Warren St. John	The extraordinary tale of a refugee youth soccer team and the transformation of a small American town: Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical Southern town until it was designated a refugee settlement center in the 1990s, becoming the first American home for scores of families in flight from the world's war zones—from Liberia and Sudan to Iraq and Afghanistan. Outcasts United follows a pivotal season in the life of the Fugees and their charismatic coach. At the center of the story is fiery Coach Luma, who relentlessly drives her players to success on the soccer field while holding together their lives—and the lives of their families—in the face of a series of daunting challenges. This fast-paced chronicle of a single season is a complex and inspiring tale of a small town becoming a global community—and an account of the ingenious and complicated ways we create a home in a changing world.
	<i>Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes</i> Chris Crutcher	Sarah Byrnes and Eric Calhoun have been friends for years. When they were children, his weight and her scars made them both outcasts. Now Sarah Byrnes—the smartest, toughest person Eric has ever known—sits silent in a hospital. Eric must uncover the terrible secret she's hiding before its dark current pulls them both under. Will appeal to fans of Marieke Nijkamp, Andrew Smith, and John Corey Whaley

