

2013 Central High School Summer Reading Requirement

All students entering grades 9-12 will be required to read two books (three books if enrolled in Central Magnet) from a list of twelve choices. The choices selected represent a range of reading levels, a mix of genres, and demonstrated high interest level for young adults. As you read the novels, take notes using the graphic organizer attached. Copies of the graphic organizer can also be downloaded from the Bridgeport Central Web Site: <http://www.bptcentral.org>.

You will be required to complete an in class book talk where you may use the notes from your graphic organizer the second week of school. These notes and your oral book talk will count as 10% of your first marking period grade.

Requirements: Read 2 books (3 if enrolled in Central Magnet). Take notes on the books read using the graphic organizer. Bring notes to class, as well as this sheet with your parent/guardian signature, to use with in-class book talk assessment.

Date Due: Week of September 3.

Name: _____ Date: _____
2012-2013 English Teacher: _____

My son/daughter has successfully completed the summer reading requirement:

(signature)

(relationship to student)

2013 Book Choices (Available on reserve at local branch libraries):

50 Cent. *Playground.*

Anthony, Jessica. *Chopsticks.*

Davis, Joyce E. *Can't Stop the Shine.*

Giles, Gail. *Shattering Glass.*

Green, John. *The Fault in Our Stars.*

Greitens, Eric. *The Heart and the Fist.*

Kidder, Tracy. *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer.*

Littman, Sarah. *Want to Go Private?*

McCall, Gaudalupe Garcia. *Under the Mesquite.*

Meyer, Marissa. *Cinder.*

Morgenstern, Eric. *The Night Circus.*

Palacio, RJ. *Wonder.*

NOTE: There are additional supplemental titles from the prior year reading lists that may be read by entering 9th grade students. These titles are on reserve at local branch libraries.

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Playground, by 50 Cent. Paperback. \$9.99. 320 pages. Urban Fiction.

School Library Journal-Gr 7 Up—After clobbering his former best friend with a sock full of batteries, "Butterball" thinks he'll finally get the respect he deserves from his middle-school classmates. But this is just a front for the overweight eighth grader who in therapy sessions slowly reveals his true struggles as a child of divorce recently transplanted from the city to the suburbs, trying to fit in at school and make sense of his overworked mother's new relationship. He eats lunch alone in a bathroom stall at school and has little support from mom, her ever-present female "friend," and a verbally abusive father, who wrongfully teaches him that violence will gain respect.

Chopsticks by Jessica Anthony. PB. \$15.81. 272 pages. Graphic novel. Mystery. Romance.

School Library Journal. Gr 9 Up—Told almost entirely through images, this intriguing mystery reveals the events leading up to the disappearance of Glory, a teenage piano prodigy who goes missing after her struggle with mental illness, which causes her to play the children's waltz "Chopsticks" obsessively. Photographs, ephemera, and instant-message screenshots weave together the details of a forbidden romance with Francisco, the boy next door, and a stunningly executed twist ending leads readers to question what they believe to be true.

Can't Stop the Shine (Kimani Tru Series) by Joyce E. Davis PB. \$9.49. 256 pages. Urban Fiction,

When an *American Idol*-like competition comes to Atlanta, Kalia and Mariama Jefferson (sisters who couldn't be more different) stop arguing long enough to agree on one thing: Kalia *has* to try out. A senior at a prestigious performing arts high school, Kalia has a shot at making her dream come true. And with sixteen-year-old Mariama cheering her on, Kalia sings her heart out, eager to beat thousands of other hopefuls. But when Kalia makes the top twenty, the competition really begins—on stage *and* at home. Suddenly, Kalia and Mariama are up against each other. And there's only one way to win.

Shattering Glass, by Gale Giles. PB. \$6.72. 224 pages. Realistic Fiction.

VOYA- By the end of the first paragraph, readers know that Simon Glass was easy to hate and that eventually he was killed. It takes the rest of the book to find out who killed him and why. Told in the different voices of students, teachers, counselors, and law-enforcement officers, the story unfolds little by little until the explosive climax. Giles's novel is a chilling portrayal of manipulation leading to tragic consequences.

The Fault in our Stars by John Green. HC, \$11.98. 336 pages. 850L. Romance.

ALAN Review-Hazel Grace Lancaster has terminal cancer. Along with her life-sustaining oxygen tank and doctor visits, she attends weekly Support Group meetings to help her deal with her illness. It is at one of these meetings where she meets Augustus Waters, a cancer patient in remission. Using Augustus's leftover make-a-wish, the two set off for answers about Hazel's favorite book, finding companionship and love along the way. John Green tells the story of two teenagers with cancer who are struggling to find their place and purpose in the world. Hazel and Augustus meet in Support Group, but they gain far more than support. They gain a sense of purpose and find out what it means to be not dying of cancer but living with it.

The Heart and the Fist, by Eric Greitens. PB. \$11.83. Non-Fiction.

Publishers Weekly--This book, by Greitens, confronts the same dilemma as the American military, which strives to be a strong deterrent against the evils of the world while protecting the sick and powerless. The concept of a mighty warrior with a good heart is not an original one, but the humanitarian soldier epiphany comes to an idealistic Greitens after stints in Bosnia, Rwanda, and Gaza, and Calcutta where he sees unspeakable carnage and suffering without end. At the heart of this powerful story lies a paradox: sometimes you have to be strong to do good, but you also have to do good to be strong. The heart and the fist together are more powerful than either one alone.

Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder. PB. \$8.98. 352 pages. Non-Fiction.

From School Library Journal-Adult/High School- As a specialist in infectious diseases, Farmer's work establishing a complex of public health facilities on the central plateau of Haiti forms the keystone to efforts that now encompass initiatives on three continents. Farmer and a trio of friends began in the 1980s by creating a charitable foundation called Partners in Health (PIH, or Zanmi Lasante in Creole), armed with passionate conviction and \$1

million in seed money from a Boston philanthropist. Kidder provides anecdotal evidence that their early approach to acquiring resources for the Haitian project at times involved a Robin Hood type of "redistributive justice" by liberating medical equipment from the "rich" (Harvard) and giving to the "poor" (the PIH clinic). Yet even as PIH has grown in size and sophistication, gaining the ability to influence and collaborate with major international organizations because of the founders' energy, professional credentials, and successful outcomes, their dedicated vision of doctoring to the poor remains unaltered.

Want to Go Private? By Sarah Littman. HC. \$13.10. 336 pages. Realistic Fiction. Mystery.

Abby is not looking forward to high school. She just knows it is going to be the same as middle school where she was the "smart girl" nerd. But her best friend, Faith, embraces the changes and begins to branch out, making Abby feel more isolated. Plus, at home, she does not think her family cares about her. She is ripe fruit for an online sexual predator, "Luke," who convinces Abby he alone loves and listens to her. The more Luke isolates her emotionally, the more she is willing to participate in his sexual games. Eventually he convinces her to run away with him. But Luke isn't who he says he is. When Abby goes missing, everyone is left to put together the pieces. If they don't, they'll never see Abby again.

Under the Mesquite, by Guadalupe Garcia McCall . HC. \$12.21. 224 pages. Novel in Verse.

A resilient Mexican-American girl copes with familial obligation and loss in this free-verse novel. During her freshman year, Lupita discovers that her mother has cancer. While her mother fights the disease and her father struggles to support the family financially, Lupita sometimes becomes the de facto parental unit for her seven younger siblings. As she worries about food and money, Lupita experiences the typical troubles and triumphs of a teenage girl; her drama teacher, Mr. Cortez, helps her find an outlet for her talent and her pain. Meanwhile, family members continue to draw strength and support from each other on both sides of the border. With poignant imagery and well-placed Spanish, the author effectively captures the complex lives of teenagers in many Latino and/or immigrant families.

Cinder by Marissa Meyer. PB. \$9.99. 448pages. 790L. Dystopian Science Fiction.

VOYA -: Cinder isn't fully human. For reasons unknown to her, Cinder's body was "altered" when she was eleven years-old, so that now she has a steel, mechanical hand and foot; software interlaced throughout her brain; and a heart partially comprised of silicon. Cinder is deeply ashamed of these artificial elements of her body, which place her in the despised social class of a cyborg. She lives in the Eastern Commonwealth, formed after the devastation of World War IV, working as a mechanic and living with her stepmother. Of course, Cinder's stepmother is cruel, and of course, Cinder has two stepsisters. The handsome, unmarried Prince Kai somehow finds Cinder attractive, and begs her to accompany him to the upcoming ball in his honor. Readers know the elements of the story before they open the book. What they do not know until they begin turning the pages of this fable-turned-dystopian-science-fiction novel, is that Meyer's embellishments create a spellbinding story of their own.

The Night Circus by Eric Morgenstern. PB. \$10.10. 528 pages. Historical Romance.

The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amusements. It is called *Le Cirque des Rêves*, and it is only open at night. But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them both, this is a game in which only one can be left standing. Despite the high stakes, Celia and Marco soon tumble headfirst into love, setting off a domino effect of dangerous consequences, and leaving the lives of everyone, from the performers to the patrons, hanging in the balance.

Wonder by RJ Palacio. HC\$10.98. 320 pages. 790 Lexile. Realistic Fiction.

August Pullman has always been homeschooled. During the summer before he is to start fifth grade, August's parents inform him they've applied for him to attend a private school. Shocked, August immediately puts up a fight. He doesn't want to attend school looking the way he does. He would want to go if he was an ordinary ten-year-old, but he's not. August was born with a facial deformity, and has undergone surgery after surgery. Despite all of this, August still has an extraordinary face—one that stops people in mid-sentence. Finally agreeing to go to school, August embarks on a roller coaster of a year through fifth grade. From having no friends at all, to being one of the most popular kids in his class, August enjoys quite a year. Themes of love and forgiveness, true friendship, the importance of family, bullying, and accepting people are woven throughout this unique book.

2013 Summer Reading Requirement Notes- Fiction

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title of Book Read: _____

Author: _____

Summarize:

1. Who is the most important character in the story? Why do you think so?

Analyze Plot and Conflict:

1. A summary mentions only the most important points in the work. List some of the key events in the story:

Conflict can occur between two characters, between a character and nature, between a character and society, between a character and fate, or between a character and himself or herself.

2. What is the central, or most important, conflict in the story?

3. How does the main character react to the central conflict?

4. What happens in the climax of the plot? How do the fortunes of the main character change? How is the conflict resolved?

Analyze the Main Idea and Message: The main idea of a work of fiction is the most important idea in it. It is the topic of the story, or what it is about. A story's message is its insight into life. The message is a statement of what the story means.

1. What is the story's implied message? What insights into life does the story offer?

Copy a passage from the book that made you think, or that you found funny, sad, or suspenseful. Include the page number where you found the quote. Explain why you selected the passage from the book. You will present a dramatic reading of the passage selected as part of your book talk the first week of school. (You may use a separate piece of paper).

Significance:

Recognizing the Author's Values and Beliefs:

- 4. From the details in the book, what can you infer about the background of the writer?
Does the author have any biases or use generalizations or stereotypes to support his or her main ideas?.

Copy a passage from the book that you felt was especially well written. It may be that the author's word choices or selection of details are help to convey a specific tone. Explain why you selected the passage from the book. You will present a dramatic reading of the passage selected as part of your book talk the first week of school. (You may use a separate piece of paper).

Significance:
