

## Students Entering Grade Seven Summer Reading 2021

**Students going into English 7** are required to:

- Read one book from the list below.
- Read the short story "Seventh Grade" by Gary Soto using [this link](#).
- Complete the attached organizer, "Fleshing out a Character."

**\*Students entering English 7 Accelerated** are required to:

- Read **two** novels: *The ABC Murders* and another book of their choice.
- Read the short story "Seventh Grade" by Gary Soto using [this link](#)
- Complete the attached organizer, "Fleshing out a Character."

Students will be assessed on each summer reading text when they return to school in September.

- For the short story, students will create written responses in the first week of school based on character details, and they may **use the provided graphic organizer** to help them.
- For the novels, students will be given a comprehension test within the first two weeks of school which assesses their overall understanding of characters, theme, conflicts, setting, and plot. They *may* use notes during the assessment. **To best prepare for the novel test, they should take notes on the characters, themes, conflicts, setting, and plot development.** They should also know intricate details about the main characters in the book. As such, they should note details about the character's personality, appearance, age, relationships and interactions with others, thoughts, problems, needs, and any other pertinent information. These notes will be collected prior to the test and redistributed on the assessment date.

Students are responsible for obtaining these books. If this presents a problem, see one of your current Language Arts teachers. Questions regarding the assignment should be emailed to Ms. Healey at [bhealey@bhpsnj.org](mailto:bhealey@bhpsnj.org) or Ms. Krasovec at [bkrasovec@bhpsnj.org](mailto:bkrasovec@bhpsnj.org) no later than June 8, 2021.

### **Books:**

*\*The A.B.C. Murders*, by Agatha Christie (Mystery) Hercule Poirot is sent a series of letters by a murderer challenging him to stop a crime if he is clever enough.

*The Lost Years of Merlin*, by T. A. Barron (Fantasy/Legendary Character) A young boy who has no identity, nor memory of his past, washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

*Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard: The Swords of Summer (Book 1)* by Rick Riordan (Fantasy/Mythology Fiction) This novel by the author of the beloved *Percy Jackson* series creates a spinoff of Norse Mythology with 16-year-old Magnus at center-stage. The main character finds himself getting into a lot of trouble as a kid living on the streets. When an uncle tracks him down and tells him of his esteemed background - being the son of a Norse god - the world (actually, all nine of them!) suddenly changes for Magnus.

*A Mango Shaped Space*, by Wendy Mass (Coming of Age) A young girl has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. Forced to reveal her condition, she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation of her gift.

*A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen (Historical Fiction) Set in Eastern Berlin during the Cold War, readers follow twelve year old Gerta as she plans her escape to the west. Readers learn that the Berlin Wall divided her family, with her father and one brother on the western side, and the remainder of her family on the eastern side. The novel depicts political and economic conditions in Eastern Germany while keeping readers engaged with the story of a daring escape.

*Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom* by Lynda Blackmon Lowery (Biography) This is the story of Lynda Blackmon Lowery who was the youngest person to take part in the 1965 Voting Rights March. She tells of how she was jailed eleven times before her fifteenth birthday and how it felt to know she was changing American history.

## *Fleshing Out a Character*

**Instructions: Choose one character from the short story "Seventh Grade."  
Using the chart below, analyze the character for each of the following elements.**

	<b>Examples/Direct Quotes (at least 2 for each)</b>	<b>What insight does this reveal about the character?</b>
<b>Character Choice</b> (name the character here):		
<b>Speech:</b>  <i>What</i> the character says, and <i>how</i> they say it. Consider tone and dialog tags.		
<b>Thoughts:</b>  What the character thinks, believes, and values. What motivates them?		
<b>Effects on others:</b>  <i>Relationships</i> the character has with others, and how they treat each other.		
<b>Actions:</b>  How a character behaves, including how they react to different people and situations.		
<b>Looks:</b>  The character's physical appearance. Includes physical features, style, and body language.		