Choose one of the following books, which you must obtain on your own from a local library or bookseller, and read it over the summer. The books are divided into fiction and nonfiction, but you only need to choose one book overall.

You will be assessed on the reading when you return to school in the fall. Since you will be allowed to refer to your notes during the assessment, you should take detailed notes on your book of choice. As you read, take notes on the themes and significant aspects of the book. Notes should refer to specific passages in the book that illustrate those themes and significant aspects. The writing prompt will be generic enough to accommodate any of the book choices on this list.

**Fiction**

*The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* by Mitch Albom - At nine years old, Frankie Presto, a Spanish war orphan raised by a blind music teacher, is sent to America in the bottom of a boat. His only possession is an old guitar and six magical strings.

*The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards - This novel follows the lives of Dr. David Henry, his wife, Norah, and their twin children who are secretly separated at birth. The story begins in March 1964 when an unexpected blizzard hits the small Kentucky town where the young couple lives.

*47 by Walter Mosley* - 47 is a young slave boy living under the watchful eye of a brutal slave master. His life seems doomed until he meets a mysterious runaway slave, Tall John.

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison - The narrator of *Invisible Man* is a nameless young black man who moves in 20th-century United States where reality is surreal and people can survive only through pretense. Because the people he encounters "see only my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination," he is effectively invisible.

*Never Let Me Go* by Kazou Isiguro - This novel is set in a dystopian world in which human clones are created so that they can donate their organs as young adults. The novel follows the life story of Kathy, a clone who is raised at a boarding school for future “donors.”

**Nonfiction**

*The Red Bandana* by Tom Rinaldi - On Sept. 11, 2001, in the South Tower of the World Trade Center, a man wearing a red bandanna lost his life leading others to safety. This is his story.

*Into the Wild* by John Krakauer - Christopher McCandless graduates from Emory University as a top student and athlete. However, instead of embarking on a prestigious and profitable career, he chooses to give his savings to charity, rid himself of his possessions, and set out on a journey to the Alaskan wilderness.

*Eight Men Out* by Eliot Asinof - A group of professional gamblers offers the Sox's best athletes a fortune to throw the series, and the players agree. However, their reputations and careers are ruined when the dark secret, dubbed the "Black Sox Scandal," reaches the public consciousness.

*Kabul Beauty School* by Deborah Rodriguez - Deborah Rodriguez went to Afghanistan as part of a group offering humanitarian aid to this war-torn nation. Rodriguez, a hairdresser, soon found she had a gift for befriending Afghans. Once her profession became known, she was eagerly sought out by both Westerners desperate for a good haircut and also by Afghan women, who have a long and proud tradition of running their own beauty salons.