



Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103
Daniel Wright Junior High School

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SUMMER READING FOR INCOMING EIGHTH GRADERS

Over the summer, students entering eighth grade will have the choice to read and annotate ONE of the following three titles: *Turtles All The Way Down* by John Green, *Notes From The Midnight Driver* by Jordan Sonnenblick, or *Pop* by Gordon Korman. These titles are available for purchase in bookstores or online. Because of the annotation requirement, ebooks will not work for this assignment.

All of these novels are engaging, age-appropriate, text for eighth grade students. That being said, books in the Contemporary Realistic Fiction genre may contain potentially controversial subject matter, which may include profanity or references to sexuality. Specifically, *Turtles All The Way Down* is a novel centered around a young protagonist who struggles with anxiety. It contains a beautiful message about accepting people for who they are and learning to cope with problems in a healthy manner, which correlates nicely with our district's Social Emotional Learning standards. This novel occasionally uses profanity like the f-word, s-word, and contains a brief reference to inappropriate pictures being sent via a mobile device.

It is important to remember that as your student reads difficult, thought-provoking literature, they are exercising and enhancing their powers of discernment. Our roles as teachers and parents are to guide students toward making appropriate, challenging reading selections for each individual student's reading and maturity levels.

Annotation Requirements:

- *Annotations must be an even balance of highlighting and margin notes. All highlighted pieces of text need to be accompanied by a margin note. (Highlighting alone is just coloring!)*
- *There must be at least one annotation per two-page spread throughout the book.*
- *There must be a three-sentence summary at the end of each chapter.*
- *Margin notes should indicate the importance of certain lines of dialogue or incidents in the story that propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.*

Please bring your annotated novel on Thursday, August 24, 2023, the first full day of school, when we will begin corresponding activities in class.

Why is summer reading required? Research shows that students who read consistently over the summer are stronger students during the school year. District 103 is committed to developing strong reading, writing, and thinking skills. We also recommend that students read a variety of material during the summer. Please go to the Daniel Wright website where the updated seventh and eighth grade reading list is available at <https://www.d103.org/dw>. Click on the "Students" tab at the top of the site, and select "Summer Reading Lists" under the Library's "Student Info & Resources" tab, as well as in the Virtual Backpack.

Thank you for your support,
The Eighth Grade English Teachers