

Summer Reading Bingo

Hello, incoming 8th graders, and welcome to Humanities! This summer, your task is to read three books of your choice from three different genres!



Directions: Using our reading game board and recommended reading list below, read three books in a row or diagonally, like BINGO, and fill in your space with the books you chose. Of course, you can pick a book not on our reading list and still mark it into the best-fitting genre!

Once you've read all three of your books, choose your favorite and complete the reader response below. Be prepared to talk about your chosen favorite when you return to school in September.

Fiction or Historical Fiction My book title: My book author:	Mystery, Horror, or Dystopia My book title: My book author:	Contemporary YA My book title: My book author:
Global Author (author is from another country) My book title: My book author:	Non-fiction or Memoir My book title: My book author:	Fantasy or Science Fiction My book title: My book author:
Modern Classics My book title: My book author:	Poetry, Play, or Short Story collection My book title: My book author:	Graphic Novel My book title: My book author:

You should read this book!

Title:

Genre: _____

Author: _____

What this book is about (don't give away the ending):

What I liked about this book:

Rate this book:



Reviewed By:

Our Recommended Reading List

Use this recommended reading list to help you identify books that might interest you. But don't worry--**if a book you want to read this summer isn't listed below, you can read it anyway** and mark it in the best-fitting genre on your Summer Reading Bingo Board.

Fiction & Historical Fiction recommendations:

Easy summer read	8th grade read	Challenge read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Night Diary</i> by Veera Hiranandani • <i>Copper Sun</i> by Sharon M. Draper • <i>Salt to the Sea</i> by Ruta Sepetys • <i>When My Name was Keoko</i> by Linda Sue Park • <i>Code Walker</i> by Joseph Bruchac 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goddess of Yesterday</i> by Caroline B. Cooney • <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak • <i>Sold</i> by Patricia McCormick • <i>Girl in the Blue Coat</i> by Monica Hesse • <i>Butterfly Yellow</i> by Thanhha Lai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> by Jesmyn Ward • <i>Little Fires Everywhere</i> by Celeste Ng • <i>All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel</i> by Anthony Doerr • <i>The Secrets We Kept: A Novel</i> by Lara Prescott • <i>Dominicana</i> by Angie Cruz

Mystery, Horror, and Dystopia recommendations:

Easy summer read	8th grade read	Challenge read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Uglies</i> series by Scott Westerfeld • <i>Coraline</i> by Neil Gaiman • <i>Matched</i> series by Ally Condie • <i>Monday's Not Coming</i> by Tiffany Jackson • <i>The Infinite</i> by Patience Agbabi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noughts & Crosses</i> by Malorie Blackman • <i>Legend</i> series by Marie Lu • <i>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</i> by Ransom Riggs • <i>One of Us is Lying</i> by Karen McManus • <i>The Marrow Thieves</i> by Cherie Dimaline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1984</i> by George Orwell • <i>Parable of the Sower</i> by Octavia Butler • <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury • <i>The Road</i> by Cormac McCarthy • <i>The Man in the High Castle</i> by Philip K. Dick

Contemporary Young Adult recommendations:

Easy summer read	8th grade read	Challenge read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ghost Boys</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes • <i>Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks</i> by Jason Reynolds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Aristotle and Dante discover the Secrets of the Universe</i> by Benjamin Alire Sáenz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>American Street</i> by Ibi Zoboi • <i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> by Stephen Chbosky • <i>Dig</i> by A.S. King

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio • <i>Pet</i> by Akwaeke Emezi • <i>Some Places More Than Others</i> by Renée Watson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>On the Come Up</i> by Angie Thomas • <i>A Very Large Expanse of Sea</i> by Tahereh Mafi • <i>I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i> by Erika L. Sánchez • <i>Will Grayson, Will Grayson</i> by John Green and David Levithan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Across A Hundred Mountains</i> by Reyna Grande • <i>We Are Okay</i> by Nina LaCour
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Global Author recommendations:

Easy summer read	8th grade read	Challenge read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</i> by Salman Rushdie • <i>Zulu Dog</i> by Anton Ferreira • <i>Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging</i> by Louise Rennison • <i>Before We Were Free</i> Julia Alvarez • <i>The Girl of Ink & Stars</i> by Kiran Millwood Hargrave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Jungle Book</i> by Rudyard Kipling • <i>The Alchemist</i> by Paulo Coelho • <i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe • <i>The Summer Book</i> by Tove Jansson • <i>Girl at War</i> by Sara Novic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Americanah</i> by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie • <i>The Tattooist of Auschwitz: A Novel</i> by Heather Morris • <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini • <i>Crazy Rich Asians</i> by Kevin Kwan • <i>Ayesha At Last</i> by Uzma Jalaluddin

Non-fiction & Memoir recommendations:

Easy summer read	8th grade read	Challenge read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knots in My Yo-Yo String</i> by Jerry Spinelli • <i>It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime</i> by Trevor Noah • <i>Boy: Tales of Childhood</i> by Roald Dahl • <i>The 57 Bus</i> by Dashka Slater • <i>Red Scarf Girl</i> by Ji-li Jiang • <i>Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon</i> by Steve Sheinkin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Night, Dawn, and Dusk</i> (3 books) by Elie Wiesel • <i>I Am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai • <i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning</i> by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi • <i>The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us</i> by Tanya Lee Stone • <i>Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen</i> by Jazz Jennings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Just Mercy</i> by Bryan Stevenson • <i>Becoming</i> by Michelle Obama • <i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta-Nehisi Coates • <i>The Boys of Summer</i> by Roger Kahn • <i>The Wind in my Hair: my Fight For Freedom in Modern Iran</i> by Masih Alinejad • <i>Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with his Mother</i> by Sonia Nazario

Fantasy & Science Fiction recommendations:

Easy summer read	8th grade read	Challenge read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Savvy</i> by Ingrid Law • <i>Artemis Fowl</i> by Eoin Colfer • <i>The Graveyard Book</i> by Neil Gaiman • <i>Life As We Knew It</i> by Susan Beth Pfeffer • <i>Akata Witch</i> by Nnedi Okorafor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Princess Bride</i> by William Goldman • <i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card • <i>Scythe</i> by Neil Shusterman • <i>The House of the Scorpion</i> by Nancy Farmer • <i>Children of Blood and Bone</i> by Tomi Adeyemi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lord of the Rings</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien • <i>The Time Machine</i> by H.G. Wells • <i>Dune</i> by Frank Herbert • <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> by Douglas Adams • <i>Watership Down</i> by Richard Adams

Modern Classics recommendations:

Easy summer read	8th grade read	Challenge read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Day No Pigs Would Die</i> by Richard Peck • <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar • <i>Monster</i> by Walter Dean Meyers • <i>Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry</i> by Mildred D. Taylor • <i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Munoz Ryna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee • <i>The Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London • <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> by L.M. Montgomery • <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> by Anne Frank • <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> by Mark Twain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings</i> by Maya Angelou • <i>The House of the Spirits</i> by Isabel Allende • <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> by J.D. Salinger • <i>The Fire Next Time</i> by James Baldwin • <i>My Antonia</i> by Willa Cather

Poetry, Play & Short Story Collection recommendations:

Easy summer read	8th grade read	Challenge read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander • <i>Out of the Dust</i> by Karen Hesse • <i>Open Mic--Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices</i> edited by Mitali Perkins • <i>Telling Tales</i> by Patience Agbabi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Poet X</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo • <i>Shout</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson • <i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson • <i>Brighton Beach Memoirs</i> by Neil Simon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Interpreter of Maladies</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri • <i>How Does It Feel to Be a Problem</i> by Moustafa Bayoumi • <i>Citizen An American Lyric</i> by Claudia Rankine • <i>Constellations</i> by Nick Payne • <i>The Wolves</i> by Sarah Delappe

• <i>The Yellow Boat</i> by David Saar	• <i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i> by Rick Elice	
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Graphic Novel recommendations:

Easy summer read	8th grade read	Challenge read
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maus I & II</i> by Art Spiegelman • <i>American Born Chinese</i> by Gene Luen Yang • <i>New Kid</i> by Jerry Kraft • <i>Trickster--Native American Tales A Graphic Collection</i> edited by Matt Dembicki • <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> by Madeleine L'Engle (Author), Hope Larson (Illustrator) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Complete Persepolis</i> by Marjane Satrapi • <i>They Called Us Enemy</i> by George Takei • <i>March</i> (trilogy) by John Lewis • <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee and Fred Fordham • <i>Barefoot Gen</i> by Keiji Nakazawa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fun Home</i> by Alison Bechdel • <i>Blankets</i> by Craig Thompson • <i>Ghost World</i> by Daniel Clowes • <i>Watchmen</i> by Alan Moore • <i>Daytripper</i> by Gabriel Ba and Fabio Moon • <i>The Best We Could Do</i> by Thi Bui

Other Sources for Book Suggestions

<https://www.nypl.org/books-more/recommendations/125/kids>

<https://www.npr.org/books/genres/10121/young-adults/>

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2020-best-fiction-young-adults>

<https://slate.com/human-interest/2019/07/best-books-advanced-teenage-readers.html>

Online Sources for Books and Audiobooks

MackinVIA.com

Free books and audio books that can be read online. <https://www.mackinvia.com>

School/ Library Name Booker t. Washington JHS 54, Manhattan, NY. Over 5000 free books fiction and nonfiction easy through HS Reading levels provided.

User ID: 54BTW

Password: 54BTW

Classicly.com

Free online books in the public domain can be read on pc, laptop, kindle, tablet or mobile phone. Standard classics.

Novels77.com

Novel80.com

Obooko.com

These sites offer hundreds of free titles that can be read online, includes large collections of teen fantasy, sci-fi, dystopic. Some popular teen authors: Jenny Han, John Green, Suzanne Collins, Cassandra Clare, Sarah Dessen are included.

Free legal Manga online

<https://gaijinschoollibrarian.wordpress.com/2020/03/18/sites-offering-free-legal-access-to-manga-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/> Select either middle school or high school collection

8th Grade Summer Writing Assignment: Gratitude Journaling



Researchers have found a remedy or treatment against stress and dissatisfaction: **gratitude**.

What is gratitude? Gratitude can mean very different things to different people in different contexts. It's a character trait, a feeling, a virtue and a behavior.

Gratitude is also one of the strongest signs of how happy people are, how easily they make friends and how well they deal with hardship. Practicing gratitude may be a real way to make yourself feel better--feel more hopeful. One of the easiest ways to practice gratitude is to journal: to simply write down what you are grateful for, to remind your brain that your life is actually not that bad.

This summer we want you to take a stab at this gratitude journaling thing. We're asking you to aim to journal for **two to three** times a week. [See the pacing charts below.]

Directions: Starting the week of July 6th, keep a gratitude journal until school starts in September (nine weeks). You may handwrite or type this journal; you may use loose-leaf paper stapled together, a computer, or a bound notebook. We encourage you to make this journal your own--we supply what you need to journal; you supply the creativity and imagination on how to physically keep your journal. **But if you would like some guidance on how to set up your journal, click [here](#) for a template we made.**

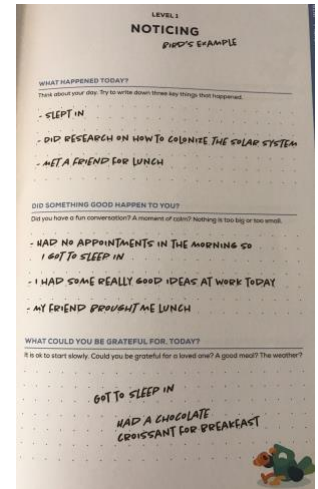
You will not be expected to share all the specifics of your journal, but you will be required to demonstrate that you made a good effort to keep one. Be prepared to share some writing examples from your journal, but what writing you will share will be completely up to you. **Your humanities teacher in the fall will give you further instructions on how you will share your experiences with the journal.**

Below you will find more specific instructions on how to approach each phase. **Remember we're asking you to aim to journal at least two times a week.** At the end of some weeks, you may also be required to complete a reflection break.

Phase 1 Noticing (first three weeks): Take the time now to begin to notice those small good things in your life: your favorite cereal for breakfast, the video-chat with your friend, a cold drink on a hot day.

For each journal entry during this phase, answer the following questions (you can answer in list form or a paragraph--check out the example entry to the right →):

- What happened today? (Think about your day. Try and write down three key things that happened.)
- Did something good happen to you? (Did you have a fun conversation? A moment of calm? Nothing is too big or too small.)
- What could you be grateful for today? (It is ok to start slowly. Could you be grateful for a loved one? A good meal? The weather?)

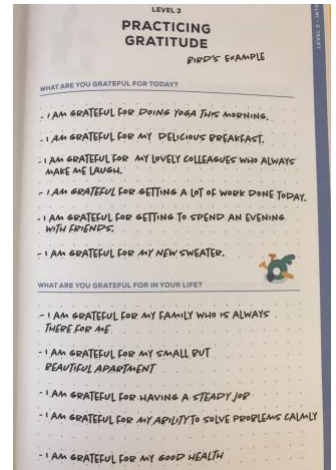


Week	Phase	Questions	Reflection Break** (See details at the end of the document)
June 29	Pre-journaling	<i>Decide on and/or acquire journal</i>	none
July 6	Phase 1	What happened today? Did something good happen to you? What could you be grateful for today?	none
July 13	Phase 1	What happened today? Did something good happen to you? What could you be grateful for today?	(See details at the end of the document) What did you get stressed about that isn't within your control?
July 20	Phase 1	What happened today? Did something good happen to you? What could you be grateful for today?	Saying thanks to people makes a difference.

Phase 2 Reflecting and Appreciating (next three weeks): Now try to appreciate the good things in your life again.

For each journal entry during this phase, answer the following questions (you can answer in list form or a paragraph--check out the example entry to the right →):

- What would you be sad about if it was missing from your life? (No rules here. It can be anything from your favorite soda to your favorite socks to your favorite pet.)
- Are there things you usually don't think about that you can appreciate? (Maybe the statue in the park or the fact that you have running water.)
- What are you grateful for today? (Which of the things you appreciate can you be grateful for?)

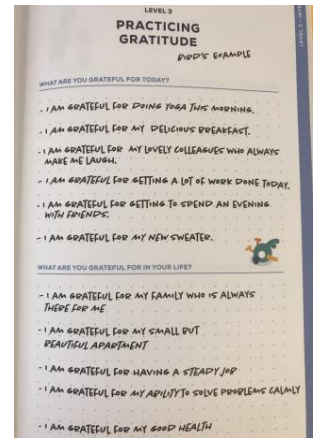


Week	Phase	Questions	Reflection Break** (See details at the end of the document)
July 27	Phase 2	<p>What would you be sad about if it was missing from your life?</p> <p>Are there things you usually don't think about that you can appreciate?</p> <p>What are you grateful for today?</p>	<p>What can you see that could go on your list?</p>
August 3	Phase 2	<p>What would you be sad about if it was missing from your life?</p> <p>Are there things you usually don't think about that you can appreciate?</p> <p>What are you grateful for today?</p>	<p>What did you experience that others didn't even notice?</p>
August 10	Phase 2	<p>What would you be sad about if it was missing from your life?</p> <p>Are there things you usually don't think about that you can appreciate?</p> <p>What are you grateful for today?</p>	<p>What five nice things did you do?</p>

Phase 3 Practice Gratitude (last three weeks): Notice the good things that surround you. Appreciate that they are part of your life. Write about them. Start every sentence with: "I'm grateful for" Try to do it very regularly, either in the morning or before going to bed. If you skip a few days, don't worry about it. Today is always a great day to pick it up again.

For each journal entry during this phase, answer the following questions (you can answer in list form or a paragraph--check out the example entry to the right →):

- What are you grateful for today?
- What are you grateful for in your life?



Week	Phase	Questions	Reflection Break** (See details at the end of the document)
August 17	Phase 3	What are you grateful for today? What are you grateful for in your life?	What good things didn't you notice because you were stressed out?
August 24	Phase 3	What are you grateful for today? What are you grateful for in your life?	What good things didn't you notice because you were stressed out?
August 31	Phase 3	What are you grateful for today? What are you grateful for in your life?	Final Reflection

****Reflection Breaks:** In your final entry *of the week*, starting on July 13th, address the question in the reflection break column.

REFLECTION BREAK 1: (week of July 13) WHAT DID YOU GET STRESSED ABOUT THAT ISN'T WITHIN YOUR CONTROL?

REFLECTION BREAK 2 (week of July 20): Think of someone you should thank: a friend, a colleague or the bakery lady that sells you your morning bagel. Write them a letter. Tell them in detail how they affect your life, how they might have helped you and why you appreciate them. You do not have to send it, but you can.

REFLECTION BREAK 3 (week of July 27): What makes you feel good counts, nothing is off-limits. Look around: Do you like the color of your shirt? Did you sleep well today? Is it sunny outside? If you can nod yes to a couple of those, that's already half your list. WHAT CAN YOU SEE THAT COULD GO ON YOUR LIST?

REFLECTION BREAK 4 (week of August 3): The world is full of awesome things. Your friends and family, your hobbies and interests, your home. But also the small joys in life: cookies. A new episode of your favorite TV show. Or even smaller:

fresh bed sheets. The sound of rain. A "great job!" for your finished project. Landing a good joke. Petting a cute dog.
WHAT DID YOU EXPERIENCE THAT OTHERS DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE?

REFLECTION BREAK 5 (week of August 10): Think of all the things you wrote down in your Gratitude Lists that involve people doing nice things for you.

Now turn the tables: aim to do five nice things today.

WHAT FIVE NICE THINGS DID YOU DO? HOW DO YOU THINK THEY HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT?

REFLECTION BREAK 6 (week of August 17): You can't control the outside. But you have a say about what goes on in your own head. WHAT GOOD THINGS DIDN'T YOU NOTICE BECAUSE YOU WERE STRESSED OUT?

REFLECTION BREAK 7 (week of August 24): Instead of a To Do List, at the end of the day, write down all the things you accomplished that day instead of things that still need to be done. LIST EVERYTHING YOU GOT DONE TODAY, BIG AND SMALL.

FINAL REFLECTION (week of August 31): REFLECT ON YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH GRATITUDE JOURNALING (in a typed, double-spaced paragraph; separate from your journal and **to be turned in to your humanities teacher the first day of school in September**):

- Explain what it was like to do this weekly exercise.
- What was easy about it? What did you enjoy?
- What was challenging? What was not so enjoyable?
- What were some of your more interesting observations?
- How has this experience changed the way you see yourself and your life?
- Do you think gratitude journaling will help you be calmer, less stressed and more satisfied? Explain.

Still confused about what you should have in your gratitude journal? Check out this [template](#)! Use it if you want to or just for guidance--feel free to create your own, non-electronic journal!

Our gratitude journaling project is inspired by Kurzgesagt. If you would like more information on gratitude or the impact of journaling on gratitude, you can watch their video on gratitude at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPPPFqsECz0>.

For an inspirational testimony on the impact of gratitude journaling, you can watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6txQ5yn5S8>.