



# Middle School Summer Reading Challenge 2019 - *The Power of One*



Assignment for ALL incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students

## The Power of One

Every person, both real and fictional, has the ability to change the world for the better. Pre-teens and teens are no exception. From the *Middle School Summer Reading List*, choose at least THREE books that explore characters who, despite challenges, are able to make a difference in their own lives or the lives of the people around them. The challenges might include something large like putting an end to bullying in schools or leading a movement to make a new law. Challenges could be on a smaller scale like helping a friend when he or she needs it, or finding inner strength during a challenging time to keep moving forward. Pay close attention to the characters' traits, and reflect on what traits you bring with you as you enter the next grade level in school.

**Your Assignment:** Write a letter that introduces yourself to your new Language & Literature teacher. In this letter, you must explain how this idea of “the power of one” connects to one of the books you have read.

**Be sure to include:**

- how a character from one of your books had a positive impact on their world
- specific character traits you bring to the class
- how those traits are similar or different from the characters in your book

\*Your letter may be typed or handwritten, and it will be collected by your teacher on the first day of school.

**Please note:**

If you lose this packet, the assignment can be found on each of the school websites for download.

RUBRIC		<i>Sophisticated Scholar</i> - 2.5 points	
<b>Content:</b> Reading & Theme Connection  _____ / 2.5 points	<input type="checkbox"/>	The writer includes <b>explicit details</b> from the text to <b>thoroughly explain</b> how a character positively impacted his or her world	
<b>Content:</b> Character Traits  _____ / 5 points	<input type="checkbox"/>	The writer includes <b>at least three</b> specific, self-identified character traits, as well as a <b>thoughtful explanation</b> for how those traits will positively impact the classroom	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	provides a <b>detailed analysis</b> of specific traits in order to <b>compare and/or contrast</b> him or herself to the character(s) in the text	
<b>Format:</b> Letter  _____ / 2.5 points	<input type="checkbox"/>	The writer maintains the <b>structure of a letter</b> as noted in the formatting guide	
<b>Publishing:</b> Conventions  _____ / 2.5 points	<input type="checkbox"/>	The letter contains <b>minor spelling or grammar errors</b> that do not take away from the meaning	



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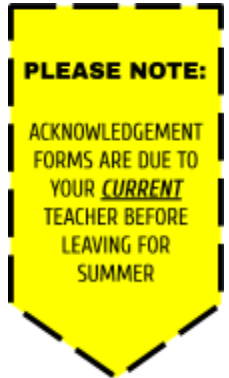


## PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

One book my student, \_\_\_\_\_, has selected to read for summer reading off the assigned list is  
(child's name)

\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Title) (Author)

Whether visiting a local library, borrowing from a friend, or purchasing, I understand that is my responsibility to help my child locate this book in order to complete the assignment. Additionally, I agree to discuss, with my student, the books read this summer and utilize the discussion questions provided as needed.



SIGN HERE PLEASE!



\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I understand the Middle School Summer Reading Challenge, and I know that on the first day of school I must bring:

1. my completed reading challenge chart
2. my letter to my future teacher
3. one of the books I read this summer

SIGN HERE PLEASE!



\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Middle School Summer Reading List

The list below provides a variety of choices based on interest, genre, and level of difficulty. However, students may read *any* age appropriate book, even if it's not on this list.



Books selected for this list include titles for all three grade levels.

Please refer to the following websites if you would like specific information on any of the titles or to determine whether or not a book on the list is suitable for your child.

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents>

<http://www.amazon.com/books-used-books-textbooks/b?ie=UTF8&node=283155>

<http://ratedreads.com/about-rated-reads-book-reviews/>

## Possible Discussion Questions to Ask Your Student Reader:

1. How is a character in your book making a positive impact on his or her world?
2. Which of *your* character traits will you explain to your new Language & Literature teacher?
3. How are *your* character traits similar to or different from the main character?

\*\*\* = Award winner (RR) = Recommended for Reluctant Readers

Realistic Fiction		Mystery / Thriller		Science Fiction	
***	<i>Stargirl</i> (590L) or <i>Loser</i> (710L) by Jerry Spinelli	***	<i>Three Times Lucky</i> (560L) by Sheila Turnage	***	<i>Incarceron</i> (600L) by Catherine Fisher
(RR)	<i>Dork Diaries</i> series by Rachel Renee Russell (650L-890L)	***	<i>And Then There Were None</i> (570L) by Agatha Christie	***	<i>Gone</i> (620L) by Michael Grant
***	<i>Rules</i> (670L) by Cynthia Lord	***	<i>The House of the Scorpion</i> (660L) by Nancy Farmer	(RR)	<i>I Am Number Four</i> (700L) series by Pittacus Lore
(RR)	<i>Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life</i> (700L) series by James Patterson	(RR)	<i>Alex Rider</i> series by Anthony Horowitz (670L-780L)	(RR)	<i>Maximum Ride</i> (700L) series by James Patterson
***	<i>The Thing About Jellyfish</i> (740L) by Ali Benjamin	***	<i>It Wasn't Me</i> (740L) by Dana Alison Levy	***	<i>The Last Book in the Universe</i> (740L) by W.R. Philbrick
***	<i>Schooled</i> (740L) by Gordon Korman	(RR)	<i>Unwind</i> series by Neal Shusterman (740L-860L)	***	<i>Ender's Game</i> (780L) series by Orson Scott Card
***	<i>Counting by 7's</i> (770L) by Holly Goldberg Sloan	(RR)	<i>The Westing Game</i> (750L) by Ellen Raskin	(RR)	<i>Illuminae</i> (780L) by Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff
***	<i>Notes From the Midnight Driver</i> (850L) by Jordan Sonnenblick	***	<i>The Graveyard</i> (820L) by Neil Gaiman	***	<i>Cinder</i> (790L) series by Marissa Meyer

Dystopian Fiction		Historical Fiction		Fantasy	
***	<i>Matched</i> (680L) series by Allie Condie	***	<i>Milkweed</i> (510L) by Jerry Spinelli	***	<i>The Lightning Thief</i> (680L) series by Rick Riordan
***	<i>The City of Ember</i> (680L) series by Jeanne DuPrau	***	<i>Fever, 1793</i> (580L) by Laurie Halse Anderson	(RR)	<i>Gregor the Overlander</i> (690L) series by Suzanne Collins
***	<i>Ship Breaker</i> (690L) by Paolo Bacigalupi	***	<i>Number the Stars</i> (670L) by Lois Lowry	***	<i>Red Queen</i> series by Victoria Aveyard (700-770L)
***	<i>Divergent</i> (700L) series by Veronica Roth	***	<i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i> (730L) by Jane Yolen	***	<i>Throne of Glass</i> series by Sarah Maas (750-910L)
(RR)	<i>The Maze Runner</i> (770L) series by James Dashner	***	<i>One Crazy Summer</i> (750L) by Rita Williams-Garcia	(RR)	<i>Ranger's Apprentice</i> series by John Flanagan (780-950L)
(RR)	<i>Among the Hidden</i> (800L) series by Margaret Peterson	***	<i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> (800L) by Thanhha Lai	***	<i>The Scorpio Races</i> (840L) by Maggie Stiefvater
(RR)	<i>The Hunger Games</i> (810L) series by Suzanne Collins	***	<i>Dead End in Norvelt</i> (920L) series by Jack Gantos	***	<i>Harry Potter</i> series by J.K. Rowling (880-950L)
Sports Fiction		Graphic Novels		Non-Fiction	
***	<i>The Contender</i> (690L) by Robert Lipsyte	(RR)	<i>Drama</i> (GN 320L) series by Raina Telgemeier	(RR)	<i>A Child Called It</i> (850L) by David Pelzer
***	<i>Kick</i> (710L) by Walter Dean Myers	(RR)	<i>Bone</i> series by Jeff Smith (GN 330-430L)	(RR)	<i>Bad Boy: a memoir</i> (970L) by Walter Dean Myers
(RR)	<i>Ghost</i> (730L) series by Jason Reynolds	(RR)	<i>The Dumbest Idea Ever</i> (GN 330L) by Jimmy Gownley	***	<i>Outcasts United: The story of a refugee soccer team that changed a town</i> (980L) by Warren St. John
(RR)	<i>Crossover</i> (750L) by Kwame Alexander	***	<i>Nimona</i> (GN 350L) by Noelle Stevenson	(RR)	<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i> (980L) by James L. Swanson
(RR)	<i>Slam</i> (750L) by Walter Dean Myers	***	<i>El Deafo</i> (420L) by Cece Bell	***	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> (990L) by Jacqueline Woodson
***	<i>Baseball Genius</i> (750L) by Tim Green & Derek Jeter	***	<i>Roller Girl</i> (GN 440L) by Victoria Jamieson	(RR)	<i>Into Thin Air</i> (1320L) by Jon Krakauer
(RR)	<i>The Underdogs</i> (840L) or <i>Shootout</i> (920L) by Mike Lupica	(RR)	<i>American Born Chinese</i> (GN 530L) by Gene Luen Yang	(RR)	<i>The 57 Bus</i> (930L) by Dashka Slater

## Middle School Reading Challenge:

HOW MUCH WILL YOU READ THIS SUMMER?

*I pledge to read THREE + \_\_\_\_\_ books this summer!*

