Hello Incoming 8th Graders,

As the school draws to an end, the English Language Arts (ELA) department has exciting news to share with you about summer. We are continuing the “Cougars & the Community Read” summer reading initiative! This summer, we are expecting you to read at least ONE book of your choice and complete an assignment based on this book. We want you to read, read, read and want each of you to have access to books. The Cougars & the Community read initiative is providing students books, read below to see how.

Want Free Books? To help you get your hands on some good books, you are receiving a $15 coupon to use at the local, independently owned Firefly Bookstore located on Main Street in Kutztown. You can purchase any middle grade leveled genre book or above that you would like to read. So think about those books you have been wanting to read and just haven’t had the time or money. Use the $15 coupon towards purchasing books. Go to the Firefly Bookstore website for details, and use the coupon code KASDgrade8 at check-out. There is no limit on the number of books you purchase, but there will be no credit or cash remaining after a single use on qualifying purchases that come to less than $15 total. Shipping is FREE in Berks County. Expires 09/30/2021. Additionally, Firefly Bookstore is offering students 25% off select book purchases on their website. (Coupon code cannot be used in combination with other coupons or offers.) One coupon per customer. Use coupon code: FIREFLYREADING when checking out.

Like Prizes? Take part in Firefly’s Summer Reading Challenge (details coming soon) and the Kutztown Community Library’s summer reading program.

Share your Thoughts: Complete the assignment attached and bring along to the first day of school. Your ELA teachers are anxious to see which book you read and to hear your thoughts about this book.

Not Sure What to Read? If you’re not sure what book(s) to read, some teachers have suggested a few books for you. Check out the Teacher Recommendations page on our KASD Summer Reading webpage or the Firefly Bookstore website.

Any questions feel free to contact, Dr. Diane Quinn at dquinn@kasd.org, KASD Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development. We hope you have a wonderful summer enjoying your own books you selected to read.

Sincerely,
The Middle School English Language Arts department
Self-selected choice summer reading
8th grade assignment

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following questions about the book you selected to read. Handwrite or type your thoughts. Handwritten responses must be in pen and legible. Make a copy of this Google doc, type your answers to these questions, then share the Google doc with Mrs. Haring at kharig@kasd.org.

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Summer Reading **FICTION** assignment

Book Title:  
Author:  
Genre:  
# of pages: 

1. Why did you select this book to read?  
2. Have you read any other books by this author? If yes, list the book titles.  
3. Explain the title of the book. What is its significance?  
4. What surprised you about this book?  
5. Summarize the book in at least five sentences. (include the conflict and how it is resolved)  
6. Explain what you like or dislike about the book.  
7. What did you learn about yourself or the world after reading this book?  
8. Explain why or why you wouldn't recommend this book to your friends.

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Summer Reading **NONFICTION** assignment

Book Title:  
Author:  
# of pages: 

1. Why did you select this book to read?  
2. Have you read any other books about this topic? If yes, list the book titles.  
3. Explain the title of the book. What is its significance?  
4. What surprised you about this book?  
5. Summarize the book in at least five sentences. (include the conflict and how it is resolved)  
6. Explain what you like or dislike about the book.  
7. What did you learn about yourself or the world after reading this book?  
8. Explain why or why you wouldn't recommend this book to your friends.

Not sure what book to select? Check out the lists below:
Mrs. Haring's recommendations

1. Projekt 1065 by Alan Gratz
2. Notes from the Midnight Driver by Jordan Sonnenblick
3. The Benefits of Being an Octopus by Ann Braden
4. Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

Mrs. Chester's recommendations

1. Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo
2. The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
3. The Sun Is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon
4. Lies You Never Told Me by Jennifer Donaldson

Mrs. Fricke's recommendations

1. Jackpot by Nic Stone
2. A Long way Down by Jason Reynolds
3. Miles Morales: Spiderman by Jason Reynolds
4. A Thousand Sisters by Elizabeth Wein

If you have any questions or concerns: contact either Mrs. Haring kharing@kasd.org
Mrs. Chester mchester@kasd.org, Mrs. Fricke kfricke@kasd.org