



## Woodland Middle School Summer Reading Assignment 2021

**Due Date: Friday, August 27th**

Reading is a very important part of your academic experience, and our goal at WMS is to continue to encourage lifelong learning through reading. Summer is a great time to explore new books or read those that you never had time for during the busy school year. During the summer of 2021, it is highly recommended that all students participate in the summer reading assignment. You are encouraged to select book titles as close as possible to your Lexile; however, you are not limited to books within your Lexile range. Spring 2021 Lexiles can be found in Infinite Campus under *Assessments*. Although a list of suggested books are below, you may also choose to explore any book. While some suggested titles can be accessed through Sora (using your Launchpad app), you may choose to access books through your local public library or bookstores.

After reading your selected book, you will choose **one** of the following engagement tasks to complete and turn in to your 2021-2022 Language Arts teacher by **Friday, August 27, 2021**. This will count as a grade in the first 4 ½ week grading period. Grading category is at teacher discretion. Students who submit the reading assignment before the deadline will be rewarded 50 Dojo points for being responsible.

Contact Ms. Gaynor, ELA Department Chair at [latrica.gaynor@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:latrica.gaynor@henry.k12.ga.us) with any questions.

### Engagement Tasks

Engagement Task #1	Engagement Task #2	Engagement Task #3
Develop a timeline or plot diagram of major events in the story. You may use any platform (ex. Google Slides, Prezi, Powerpoint, etc.) or you may create your timeline on paper/poster. Each plot element should be labeled on your diagram or slides. You may use the link below or create your own: <a href="https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1TD8LawBOXKwMPxNtNnN2QPQkObvduA1ZSbQd72YVVg8/copy">https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1TD8LawBOXKwMPxNtNnN2QPQkObvduA1ZSbQd72YVVg8/copy</a>	Write a blog post about how you connect to any aspect of your book (characters, setting, theme). You can also include information about how aspects of your selected book relate to the world (current events). Your post should be written in first person point of view and should reference at least two characters from the novel. Responses should be no less than 300 words.	Create a digital or paper character analysis poster using the main character of your book. Your analysis should include 3-5 character traits with a brief explanation for each trait. (2-3 sentences each). Include 2-3 symbols (drawn or digital) to represent the character, as well as a brief explanation for each symbol. Lastly, write a 5-7 sentence paragraph explaining how the character changes from the beginning to the end of the story. Be sure to include textual evidence.

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SUGGESTED BOOK TITLES**

### Suggested Book Titles

Title	Description	Lexile
<i>Finding Aubrey</i> by Sophie Kinsella	An anxiety disorder disrupts fourteen-year-old Audrey's daily life. She has been making slow but steady progress with Dr. Sarah, but when Audrey meets Linus, her brother's gaming teammate, she is energized. She connects with him. Audrey can talk through her fears with Linus in a way she's never been able to do with anyone before. As their friendship deepens and her recovery gains momentum, a sweet romantic connection develops, one that helps not just Audrey but also her entire family.	540L
<i>Wink</i> by Rob Harrell <b>*2021-22 Reading Bowl Book</b>	<p>Ross Maloy just wants to be a normal seventh grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to "the cancer kid." But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table.</p> <p>Based on Rob Harrell's real life experience, and packed with comic panels and spot art, this incredibly personal and poignant novel is an unforgettable, heartbreaking, hilarious, and uplifting story of survival and finding the music, magic, and laughter in life's weirdness.</p>	580L
<i>Tight</i> by Torrey Maldonado	Lately Bryan's been feeling it in all kinds of ways. He knows what's tight for him in a good way—reading comics, drawing superheroes, and hanging out with no drama. But drama has a way of finding Bryan, and these days that gets him wound up seriously tight. Now, Bryan's new friend Mike is challenging him to have fun in ways that are crazy risky. Bryan never feels right when he's acting wrong. Fortunately, his favorite comic-book heroes shed light on his dilemma, reminding him that he has power—the power to choose his actions...and his friends...and do the right thing.	600L
<i>Stand Up, Yumi Chung!</i> by Jessica Kim <b>*2021-22 Reading Bowl Book</b>	<p>On the outside, Yumi Chung suffers from #shygirlproblems, a perm-gone-wrong, and kids calling her "Yu-MEAT" because she smells like her family's Korean barbecue restaurant. On the inside, Yumi is ready for her Netflix stand-up special. Her notebook is filled with mortifying memories that she's reworked into comedy gold. All she needs is a stage and courage.</p> <p>Instead of spending the summer studying her favorite YouTube comedians, Yumi is enrolled in test-prep tutoring to qualify for a private school scholarship, which will help in a time of hardship at the restaurant. One day after class, Yumi stumbles on an opportunity that will change her life: a comedy camp for kids taught by one of her favorite YouTube stars. The only problem is that the instructor and all the students think she's a girl named Kay Nakamura--and Yumi doesn't correct them.</p>	620L

<p><i>Blended</i> by Sharon Draper</p>	<p>Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week. Because of this, Isabella has always felt pulled between two worlds. She is beginning to realize that being split between Mom and Dad is more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities. It seems like nothing can bring Isabella's family together again—until the worst happens.</p>	<p>630L</p>
<p><i>Gathering Blue</i> by Lois Lowry</p>	<p><i>Gathering Blue</i> is the second book in the <i>Giver</i> Quartet which tells the story of Kira, orphaned, physically flawed, and left with an uncertain future, and challenges readers to imagine what our world could become, how people could evolve, and what could be considered valuable.</p>	<p>680L</p>
<p><i>The Breadwinner</i> by Deborah Ellis</p>	<p>Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city. Parvana's father — a history teacher until his school was bombed and his health destroyed — works from a blanket on the ground in the marketplace, reading letters for people who cannot read or write. One day, he is arrested for the crime of having a foreign education, and the family is left without someone who can earn money or even shop for food. As conditions for the family grow desperate, only one solution emerges. Forbidden to earn money as a girl, Parvana must transform herself into a boy, and become the breadwinner.</p>	<p>710L</p>
<p><i>Efren Divided</i> by Ernesto Cisneros</p> <p><b>*2021-22 Reading Bowl Book</b></p>	<p>An intimate, personal look at the way immigration policies affect one southern California family. When ICE deport's Efren's mother, he must grow up too quickly and learn to navigate a world without her. Heartbreaking and hopeful all at the same time, this is a powerful debut that should be on everyone's reading lists.</p>	<p>710L</p>
<p><i>The Wild Robot</i> by Peter Brown</p>	<p>Can a robot survive in the wilderness? When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.</p>	<p>730L</p>
<p><i>The Canyon's Edge</i> by Dusti Bowling</p> <p><b>*2021-22 Reading</b></p>	<p>One year after a random shooting changed their family forever, Nora and her father are exploring a slot canyon deep in the Arizona desert, hoping it will help them find peace. Nora longs for things to go back to normal, like</p>	<p>750L</p>

<p><b>Bowl Book</b></p>	<p>they were when her mother was still alive, while her father keeps them isolated in fear of other people. But when they reach the bottom of the canyon, the unthinkable happens: A flash flood rips across their path, sweeping away Nora's father and all of their supplies.</p> <p>Suddenly, Nora finds herself lost and alone in the desert, facing dehydration, venomous scorpions, deadly snakes, and, worst of all, the Beast who has terrorized her dreams for the past year. If Nora is going to save herself and her father, she must conquer her fears, defeat the Beast, and find the courage to live her new life.</p>	
<p><i>The Seventh Most Important Thing</i> by Shelley Pearsall</p>	<p>Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge—he is ready to send Arthur to juvie forever. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him. Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart and a list of the Seven Most Important Things: glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, lightbulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. He can't believe it—is he really supposed to rummage through people's trash? But it isn't long before Arthur realizes there's more to the Junk Man than meets the eye, and the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine. . . .</p>	<p>760L</p>
<p><i>Full Cicada Moon</i> by Marilyn Hilton</p>	<p>It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is getting ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont town is enough to make her feel alien. Suddenly, Mimi's appearance is all anyone notices. She struggles to fit in with her classmates, even as she fights for her right to stand out by entering science competitions and joining Shop Class instead of Home Ec. And even though teachers and neighbors balk at her mixed-race family and her refusals to conform, Mimi's dreams of becoming an astronaut never fade—no matter how many times she's told no.</p>	<p>790L</p>
<p><i>The Benefits of Being An Octopus</i> by Ann Braden</p> <p><b>*2021-22 Reading Bowl Book</b></p>	<p>Seventh-grader Zoey has her hands full as she takes care of her much younger siblings after school every day while her mom works her shift at the pizza parlor. Not that her mom seems to appreciate it. At least there's Lenny, her mom's boyfriend—they all get to live in his nice, clean trailer. This moving debut novel explores the cultural divides around class and the gun debate through the eyes of one girl, living on the edges of society, trying to find her way forward.</p>	<p>770L</p>
<p><i>Maniac Magee</i> by</p>	<p>Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal</p>	

Jerry Spinelli	life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.	820L
<i>American as Paneer Pie</i> by Supriya Keklar <b>*2021-22 Reading Bowl Book</b>	An Indian American girl navigates prejudice in her small town and learns the power of her own voice in this brilliant gem of a middle grade novel full of humor and heart, perfect for fans of <i>Front Desk</i> and <i>Amina's Voice</i> .	840L
<i>Black Brother, Black Brother</i> by Julia Alvarez <b>*2021-22 Reading Bowl Book</b>	After unnecessary escalation by school administration, Donte, who is Black, finds himself in the back of a cop car and suspended from school. His white-passing brother, Trey, doesn't understand why people treat Donte differently, but both find ways forward from an unlikely place. Complex and raw, this book challenged me in the best way and showed me a new perspective on racial injustice. Perfect for kids not quite ready for <i>The Hate U Give</i> .	890L
<i>Return to Sender</i> by Julia Alvarez	After Tyler's father is injured in a tractor accident, his family is forced to hire migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure. Tyler isn't sure what to make of them.	890L
<i>Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam</i> by Elizabeth Partridge	It's the personal stories of eight people—six American soldiers, one American military nurse, and one Vietnamese refugee—that create the heartbeat of <i>Boots on the Ground</i> . From dense jungles and terrifying firefights to chaotic helicopter rescues and harrowing escapes, each individual experience reveals a different facet of the war and moves us forward in time. Alternating with these chapters are profiles of key American leaders and events, reminding us of all that was happening at home during the war, including peace protests, presidential scandals, and veterans' struggles to acclimate to life after Vietnam.	960L
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson	In vivid poems, Jacqueline Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories	990L

	inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.	
<i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> by John Boyne	Berlin, 1942: When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.	1000L
<i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You</i> by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi <b>*2021-22 Reading Bowl Book</b>	The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning <i>Stamped from the Beginning</i> reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited.  Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas—and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.	1000L
<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School</i> by Jeff Kinney	Life was better in the old days. Or was it? That's the question Greg Heffley is asking as his town voluntarily unplugs and goes electronics-free. But modern life has its conveniences, and Greg isn't cut out for an old-fashioned world. With tension building inside and outside the Heffley home, will Greg find a way to survive? Or is going "old school" just too hard for a kid like Greg?	1020L
<i>The Ickabog</i> by J.K. Rowling	Once upon a time there was a tiny kingdom called Cornucopia, as rich in happiness as it was in gold, and famous for its food. From the delicate cream cheeses of Kurdsburg to the Hopes-of-Heaven pastries of Chouxville, each was so delicious that people wept with joy as they ate them.	1090L
<i>The Beekeeper's</i>	What would happen if Sherlock Holmes, a perfect man of	

<p><i>Apprentice</i> by Laurie King</p>	<p>the Victorian age-pompous, smug, and misogynistic-were to come face to face with a twentieth-century female? If she grew to be a partner worthy of his great talents? Laurie R. King, whose very different first novel, <i>A Grave Talent</i> (SMP, 1993), drew rave reviews, read the Conan Doyle stories and wondered about such an imaginary encounter. And following through, she has written <i>The Beekeeper's Apprentice</i>. 1914, a young woman named Mary Russell meets a retired beekeeper on the Sussex Downs. His 1100 Fiction name is Sherlock Holmes. And although he may have all the Victorian "flaws" listed above, the Great Detective is no fool, and can spot a fellow intellect even in a fifteen-year-old woman. So, at first informally, then consciously, he takes Mary Russell as his apprentice</p>	<p>1100L</p>
<p><i>The Winter Room</i> by Gary Paulsen</p>	<p>The winter room is where Eldon, his brother Wayne, old Uncle David, and the rest of the family gather on icy cold nights, sitting in front of the stove. There the boys listen eagerly to all of Uncle David's tales of superheroes. Then one night Uncle David tells the story, "The Woodcutter," and what happens next is terrible--then wonderful.</p>	<p>1170L</p>
<p><i>Fighting Words</i> by Kimberly Bradley</p> <p><b>*2021-22 Reading Bowl Book</b></p>	<p>Ten-year-old Della has always had her older sister, Suki: When their mom went to prison, Della had Suki. When their mom's boyfriend took them in, Della had Suki. When that same boyfriend did something so awful they had to run <i>fast</i>, Della had Suki. Suki is Della's own wolf -- her protector. But who has been protecting Suki? Della might get told off for swearing at school, but she has always known how to keep quiet where it counts. Then Suki tries to kill herself, and Della's world turns so far upside down, it feels like it's shaking her by the ankles. Maybe she's been quiet about the wrong things. Maybe it's time to be loud.</p> <p>In this powerful novel that explodes the stigma around child sexual abuse and leavens an intense tale with compassion and humor, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley tells a story about two sisters, linked by love and trauma, who must find their own voices before they can find their way back to each other.</p>	<p><i>Lexile not yet available</i></p>
<p><i>Dress Coded</i> by Carrie Firestone</p> <p><b>*2021-22 Reading Bowl Book</b></p>	<p>In this debut middle-grade girl-power friendship story, perfect for fans of <i>Moxie</i>, an eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.</p>	<p><i>Lexile not yet available</i></p>