

SMS 2018 Grade 7 Summer Reading: Ms. Oliva

Required Book: Richter, Conrad. ***THE LIGHT IN THE FOREST*** - When John Cameron Butler was a child, he was captured in a raid on the Pennsylvania frontier and adopted by the great warrior Cuyloga. Renamed True Son, he came to think of himself as fully Indian. But eleven years later his tribe, the Lenni Lenape, has signed a treaty with the white men and agreed to return their captives, including fifteen-year-old True Son. Now he must go back to the family he has forgotten, whose language is no longer his, and whose ways of dress and behavior are as strange to him as the ways of the forest are to them. A beautifully written, sensitively told story of a white boy brought up by Indians, *The Light in the Forest* is a beloved American classic.

Choose **ONE** of the following books and complete the assignment that follows for both:

1. Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***The Running Dream***

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she's both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say act like she's not there. Jessica's embarrassed to realize that she's done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her.

2. Sonnenblick, Jordan. ***Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip***

There's nothing All Star pitcher Peter Friedman loves more than baseball. He breathes it, dreams it, and works his tail off to be great. Most kids are nervous about starting high school, but when you're the star athlete, girls, popularity, and all-around stud status are sure to follow. Then a pitching accident over the summer ruins Pete's arm. If he can't play baseball in high school, what is he supposed to do? If he isn't the star pitcher, then who is he? To make matters more complicated, there's something going on with Pete's grandpa -- he's acting weird and keeps forgetting important things. The only person Pete can confide in is Angelika, the amazingly cute girl in his photography class who might like Pete as much as he likes her . . . Only, Angie doesn't know if she can date someone who can't be honest with himself, or with the people he's closest to.

3. Smith, Roland. ***Peak***

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. *Big* strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit--and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.

1. Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolute Diary of a Part Time Indian*

Junior is a budding cartoonist growing upon the Spokane Indian reservation. Born with a variety of medical problems, he is picked on by everyone but his best friend. Determined to receive a good education, Junior leaves the rez to attend an all-white school in the neighboring farm town where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Despite being condemned as a traitor to his people and enduring great tragedies, Junior attacks life with wit and humor and discovers a strength inside of himself that he never knew existed.

1. Afrenmow, Jim. *The Champion's Mind: How Great Athletes Think, Train, and Thrive*

Even among the most elite performers, certain athletes stand out as a cut above the rest, able to outperform in clutch, game-deciding moments. These athletes prove that raw athletic ability doesn't necessarily translate to a superior on-field experience-it's mental game that matters most.

Assignment for Both *The Light in the Forest* and Your One Choice Book

To be graded. Please proofread and hand in your best work.

In a typed document with your name and date, please include the following:

1. In 200 words, write a brief summary of the plot, including the beginning, middle and end. In your opening sentence, include title (underlined or italicized) author, and genre (realistic fiction, dystopian, fantasy, nonfiction, historical fiction, etc.).
2. In a paragraph, write about the significance of title. Authors rarely choose a random title. Dig for symbolic meaning. The title may be a metaphor, or it may relate to one specific incident in the book. In any case, consider carefully the significance of the title and explain your thinking.
3. Write a list of three main characters, and include two adjectives to describe each. Describe your impression of the character. Make sure your topic sentence expresses your impression of the character. Quote word for word using quotation marks and include the page number of two text examples that support your impressions for each.
4. Quote word for word using quotation marks and include the page number of a certain passage from the book that you think is important or worth rereading. Maybe it explains something about the character, or it describes a very special event, or perhaps, it holds a certain resonance or connection with you, the reader. You must explain why you chose this passage. Dig deep for a connection.
5. To highlight the significance of this book, write a 5-8 sentence response to each of the following:
 - a. What life lessons have you learned or have been reinforced from reading this book?
 - b. What did you like and dislike the most from this book? Explain using details and examples from the book