

You will read two books over the summer and complete two written assignments. (SEE LAST PAGE FOR ASSIGNMENT FOR BOTH BOOKS.)

1. Required Book:

- Mikaelson, Ben. ***TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR*** – Realistic Fiction – Cole Matthews is angry. Angry, defiant, smug – in short, a bully. His anger has taken him too far this time, though. After beating up a ninth-grade classmate to the point of brain damage, Cole is facing a prison sentence. However, then a Tlingit Indian parole officer named Garvey enters his life, offering an alternative called Circle Justice, based on Native American traditions, in which victim, offender, and community all work together to find a healing solution.

2. Choose **ONE** of the following books (or choose your own fiction book approved by me), and complete the assignment that follows for both:

- Lockhart, E. ***We Were Liars***

An Amazon Best Young Adult Book of the Month, May 2014: E. Lockhart's novel, *We Were Liars*, is clever, alluring, and wildly addictive. Each summer the wealthy, seemingly perfect, members of the Sinclair family gather on their private island. *We Were Liars* is the story of those annual reunions; in particular what happened during a summer that protagonist Cadence is unable to remember. Prejudice, greed, and shifting patriarchal favoritism among the three adult sisters contrasts with the camaraderie and worldview of the teenage cousins and their dear friend Gat. Lazy days of sticky lemonades on the roof and marathon Scrabble games give way to twisty suspense, true love, and good intentions gone horribly wrong. *We Were Liars* is a story that begs to be read in one sitting. --*Seira Wilson*

- Pearson, Mary E. ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***

From School Library Journal --Seventeen-year-old Jenna Fox awakens after more than a year in a coma to find herself in a life—and a body—that she doesn't quite recognize. Her parents tell her that she's been in an accident, but much of her past identity and current situation remain a mystery to her: Why has her family abruptly moved from Boston to California, leaving all of her personal belongings behind? Why does her grandmother react to her with such antipathy? Why have her parents instructed her to make sure not to tell anyone about the circumstances of their move? And why can Jenna recite whole passages of Thoreau's *Walden* but remember next to nothing of her own past? As she watches family videos of her childhood, strange memories begin to surface, and she slowly realizes that a terrible secret is being kept from her.

- Doctorow, Cory. ***Little Brother***

Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is

released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right. -- Amazon

From School Library Journal -- Doctorow rapidly confronts issues, from civil liberties to cryptology to social justice. While his political bias is obvious, he does try to depict opposing viewpoints fairly. Those who have embraced the legislative developments since 9/11 may be horrified by his harsh take on Homeland Security, Guantánamo Bay, and the PATRIOT Act. Politics aside, Marcus is a wonderfully developed character: hyperaware of his surroundings, trying to redress past wrongs, and rebelling against authority. Teen espionage fans will appreciate the numerous gadgets made from everyday materials.

- Halse Anderson, Laurie. ***Speak***

"Speak up for yourself--we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication. In Laurie Halse Anderson's powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. She speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while demonstrating the importance of speaking up for oneself. – Amazon

- Almond, David. ***The True Tale of the Monster Billy Dean as Telt by Hisself***

Billy Dean is a secret child, growing up in the dark heart of Blinkbonny. He has a beautiful young mother and a father who arrives at night carrying the smell of incense and cigarettes. His world is just a bed, some pictures of the holy island and a single locked door, but his father fills his dreams with mysterious tales and dreadful warnings. When his father disappears, Billy's mum brings him out into the world, and he learns the dreadful truth of what happened in Blinkbonny on the day he was born. Gradually he finds he has the gift of helping to rebuild what has been broken. But there is one figure who is beyond healing, who comes looking for Billy himself and is determined on a kind of reckoning. - Amazon

- Block, Francesca Lia. ***Love in the Time of Global Warming***

School Library Journal

The earth shakes, a wall of water comes, and everyone Penelope loves disappears, leaving her alone. She can see nothing but ruins around her pink house by the sea in Los Angeles. Her family was swept away by the water. Her father had warned of

impending danger, and though her mother thought he was paranoid, his emergency provisions keep Pen alive. Weeks later, men break into her house, but Pen escapes with their van. She sets off on an Odyssey-like journey in search of her family. On the way, she encounters giants, sirens, a witch, a girl who may be magical, and companions to aid her in her quest. Through flashbacks, she reveals that she had been struggling with feelings for one of her closest girlfriends. Now, as she, Hex, Ez, and Ash speed toward Las Vegas, Pen finds strength she's never known and love she didn't expect. Pen is a thoughtful character who develops at a reasonable pace. Her flashbacks reveal a close family, good friends, and love for her younger brother. The dreamlike quality of the writing, typical of the author's works, functions well with the fantastical elements of the story, which is solid and dense in its descriptions. This is an excellent title for students who have read Homer's Odyssey as well as readers who enjoy a mix of fantasy and reality.—Kelly Jo Lasher, Middle Township High School, Cape May Court House, NJ

- Smith, Andrew. ***Winger***

School Library Journal

Ryan Dean West is the smartest student in the junior class at Pine Mountain boarding school, a starter on the rugby team, and two years younger than the rest of his classmates. He is also hopelessly in love with his best friend, Annie, who sees him as just a little kid. When Ryan Dean moves into Opportunity Hall, the dorm for misbehaving students (owing to an illegal cell phone encounter the previous year), he finds himself at odds with his roommate, the meanest member of their rugby team. Mark Boyett does a wonderful job narrating, especially Ryan Dean's voice, which reveals his wild imagination, full-blown adolescent hormones, and self-deprecating humor. Other characters' voices are equally believable. Friend Seanny is rendered with a deadpan monotone, while Screaming Ned, an old man the boys offer a ride to, is cantankerous, confused, and done with a high-pitched, scratchy cackle. Ryan Dean's cartoons, doodles, and charts, which add such charm to the print version, are described so that the listener doesn't miss anything. The resulting audiobook is laugh-out-loud-funny at times and heartbreakingly serious at others. This is a terrific recording of an unforgettable book.—Julie Paladino, East Chapel Hill High School, Chapel Hill, NC

- Cline, Ernest. ***Ready Player One***.

In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS, but when Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday he finds he must compete with thousands of others--including those willing to commit murder--in order to claim a prize of massive fortune. – Green Mountain Book Award

- Cronn-Mills, Kirstin. ***Beautiful Music for Ugly Children***.

Gabe has always identified as a boy, but he was born with a girl's body. With his new public access radio show gaining in popularity, Gabe struggles with romance, friendships, and parents--all while trying to come out as transgendered. An audition for

a station in Minneapolis looks like his ticket to a better life in the big city. But his entire future is threatened when several violent guys find out Gabe, the popular DJ, is also Elizabeth from school. -- Green Mountain Book Award

- **Harden, Blaine. *Escape from Camp 14: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West.***

Chronicles the life of Dong-hyuk Shin, who was raised in a political prison camp in North Korea, and describes the inhuman conditions inside, his harrowing escape from the camp and the country, and his efforts to raise awareness of the camps to others. -- Green Mountain Book Award

- **Kraus, Daniel. *Rotters.***

Sixteen-year-old Joey's life takes a very strange turn when his mother's tragic death forces him to move from Chicago to rural Iowa with the father he has never known, and who is the town pariah. – Green Mountain Book Award

- **LaFevers, Robin. *Grave Mercy.***

Seventeen-year-old Ismae avoids an arranged marriage by making a place for herself at the convent of St. Martin, where she learns of her unique gifts and must determine whether she will be trained as an assassin and serve as a handmaiden to Death. – Green Mountain Book Award

- **Levithan, David. *Every Day.***

Every morning, A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached, until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. – Green Mountain Book Award

- **Martinez, A. Lee. *Emperor Mollusk versus The Sinister Brain.***

Emperor Mollusk, ex-warlord of Earth, comes out of retirement to save the planet from the sinister brain's control. – Green Mountain Book Award

- **McNeil, Gretchen. *Ten.***

Ten teens head to a house party at a remote island mansion off the Washington coast only for them to be picked off by a killer one by one. – Green Mountain Book Award

- **Mignola, Mike. *Joe Golem and the Drowning City.***

In the Drowning City, what Lower Manhattan became after earthquakes and a rising sea level left most of it submerged underwater, fourteen-year-old Molly McHugh's employer, the psychic medium Felix Orlov, is abducted after a seance goes wrong, and Molly befriends Simon Hodge, a Victorian detective who's kept himself alive with magic and steampunk mechanics, and his sidekick, the mysterious Joe Golem. – Green Mountain Book Award

- **Padian, Maria. *Out of Nowhere.***

Performing community service for pulling a stupid prank against a rival high school, soccer star Tom tutors a Somali refugee with soccer dreams of his own. – Green Mountain Book Award

- *Rowell, Rainbow. **Eleanor & Park.***

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. – Green Mountain Book Award

- *Salerni, Dianne K. **The Caged Graves.***

Returning to her hometown of Catawissa, Pennsylvania, in 1867 to marry a man she has never met, seventeen-year-old Verity Boone gets caught up in the mystery surrounding the graves of her mother and aunt and a dangerous hunt for Revolutionary-era gold. – Green Mountain Book Award

- *Wynne-Jones, Tim. **Blink and Caution.***

Blink, hoping to steal some breakfast, is forced to go on the run after stumbling upon the fake kidnapping of a CEO and recovering the man's cell phone, and he meets up with Caution, a girl trying to ditch her drug-dealing boyfriend, who identifies Blink as a mark until he tugs at her heart strings. – Green Mountain Book Award

- *Yancey, Rick. **The 5th Wave.***

Cassie Sullivan, the survivor of an alien invasion, must rescue her young brother from the enemy with help from a boy who may be one of them. – Green Mountain Book Award

Other Possibilities:

More Than This – Ness, Patrick

Looking for Alaska – Greene, John

I Have Lived A Thousand Years – Bitton-Jackson, Livia

The Chocolate War - Cormier, Robert

Inventing Elliot - Gardner, Graham

The Old Man and the Sea - Hemingway, Ernest

October Sky (AKA Rocket Boy) - Hickam, Homer

The Girl with the White Flag - Higa, Tomiko

Across Five Aprils - Hunt, Irene

Kira-Kira - Kadohata, Cynthia

White Fang - London, Jack

Lost in the Barrens - Mowat, Farley

Fallen Angels - Myers, Walter Dean.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn - Smith, Betty

A Geography of Girlhood - Smith, Kristen

Chasing Lincoln's Killer - Swanson, James. L.

The Hobbit - Tolkien, J. R. R.

IF YOU HAVE A FICTION BOOK YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ, EMAIL ME WITH THE TITLE AND AUTHOR.

Assignment for Both *Touching Spirit Bear* 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 paragraph that describes the most important trait (quality) of one of the main characters. Your topic sentence should clearly identify the character, the trait, and why this is the most important character trait. Make sure you use one quote to support your thinking. Cite the page number after the quote in parentheses. Analyze that quote in at least two sentences, which, in this case, means to explain the significance of the character trait to the character and/or the plot. Include a closing sentence that sums up your main point.
4. Write a paragraph explaining an important force that impacts a main character. Make sure you use a quote to support your thinking. Your topic sentence should clearly lay out the force and its impact on the character. Cite the page number after the quote in parentheses. Analyze that quote in at least two sentences, which, in this case, means to explain the significance of the force on the character and/or the plot. Include a closing sentence that sums up your main point.
4. Cite and note 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:

1. What life lessons have you learned or have been reinforced from reading this book?
2. What did you like and dislike the most from this book? Explain using details and examples from the book.