

Dear Families,

Welcome to 8th grade Honors ELA! We hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to meeting you in the fall. We're also excited to announce our summer reading selections for all rising 8th grade Honors ELA students for the summer of 2019. The purpose of summer reading is to encourage our students to read!

Each student enrolled in honors ELA is responsible for choosing ONE book from the following list. For the assignment, students will complete literary analysis questions about their book which will be provided for them with this letter. The assignment, as well as a synopsis of each book will be available on the KMS website, to guide students and families as they choose a book.

1. *The Graveyard Book* By Neil Gaiman
2. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
3. *Legend* by Marie Lu
4. *Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac
5. *The Scorpia Races* by Maggie Stiefvater
6. *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
7. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
8. *The Running Dream* By Wendelin Van Draanen



This assignment can be completed as soon as the student finishes the book. The assignment will be due **Friday, August 16, 2019**, when honors ELA students return to school. The grade from the literary analysis questions will count for 100 points of each student's grade.

The assignment will be posted to the KMS website in late May. Each student is responsible for purchasing the book of their choice or acquiring the book through the local library. If students misplace the assignment provided, they are responsible for downloading the assignment from the KMS website. All summer reading documents will be available to students and families on the KMS website by visiting the "For Families" tab and clicking on "Summer Reading."

Please feel free to contact the school with any questions.
Happy Reading!

8th grade teachers

8th grade Honors ELA Summer Reading Assignment Questions

Literary Analysis Questions- For each question, construct a short response (2-3 sentences) on separate paper. You may type your responses, but it is not required. Answer all parts of the question, use complete sentences, and *always* explain your reasoning.

1. How does the title relate to the book?
2. How believable are the characters? Which character do you identify with? Why?
3. What makes the protagonist sympathetic or unsympathetic?
4. Why do certain characters act the way they act?
5. Are the plot and subplots believable and interesting? What loose ends, if any, did the author leave?
6. How is the book structured? Flashbacks? Multiple points of view? Why do you think the author chose to write the book this way?
7. What types of symbolism do you find in this novel? What do these objects really represent?
8. What themes recur throughout the book? How is the setting of the book important to the development of the theme?

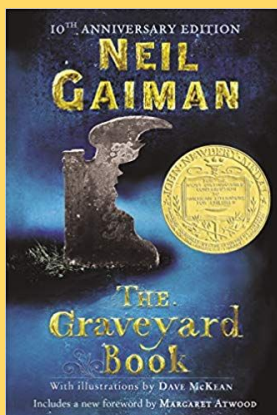
Thinking outside the book

1. Does this book fit into a literary genre? How?
2. Does the book address broader social issues? How is a particular culture or subculture portrayed?
3. Where could the story go after the book ends? What is the future of these characters' lives? What would our lives be like if we lived in this story?
4. How does this book compare to other books you've read? Would it make a good movie?

Summer Reading 2019 Book Summaries

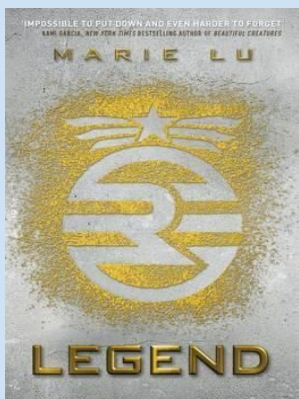
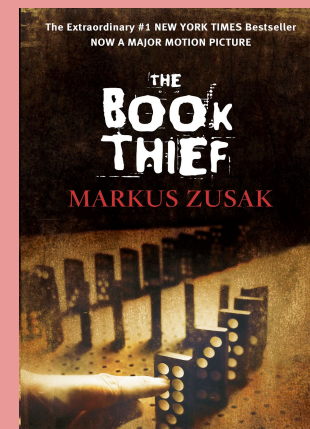
IT TAKES A GRAVEYARD TO RAISE A CHILD.

Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy—an ancient Indigo Man, a gateway to the abandoned city of ghouls, the strange and terrible Sleer. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, he will be in danger from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family.



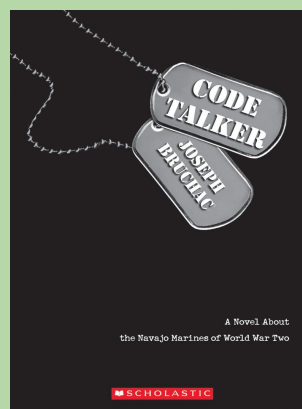
When Death has a story to tell, you listen.

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.



What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem.

From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together.



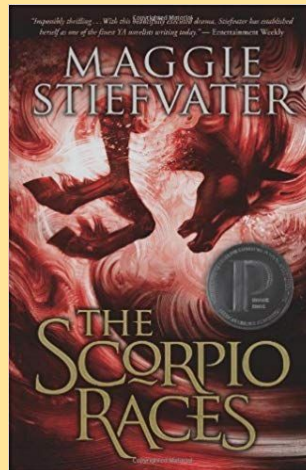
Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old

Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo Indians.

Some race to win. Others race to survive.

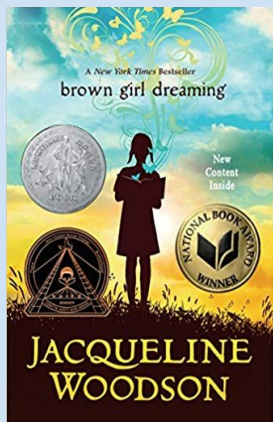
It happens at the start of every November: the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. Some riders live. Others die. At age nineteen, Sean Kendrick is the returning champion. He is a young man of few words, and if he has any fears, he keeps them buried deep, where no one else can see them. Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races. But fate hasn't given her much of a choice. So she enters the competition - the first girl ever to do so.

She is in no way prepared for what is going to happen.



Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city.



Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she 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 inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

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.

