

Summer Reading 2018
Grade 7
Dighton Middle School

Name _____

Why in the World would I want to read in the summer???

- Summer reading keeps our minds active.
- Summer reading helps us to keep our reading skills from declining.
- Summer reading helps to instill a love of reading.
- Summer reading is something the whole family can do together.

The summer reading theme for students entering 7th grade in September 2018 is perseverance. Perseverance is a character trait that is essential to being successful in life. Please select one of the reading books from the attached list, or choose any book with the theme of perseverance, and answer the questions below.

A. Essential questions. (Please answer in complete sentences.)

1. In your own words, please define perseverance.

2. How do you think you have you used perseverance in your life?

3. How have you seen others use perseverance in their lives?

Answer the following questions about the book that you read this summer:

1) Title: _____

Author: _____

2) Main character(s): _____

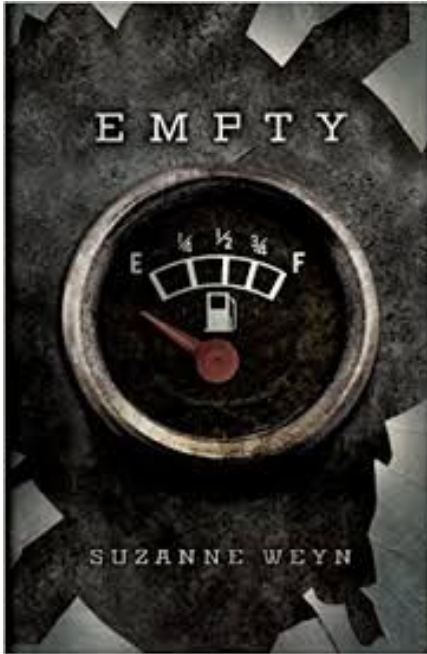
3) How did the character(s) in the story use words and actions to demonstrate perseverance?

4) Briefly summarize the story that you read.

5) Would you recommend that others read this book? Rate this book on a five-star system. For example, one star means that you would not recommend the book to anyone else to read, and five stars means that you would highly recommend that others read this book. Explain why you gave the book this rating.

I give this book ____ stars because _____

Please choose a book from the following list:
(Summaries are copied from Goodreads.)



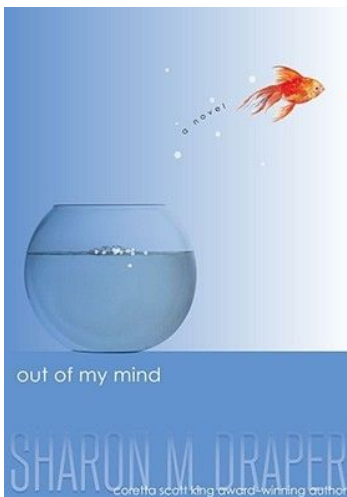
Empty, by Suzanne Weyn

It's the near future - the very near future - and the fossil fuels are running out. No gas. No oil. (Which means no driving.) No heat. Supermarkets are empty. Malls have shut down. Life has just become more difficult than we ever knew it could be. Nobody expected the end to come this fast. And in the small town of Spring Valley, decisions that once seemed easy are quickly becoming a matter of life and death. There is hope - there has to be hope - just as there are also sacrifices that need to be made. Teenagers like Nicki, Tom, and Leila may find what they need to survive, but their lives are never going to be the same again.



Ghost, by Jason Reynolds

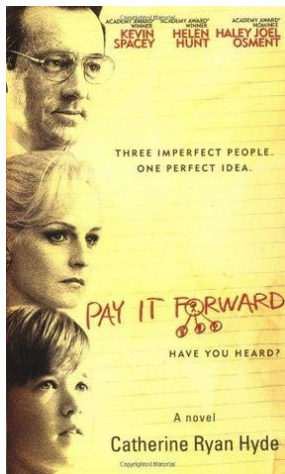
Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?



Out of My Mind, by Sharon M. Draper

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to

be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.



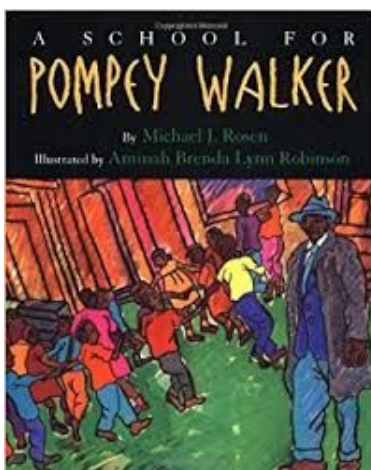
Pay it Forward, by Catherine Ryan Hyde

Pay It Forward is a wondrous and moving novel about Trevor McKinney, a twelve-year-old boy in a small California town who accepts the challenge that his teacher gives his class, a chance to earn extra credit by coming up with a plan to change the world for the better -- and to put that plan into action. When Trevor is assigned a project in school, he truly believes he can make a difference in the world. After one setback, Trevor doubts that he will be successful. Surprisingly, he finds himself suddenly famous, but on the happiest day of Trevor's life...



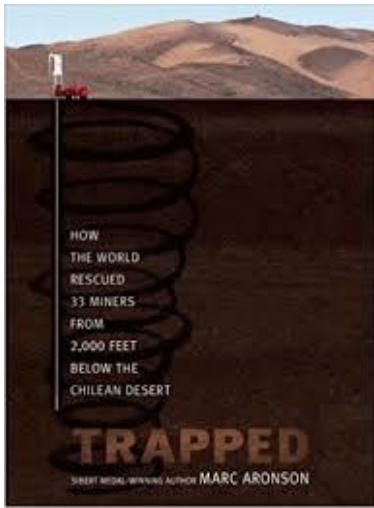
Refugee, by Alan Gratz

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world... Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America... Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe... All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. For each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.



A School for Pompey Walker, by Michael Rosen

Pompey Walker dreams of going to school, but as a slave in the 1830s, this is only a dream, until slavery-hating Jeremiah Walker, son-in-law of the plantation owner, buys Pompey's freedom. Together, they devise and carry out a plan to get money to found a school for black children. Inspired by a newspaper account of an Ohio man's experiences, as well as the recollections of former slaves, this tale recounts an unforgettable and harrowing journey of the human spirit.



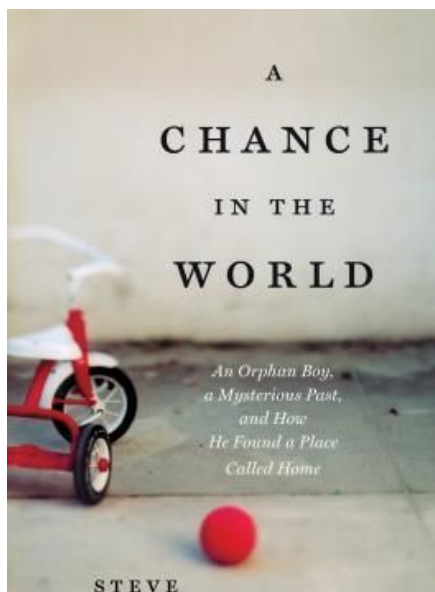
Trapped, by Marc Aronson

In early August 2010, the unthinkable happened when a mine collapsed in Copiapó, Chile, and 33 miners were trapped 2,000 feet below the surface. For sixty-nine days they lived on meager resources and increasingly poor air quality. When they were finally rescued, the world watched with rapt attention and rejoiced in the amazing spirit and determination of the miners. What could have been a terrible tragedy became an amazing story of survival.



Wish, by Barbara O'Connor

Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite. But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in serious danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all.

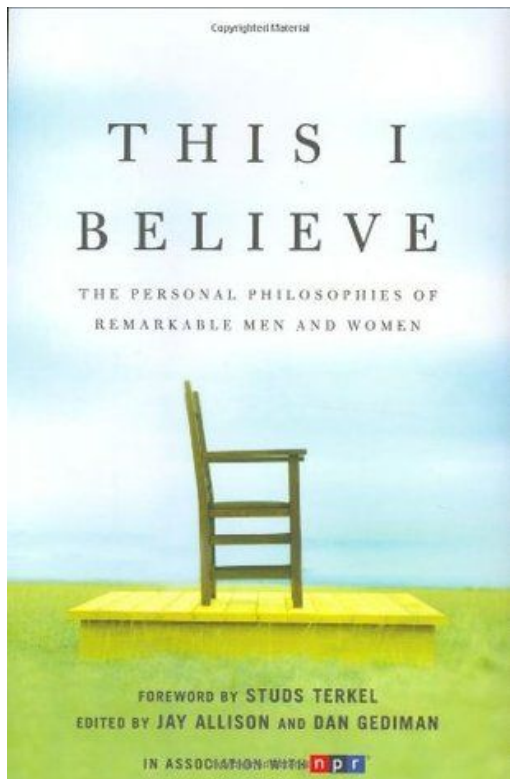


A Chance in the World: An Orphan Boy, a Mysterious Past, and How He Found a Place Called Home, by Steve Pemberton

From the day he is five-years-old and dropped off at his foster home of the next eleven years, Stephen is mentally and physically tortured. No one in the system can help him. No one can tell him if he has a family. No one can

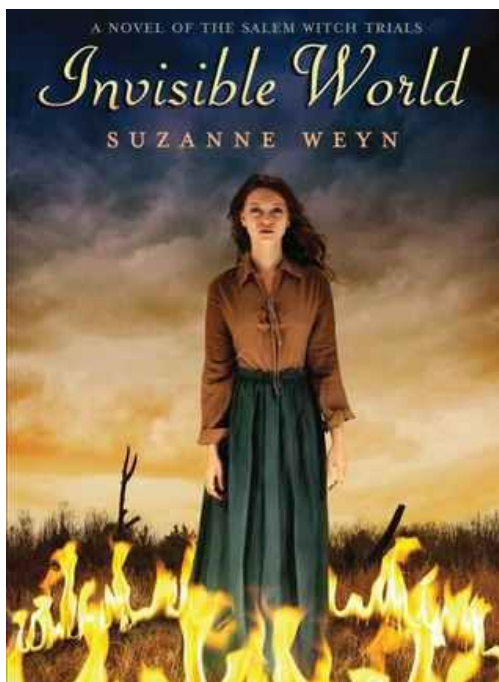
tell him why, with obvious African-American features, he has the last name of Klakowicz.

Along the way, a single faint light comes only from a neighbor's small acts of kindness and caring—and a box of books. From one of those books he learns that he has to fight in any way he can—for victory is in the battle. His victory is to excel in school.



This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women, by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman

In this thought provoking book, which was based on an NPR series, 80 essayists use the three little title words as a jumping-off point to a discussion of their deepest personal beliefs. Featuring a well-known list of contributors--including Isabel Allende, Colin Powell, Gloria Steinem, William F. Buckley Jr., Penn Jillette, Bill Gates, and John Updike--the collection also contains essays by a Brooklyn lawyer; a part-time hospital clerk from Rehoboth, Massachusetts; a woman who sells Yellow Pages advertising in Fort Worth, Texas; and a man who serves on the state of Rhode Island's parole board.



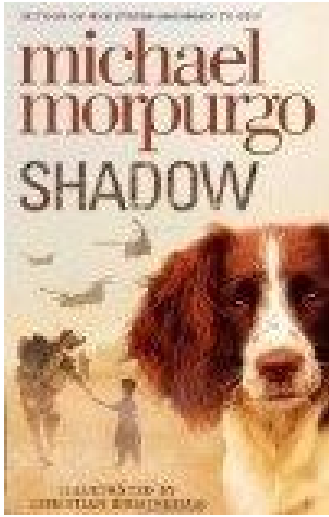
The Invisible World, by Suzanne Weyn

Elsabeth James has powers she doesn't fully understand. She is descended from midwives, mind readers, and a fortune-teller who was put to death because she foresaw the death of Mary, Queen of Scots. She can hear people's thoughts and sometimes see what they see. She has supernatural gifts, but not evil ones.

When Elsabeth sails with her sister, father, and governess to America, however, she does not foresee that their ship will be wrecked in a storm. Alone for

the first time in her life, she washes up on a South Carolina plantation, where she falls in love with a boy she meets there and learns magic and healing from an unexpected source.

As her powers grow, her stay is cut short, and she is sent as a servant to Salem, Massachusetts. There she accidentally allows an evil spirit to enter the village. When a group of girls start to say they're bewitched and accuse villagers of witchcraft, Elisabeth must find some way to save herself and the boy she loves.



Shadow, by Michael Morpurgo (Author of War Horse)

With the horrors of war bearing down on them, fourteen-year-old Aman and his mother are barely surviving in an Afghan cave. The only comfort Aman has is Shadow, the loyal spaniel who shows up from places unknown, it seems, just when he needs him the most. Aman, his mother, and Shadow finally leave the cave in hopes of escaping to England. At a checkpoint during their journey, Shadow runs away after being shot at by police. Aman and his mother escape, but life in England does not bring them the freedom they'd hoped for. Aman and his mother must now rely on a classmate, Matt, his grandpa, and the hope of Shadow's return.