

**Directions:** Choose and answer *one* of the following writing prompts. Submit your final essay typed. Make sure you use specific examples and proper nouns.

**Fiction-**

1. **Introductory paragraph:** Introduce the novel that you read over the summer by providing the following:
  - \* Title, author and genre of the book
  - \* Brief summary of the book 2-3 sentences (include the setting, protagonist and main conflict)
2. **Body paragraph:** Describe a quality/trait that the main character possessed that you found to be most important or impactful to the outcome of the story. Make sure to include the following:
  - \* Include two examples/quotes from the text where the character displayed this characteristic.
  - \* Explain why this trait was important.
  - \* Did the character trait help/hinder the protagonist in dealing with the conflict?
  - \* Lastly, describe a character that possesses a similar quality/trait in another piece of literature or a movie.
3. **Concluding paragraph:** Critique the ending of the novel. Make sure you include the following:
  - \* Use an adjective to describe the end of this book. Explain.
  - \* What audience might be especially interested in this book? Explain.
  - \* End with a closing statement about the novel.

**Nonfiction-**

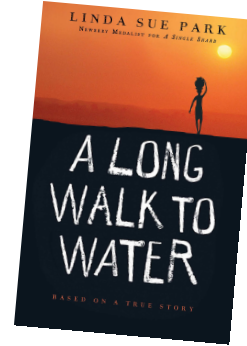
1. **Introductory paragraph:** Introduce the book that you read over the summer by providing the following:
  - \* Title, author and genre of the book
  - \* Brief summary of the book 2-3 sentences (include the historical time period, historical figure(s) involved and main problem/crisis)
2. **Body paragraph:** Describe a quality/trait that the historical figure(s) possessed that you found to be most important or impactful to the outcome. Make sure to include the following:
  - \* Two examples from the text where the historical figure(s) displayed this characteristic.
  - \* Explain why this trait was important.
  - \* Did the trait help/hinder the historical/real life figure in dealing with the conflict?
  - \* Lastly, describe a character that possesses a similar quality/trait in a piece of literature or a movie.
3. **Concluding paragraph:** Critique the ending of the novel. Make sure you include the following:
  - \* Use an adjective to describe the end of this book. Explain.
  - \* What audience might be especially interested in this book? Explain.
  - \* End with a closing statement about the book.

Visit your school's website for sample graphic organizers and information on the Summer Reading Contest.

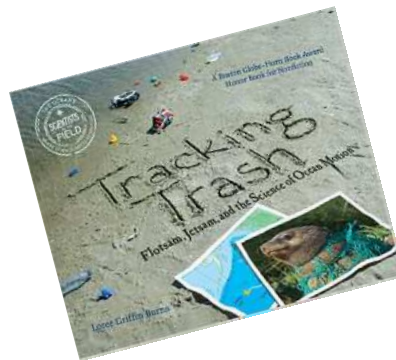
# Nonfiction

*A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park

The *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.



*Tracking The Trash Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion* by Loree Griffin Burns



From sneakers to hockey gloves, Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer monitors the watery fate of human-made cargo that has spilled into the ocean. The information he collects is much more than casual news; it is important scientific data. And with careful analysis, Curt, along with a community of scientists, friends, and beach-combers alike, is using his data to understand and protect our ocean.

# Sachem seventh GRADE 2016



1. Read one of the books listed in this pamphlet.
2. Take notes as you read. Sample graphic organizers are listed on your school's website.
3. Complete the assignment described inside this pamphlet.
4. Submit your assignment to your English teacher no later than **September 30th**.

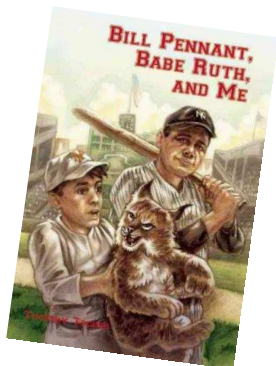


**The Prince of Mist** by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Max and Alicia Carver enlist the help of their friend Roland to explore the circumstances surrounding the mysterious haunting of a spirit named Jacob, the previous owner's son who drowned; but their search uncovers a sinister character who returns from beyond in order to collect a debt from the past.

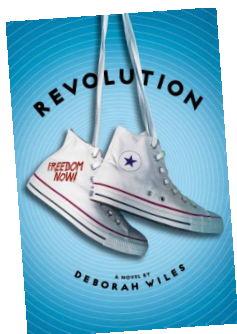
**Bill Pennant, Babe Ruth, and Me** by Timothy Tocher

At the start of the 1920 baseball season, 16-year-old Hank Cobb is assigned to train the New York Giants' new mascot, a Mexican wildcat named Bill Pennant. Bill's not too trainable, though, even with the help of sardines and mice. And if Hank can't handle a cat, how can he handle his next charge, an undisciplined slugger for the Yankees named Babe Ruth? Ruth's manager asks Hank to keep an eye on Ruth, and since both teams play at the same stadium, it's doable. But is it wise? A disastrous "road trip" to Coney Island lands both Babe and Hank in hot water with their respective managers.



**Revolution** by Deborah Wiles

It's 1964, and Sunny's town is being invaded. Or at least that's what the adults of Greenwood, Mississippi, are saying. All Sunny knows is that people from up north are coming to help people register to vote. They're calling it Freedom Summer. Meanwhile, Sunny can't help but feel like her house is being invaded, too. She has a new stepmother, a new brother, and a new sister crowding her life, giving her little room to breathe. And things get even trickier when Sunny and her brother are caught sneaking into the local swimming pool -- where they bump into a mystery boy whose life is going to be-come tangled up in theirs.



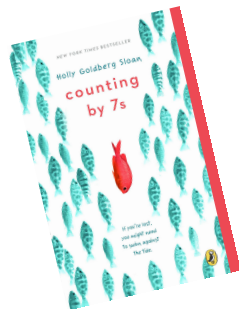
**Vertical** by Janet Eoff



Skateboarder Josh Lowman witnesses one of the best skateboarders in town (the local bully) commit a crime. For days he agonizes over whether to tell anyone. Meanwhile, his friendships with a fellow skater (who is debating whether to drop out of school), a beautiful girl in his class (who loves to read, and seems to like Josh), and a cool math tutor (a college student who skates) slowly shape Josh into the person he is meant to be.

**Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie** by Jordan Sonnenblick

Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece. Salted with humor and peppered with devastating realities, Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pies is a heartwarming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis.

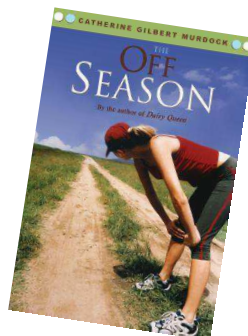


**Counting by Sevens** by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

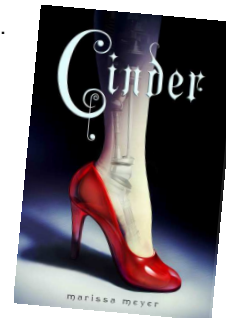
**The Off Season** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

High school junior D.J. staggers under the weight of caring for her badly injured brother, her responsibilities on the dairy farm, a changing relationship with her friend Brian, and her own athletic aspirations.



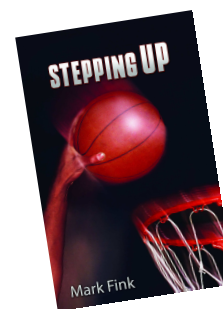
**Cinder** by Melissa Meyer

Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's ill-ness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbid-den attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.



**Stepping Up** by Mark Fink

Ernie and his best friend Mike go to summer camp every year, and this year, Mike chooses basketball camp. Ernie's okay with that until one of the other campers, Rick Craig, gives him a hard time about his game and about his stuttering, saddling him with the nickname "Choke". Mike excels in basketball and gets along with the other boys well, while Ernie struggles. Ernie isn't a quitter, or is he?



**Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel** by Diana Lopez

It's summer before eighth grade, and Erica "Chia" Montenegro is feeling so many things that she needs a mood ring to keep track of her emotions. She's happy when she hangs out with her best friends, the Robins. She's jealous that her genius little sister skipped two grades. And she's passionate about the crushes on her Boyfriend Wish list. And when Erica's mom is diagnosed with breast cancer, she feels worried and doesn't know what she can do to help.



**Fever** by Laurie Halse Anderson

Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793.

