

**SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT for  
Incoming 7th graders  
2019-20**

Please pick either *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson, *Paper Things* by Jennifer Richard Jacobson or *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds to read over the summer before the first day of school. You can buy your own copy or borrow one from the library.



After severely injuring Peter Driscall in an empty parking lot, troublemaker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given an alternative: a one-year banishment to a remote Alaskan island. This program—called Circle Justice—is based on Native American traditions that provide healing. To avoid jail time, Cole resolves to go. Author Ben Mikaelson delivers a poignant depiction of the vicious cycle of violence and one boy's journey to healing. GOODREADS 3.84/5 stars



When Ari's mother died four years ago, she had two final wishes: that Ari and her older brother, Gage, would stay together always, and that Ari would go to Carter, the middle school for gifted students. So when nineteen-year-old Gage decides he can no longer live with their bossy guardian, Janna, Ari knows she has to go with him. But it's been two months, and Gage still hasn't found them an apartment. All of this jumping around makes it hard for Ari to keep up with her schoolwork, never mind her friendships, and getting into Carter starts to seem impossible. Will Ari be forced to break one of her promises to Mama? GOODREADS 4.6/5 stars



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? GOODREADS 4.1 /5 star

**Please complete the requirements below. Be ready to share your ideas during our first discussion in English.**

**Please complete these on a separate piece of paper. You may type or write it out.**

**Summary:**

1. Who is the protagonist?
2. What does the protagonist want more than anything? What is his/her goal?
3. Antagonist (Who or what gets in the way?):
4. What is the overall conflict?

**Setting:**

5. Where and when does the story take place?

**Theme:**

6. What is the main (life) message that you think the author is trying to convey? Why?

**Question:**

7. Write one or two questions that you will ask in the class discussion. It could be about character, setting, event or anything about the book that you think will produce a variety of opinions.

Some question starters:

- Why do you think the character....?
- What might happen if ....?
- How did this event impact...?

**CHALLENGE OPTION: If you want a challenge, complete one of the following below.**

1. Read both novels and compare/contrast how Cole and Ari deal with the stress affecting them. Write out the results or show your ideas in a Venn Diagram.

OR

2. Find a poem or nonfiction article that relates to one of the novels. Write how the poem or article compares to the novel. Be sure to cite your source.

**You will turn in your work during the first or second week of school.**

**We look forward to meeting you!  
-Ms. Alexander, Ms. Lynsky and Ms. Carlson**