

## **Students Entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Choose **one** novel from this list and **complete the journal assignment** on pages 2 and 3 of this packet. The rubric is on page 4.

### ***Parallel Journeys***

by Eleanor Ayer

Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck were born just a few miles from each other in the German Rhineland. But their lives took radically different courses: Helen's to the Auschwitz extermination camp; Alfons to a high rank in the Hitler Youth.

While Helen was hiding in Amsterdam, Alfons was a fanatic believer in Hitler's "master race."

While she was crammed in a cattle car bound for the death camp Auschwitz, he was a teenage commander of frontline troops, ready to fight and die for the glory of Hitler and the Fatherland.

This book tells both of their stories, side-by-side, in an overwhelming account of the nightmare.

### ***Amos Fortune Free Man***

by Elizabeth Yates

"It does a man no good to be free until he learns how to live."

These were the words of Amos Fortune, born the son of a king of the At-mun-shi tribe in Africa.

When Amos was only fifteen years old, he was captured by slave traders and brought to Massachusetts, where he was sold at auction.

Although his freedom had been taken, Amos never lost his dignity and courage. He dreamed of being free and of buying the freedom of his closest friends. By the time he was sixty years old, Amos Fortune began to see those dreams come true.

Amos Fortune, Free Man is a Newbery Award winner that is based on a true story.

### ***Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key***

by Jack Gantos

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired. In this antic yet poignant new novel, Jack Gantos has perfect pitch in capturing the humor, the off-the-wall intensity, and the serious challenges that life presents to a kid dealing with hyperactivity and related disorders.

### ***The Graduation of Jake Moon***

by Barbara Park

Jake Moon's grandfather, Skelly, is descending from Jake's beloved confidante and unwavering champion into an embarrassing nightmare. The reason? Alzheimer's disease. But in a situation like this, it isn't just the grandfather who changes – it is those who love him as well. An honest, amusing, and touching account of an all-too-real situation.





# Rubric

## Score 4

The bookmark responses demonstrate **thorough comprehension** of ideas stated and implied in the summer reading by providing **thoughtful and accurate responses** with examples and details from the novel. The responses demonstrate a **full understanding of the reading**.

## Score 3

The bookmark responses demonstrate **comprehension** of ideas stated and/or implied in the summer reading by providing **mostly accurate responses** with some examples and details from the novel. The responses demonstrate an **adequate understanding of the reading**.

## Score 2

The bookmark responses demonstrate **basic comprehension** of ideas stated and/or implied in the summer reading by providing **generally accurate responses** with limited examples and details from the novel. The responses show only a **limited understanding** of the reading.

## Score 1

The bookmark responses demonstrate **little to no comprehension** of ideas stated and/or implied in the summer reading by providing **minimally or no accurate responses** with few or no examples and details from the novel. The response **does not demonstrate reading comprehension** of the novel.