

8th Grade Summer Reading!

Dear Students & Parents,

For this year's required summer reading, you have the option of choosing between six dystopian novels that prepare you for the first unit that features the dystopian book *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

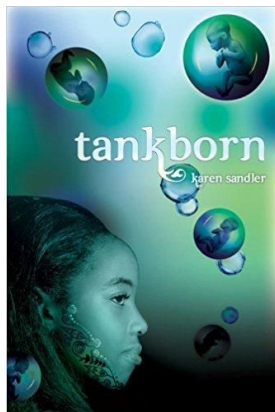
Once you have finished reading one of the dystopian novels on the attached list, you will design your own utopia and describe it in writing. Describe how people will be taken care of in your utopia, your perfect world. Consider the following when designing your utopia. (These are *just a few* categories to get you brainstorming; add anything else you would like to create your utopia!)

- the type of government structure, rules & laws, (will there be a military?)
- social hierarchy vs. social equality
- surveillance of citizens vs. personal freedom
- education system
- healthcare system
- types of jobs
- housing
- currency
- family units (what does a family look like?)

**When creating your utopia, it may help you to reflect on what went wrong in the book you read. How could you prevent that from happening in your utopia? You are welcome to create a visual representation of your utopia, but this is not required. Please bring your written description of your utopia (and visual if you make one) with you on the first day of school in September.

Dystopian Novels for Summer Reading

Tankborn by Karen Sandler 790 lexile

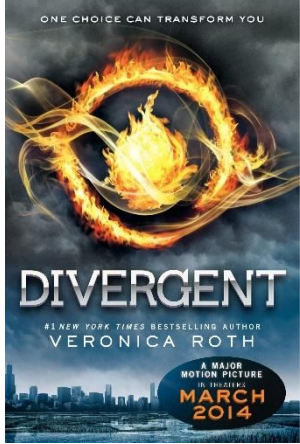
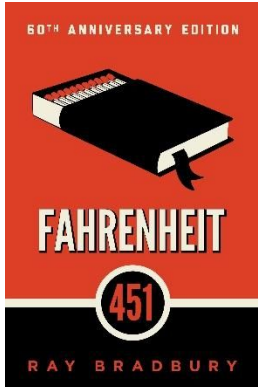


On rugged planet Loka, life for best friends Kayla and Mishalla is arduous at best. They are GENs, Genetically Engineered Non-humans, gestated in a tank and then sent to work as slaves as soon as they reach age fifteen. When Kayla is Assigned to care for Zul Manel, the patriarch of a trueborn family, she finds secrets and surprises not least of which is her budding friendship with Zul's handsome great-grandson. Meanwhile, the children that Mishalla is Assigned to care for are being stolen in the middle of the night, and a strange lowborn boy is hanging around nearby. Both girls must put their lives and hearts at risk to crack open a sinister conspiracy, revealing secrets no one is ready to face. The first in a trilogy, *Tankborn* is a page-turning dystopian thriller with a hard science fiction edge that explores what it means to be human.

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<p>Uglies by Scott Westerfield 770L</p> 	<p>Tally's adventures begin in Uglies, where she learns the truth about what life as a Pretty really means. She rebels against the surgery that will make her a Pretty, but ultimately succumbs. In Pretties, Tally has forgotten all about her Ugly life, and when she's reminded, she has a hard time listening. And what little's left of the old Tally is further compromised in Specials, because Tally has been transformed into a fierce fighting machine. But when she's offered a chance to forever improve civilization, will she be able to overcome her brainwashing? The answer is evident years later in Extras, after the Pretty regime has ended. Boundless human creativity, new technologies, and old dangers have been unleashed upon the world. But fame and popularity can be just as dangerous as extreme beauty....</p>
<p>The Maze Runner by James Dashner 770L</p> 	<p>When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. When the lift's doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they've closed tight. And every 30 days a new boy has been delivered in the lift. Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers. Thomas might be more important than he could ever guess. If only he could unlock the dark secrets buried within his mind.</p>
<p>Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix 800L</p> 	<p>In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm in this start to the Shadow Children series from Margaret Peterson Haddix.</p> <p>Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend.</p> <p>Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside.</p> <p>Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like</p>

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	<p>himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows -- does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?</p>
<p><i>Divergent</i> by Veronica Roth 740L</p> 	<p>In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.</p> <p>During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles alongside her fellow initiates to live out the choice they have made. Together they must undergo extreme physical tests of endurance and intense psychological simulations, some with devastating consequences. As initiation transforms them all, Tris must determine who her friends really are—and where, exactly, a romance with a sometimes fascinating, sometimes exasperating boy fits into the life she's chosen. But Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. And as she discovers unrest and growing conflict that threaten to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves . . . or it might destroy her.</p>
<p><i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury 800L</p> 	<p>Ray Bradbury's internationally acclaimed novel <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> is a masterwork of twentieth-century literature set in a bleak, dystopian future. Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television. When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. He starts hiding books in his home, and when his pilfering is discovered, the fireman has to run for his life.</p>

Additional Reading

Ideally, you are reading continuously throughout the summer. [Here](#) you can access book lists from past years' Reading Olympics events which represent a diverse range of exciting literature. Use this list to help you choose books of interest to read over the summer.

Have fun!