



Richards Middle School
An International Baccalaureate School



Greetings Future 7th Grade IB Students,

You may choose **ONE** of the novels listed below to read this summer followed by selecting **ONE** of the below activities. Your completed activity should be printed and turned into Mrs. Williams by 3:10 p.m. on August 12th, 2026. Please note: This will be taken as a grade. No AI should be used to complete this project.

- All IB students have the option to choose **ONE** book from the following reading list:

- *Buried Onions* by Gary Soto
- *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare
- *Kon-Tiki* by Thor Heyerdahl
- *The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper
- *Sister Carrie* by Theodore Dreiser
- *A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly
- *Additional Options:*
 - *Harris and Me* by Gary Paulsen
 - *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
 - *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

- All IB students may select **ONE** of the following writing prompts:

Option 1: Narrative – Alternate Ending

✎ Write a new final chapter for the book. Your alternate ending should reflect the tone, style, and characterization used in the original novel. Include:

- A strong opening and closing
- Accurate character voices
- A believable, imaginative twist

Option 2: Informational Essay – Thematic Analysis

✎ Write an informational essay explaining how your book supports a major theme such as bold actions, courage, identity, or injustice. Be sure to:

- Introduce the theme clearly

- Use specific examples and quotations
- Organize your ideas clearly with transitions
- Minimum: 5 well-developed paragraphs

Option 3: Argumentative Essay – Most Impactful Event

☞ Argue which single event had the greatest impact on the storyline. Support your claim with:

- A clear thesis statement
- At least three strong pieces of text evidence
- Counterclaim and rebuttal paragraph
- Minimum: 5 paragraphs

Creative & Media-Based Options

Option 4: Summer Reflection Podcast

☞ Create a 2–3 minute podcast episode reflecting on the book you read. You can record using your Chromebook or phone. Include:

- A **podcast name** and creative **title** for your episode
- **Intro music** and **outro music** (school-appropriate and royalty-free)
- A **script** or outline that covers:
 - Your name and book title
 - A summary of the book
 - One major takeaway or message you connected with
 - A moment or quote that stood out to you
 - Personal reflection: What did this book teach you, challenge you to think about, or make you feel?
- Use a clear, confident voice

Optional: Upload your podcast to a Google Slide or Canva template with visuals.

Option 5: Visual Timeline or Comic Strip

☞ Design a timeline or comic strip illustrating at least **6 major events** in the story. Include:

- Creative drawings or digital designs
- Captions and speech/thought bubbles for each event
- Emotional tone (humor, tension, sadness, etc.)
- Neatness and effort: color, organization, and clarity

☞ Write a full summary explain the comic strip

Option 6: Book Trailer Video

☞ Create a 90-second movie trailer that captures the tone, themes, and major conflict of the book. Your trailer should include:

- Voice-over or text narration
- Background music and visual effects
- A creative tagline
- A clear hook that would persuade someone to read the book
- Scenes or symbols (real or drawn) that reflect key moments

Option 7: Instagram Character Profile

☞ Design a mock Instagram page for one of the characters in your novel. You may use a slide deck, Canva template, or a poster format. Your profile should include:

- A creative handle (@character_name)
- A bio that reflects the character's personality and values
- **5 photo posts** with detailed captions that connect to real events in the book
- **3 comment threads** with replies (written as if by other characters)
- Hashtags that connect to themes and emotions (#betrayed #outcast #power #growth)
- A story highlight title that captures the character's journey
- Visual effort: Color, organization, and design matter!

Option 8: Reader's Reflection Journal

☞ Write 6 thoughtful entries in a double-entry journal. Each entry should:

- Include a quote, passage, or moment from the book
- Be followed by a paragraph-long personal reflection, connection, or question
- Show growth in your thinking across the journal
- Be handwritten neatly or typed, submitted as one document

Option 9: Letter to the Author

☞ Write a full-page letter to the author of your book. Include:

- What the book meant to you
- Questions you would ask the author
- Comments on the author's style, themes, or characters
- A respectful tone and proper letter format

Submission Guidelines for All Summer Projects

All work must be printed, regardless of format, unless otherwise noted below.

For Writing-Based or Visual Projects (Options 1–3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10):

- All projects must be printed, including Google Slides, posters, Instagram profiles, playlists, timelines, or written essays.
- Printed work must be on 8 1/2” x 11” paper, with your full name in the upper right-hand corner.
- If submitting multiple pages, they must be neatly stapled together.
- Written work (Options 1–3) must follow the formatting guidelines:
 - Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced
 - Maximum 500 words
 - Submitted as Microsoft Word or PDF, if emailed due to emergency only

For Digital Media Files (Podcasts, Videos, etc.):

- Only audio or video recordings (e.g., podcast or book trailer) may be emailed.
- These must be sent to williams.angel.m@muscogee.k12.ga.us on the due date only (August 12, 2026).
- Do not email any projects prior to the due date.
- Include your full name and project title in the email subject line.

AI Use Policy

If AI is used to complete this assignment, it will result in an automatic zero according to the plagiarism policy. All work must reflect the student’s full talent and ability, and should clearly communicate the student’s own knowledge and understanding. Work will be evaluated to ensure it is authentic.



Kind Regards,
Mrs. Williams
7th Grade English Language Arts Teacher
Richards Middle School



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