

Princeton Public Schools

John Witherspoon Middle School Summer Reading List 2017

7th Grade into 8th Grade

At John Witherspoon Middle School, our readers benefit from the variety of fiction and nonfiction titles we offer during Reading Workshop in our English classes. As we believe in and stress the importance of reading beyond the school year, we will be offering a few suggested titles that are developmentally appropriate for all of our students who share varied ability levels, learning styles and interests. Stephen Krashen, a linguist and leading researcher in reading, suggests that an often-overlooked method to improve reading is providing readers with a supply of interesting and accessible books by visiting local libraries and bookstores. Research demonstrates that self-selected voluntary reading leads to the greatest gains in reading achievement. (Krashen, S. *The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research*, 2nd edition. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.)

As a result, we are offering ten *fiction* and ten *nonfiction* suggested titles at each grade level in our middle school as a reflective example of what students will find in each classroom library. ***Students should bring a copy of their chosen text*** and expect to answer a variety of reader-response questions regarding their summer choices upon their return from vacation during the first full week of school. Students can choose a book (not on this list) of comparable merit with parent permission. One book is required to fulfill the assignment; we encourage students to read as many titles as they would like!

TITLE

AUTHOR

Fiction

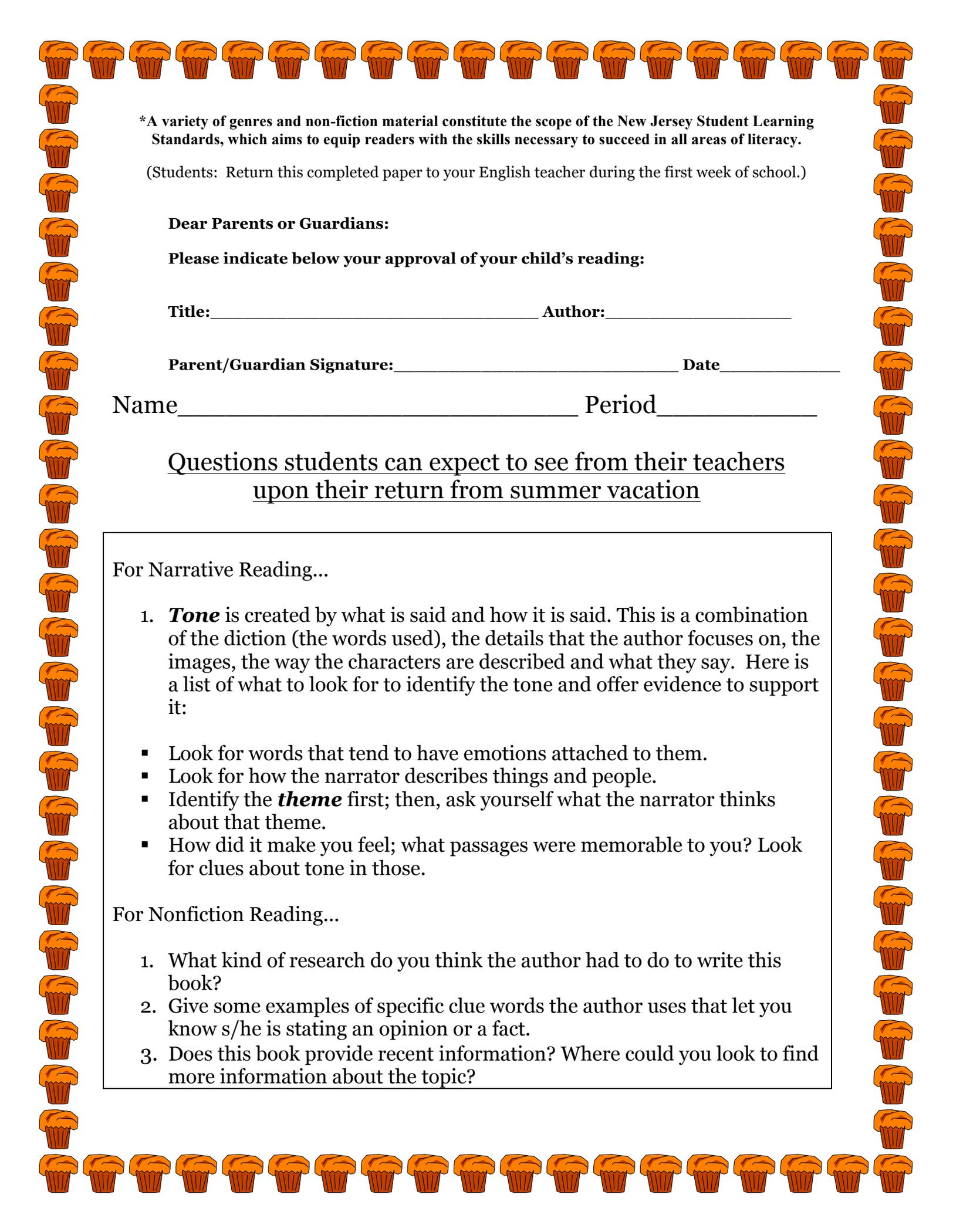
Heartless
Furthermore
Counting by 7's
Zen and the Art of Faking It
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet
Bull Run
That Was Then, This Is Now
Fly Girl
Genius: The Game

Marissa Meyer
Tahereh Mafi
Holly Goldberg Sloane
Jorden Sonnenblick
Betty Smith
Jamie Ford
Paul Fleischman
S.E. Hinton
Sherri Smith
Leopoldo Gout

NonFiction

*The Boys in the Boat (YA Adaptation)**
*Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem**
*Freedom Walkers**
*Flying Higher: Women Airforce Service Pilots of WW II**
*The Plot to Kill Hitler**
*Photo By Brady: A Picture of the Civil War**
*Blizzard of Glass: the Halifax Explosion of 1917**
*Chasing Lincoln's Killer**
*Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune**
*The Race to Save the Lord God Bird**

Daniel James Brown
Rosalyn Schanzer
Russell Freedman
Wanda Langley
Patricia McCormick
Jennifer Armstrong
Sally M. Walker
James L. Swanson
Pamela S. Turner
Phillip Hoose



*A variety of genres and non-fiction material constitute the scope of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which aims to equip readers with the skills necessary to succeed in all areas of literacy.

(Students: Return this completed paper to your English teacher during the first week of school.)

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Please indicate below your approval of your child's reading:

Title: _____ **Author:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Name _____ **Period** _____

Questions students can expect to see from their teachers upon their return from summer vacation

For Narrative Reading...

1. **Tone** is created by what is said and how it is said. This is a combination of the diction (the words used), the details that the author focuses on, the images, the way the characters are described and what they say. Here is a list of what to look for to identify the tone and offer evidence to support it:
 - Look for words that tend to have emotions attached to them.
 - Look for how the narrator describes things and people.
 - Identify the **theme** first; then, ask yourself what the narrator thinks about that theme.
 - How did it make you feel; what passages were memorable to you? Look for clues about tone in those.

For Nonfiction Reading...

1. What kind of research do you think the author had to do to write this book?
2. Give some examples of specific clue words the author uses that let you know s/he is stating an opinion or a fact.
3. Does this book provide recent information? Where could you look to find more information about the topic?