

Friendswood Junior High

Dana Drew
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Fletcher Weston
Assistant Principal (7th)

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Counselor (8th)

Jennifer Reed
Counselor (7th)

Robyn Sandoval
Counselor (6th)

Dear Parents,

As we plan for next year, the FJH English Department would like to inform you of the ongoing summer reading program for 7th grade Pre-AP students. Students will be tested on the summer reading the first week of school and will be expected to connect summer reading with other works read during the year.

If at all possible, we encourage you to purchase the book so that students can annotate it to help find significant passages. These passages might question, agree or disagree, pertain to the student's life, suggest symbolic overtones, or just seem to be a beautiful piece of language. We believe that these annotations will help students track more difficult literature.

All incoming Pre-AP 7th grade students are **REQUIRED** to read a book of choice from the **REALISTIC FICTION** genre. (We will be reading *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton as a class, so please do not select either of these titles for your summer reading assignment.)

In realistic fiction, the author usually is able to accurately portray common attitudes and social mores of the time being represented. Realistic fiction is often contemporary realism, but it can also be realistic in terms of historic events or time periods. Realistic fiction is often meticulously researched by the author writing it, or it depicts something that the author is personally, extensively familiar with. Realistic fiction can cover a large range of topics, from gang violence to obsessive fandom. The only major criteria is that it accurately represents whatever topic it covers.

Characteristics of realistic fiction: a lack of stereotyping with well-rounded characters; a depiction of violence in realistic, non-glamorous ways; slang and language appropriate to the culture or setting; and problematic story lines. (Problem stories are a big part of realistic fiction and are essentially stories where the characters deal with some type of personal problem such as a death or disease.)

Sources: education.com and libguides.ashland.edu

Thank you for encouraging your student to read. It is the key to success.

Sincerely,

FJH 7th Grade English Department