



8th Grade Summer Reading 2022 Cherry Hill Public Schools

***Before We Were Free* by Julia Alvarez:** Anita de la Torre, a young girl living in the Dominican Republic in 1960, watches many of her relatives immigrate to the United States. Papí has been getting mysterious phone calls about butterflies and someone named Mr. Smith, her Tío Toni has disappeared and the police have started terrorizing her family for their suspected opposition to the country's dictator. While Anita deals with a frightening series of events, she also struggles with growing up and her own personal flight to be free.

***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson:** In vivid poems, Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Her poetry reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing, despite struggling with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her, creating the first sparks of a future writer.

***Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick:** Meet Maxwell Kane, a timid soul stuck in the body of a teenage giant with size 14 shoes. Haunted by a dark secret, he hides out in the basement, avoiding the world. But when a new kid moves in next door, Max's life changes forever. The two outcasts from the "normal" world team up to become "Freak the Mighty". Like knights of old, they defend the weak, right every wrong – and solve the mystery of Max's past – proving that courage comes in all sizes.

***Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen:** When track star Jessica loses her leg in a school bus accident, she is devastated that she will never run again. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Her family, friends and teammates support her as she returns to school and practice. However, it is her friendship with Rosa, a girl with cerebral palsy, which helps Jessica accept the limitations and discover the gifts of her new life.

***Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team* by Steve Sheinkin:** Jim Thorpe was an extraordinary athlete, a Native American who became an Olympic gold medalist. Pop Warner was an indomitable coach and a football mastermind. The two met at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the most celebrated teams in American football history. Called "the team that invented football," they took on the best opponents of their day. This is the story of a group of young men who came together at that school, the obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat.

Note to Families

The Cherry Hill Public Schools strives to develop lifelong readers and learners with the skills and knowledge to thrive in today's ever-changing world. For this reason, we like to offer students a variety of books from which to select for summer reading.

*Each middle school reader will select **at least one** book from the grade level summer reading list. Students should read this book for enjoyment while keeping the grade level theme and guiding questions in mind. It is the reader's responsibility to record evidence from the text and a brief explanation of how it relates to the theme on the attached handout. This will help students be prepared to write and speak about the text upon returning to school in the fall.*

Thank you for encouraging your child's reading. We look forward to building on the foundation you established throughout the summer.

Access books and resources at the following locations:

Cherry Hill Public Library www.chplnj.org
856-667-0300

Barnes & Noble www.barnesandnoble.com
Cherry Hill – 856-486-1492
Marlton – 856-596-7058
Moorestown – 856-608-1622

Inkwood Books www.inkwoodnj.com/
Haddonfield – 856-429-1298

Sora Digital Lending Library Soraapp.com
Log in with your @chclc.org account. Use the Explore icon to search for and borrow a digital copy. Audio is also available for select texts.

TeachingBooks.net: (book-specific reso
TeachingBooks.net/qlifuy9
Username: chclc
Password: books

Name _____

8th Grade Thematic Topic: Resiliency - the ability to positively respond to a challenging situation

Guiding questions:

- What characteristics and qualities help a person deal with conflict and change?
- How does conflict lead to change?
- How does an individual's point of view affect the way he or she deals with conflict?
- How might it feel to live through a conflict that disrupts your way of life?
- What problem-solving strategies can individuals use to manage conflict and change?

Directions: The book you have chosen to read this summer will help you to learn about resiliency. Consider how resiliency is exemplified through character, setting, and/or plot development as you read your book. Complete the double-entry journal below with textual evidence and reasoning. Be sure to include examples from the beginning, middle and end of the book. Feel free to use an extra sheet of paper if you run out of room to write.

Title: _____ Author: _____

Textual evidence that exemplifies the theme of resiliency.	Describe how the evidence in the text relates to the theme of resiliency and explain why.
<p>Example from <i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick <i>Freak goes, "Whew! That was a close encounter of the turd kind," and it takes me a second to get the joke, but then I'm laughing, amazed he can be so cool about it, like it was no big deal that Tony D. was after us.</i> Page # <u>31</u></p>	<p><i>Tony D. and his friends were harassing Max and Freak as they walked home. Max was scared, but Freak stuck up for himself and talked back to Tony D. After, Freak is able to laugh about the incident. This shows resiliency because Freak continues to stay positive, and looks for humor in the situations that challenge him.</i></p>
<p>Page(s) # _____</p>	
<p>Page(s) # _____</p>	

Textual evidence that exemplifies the theme of resiliency.	Describe how the evidence in the text relates to the theme of resiliency and explain why.
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