



## Dear Eighth Grade Class,

I am really looking forward to seeing you again in Fall as eighth graders. I do believe that summer should be a time to be carefree during your youthful years, but I also think you should keep up with some reading and writing because while we must exercise our bodies, we must exercise our minds as well.

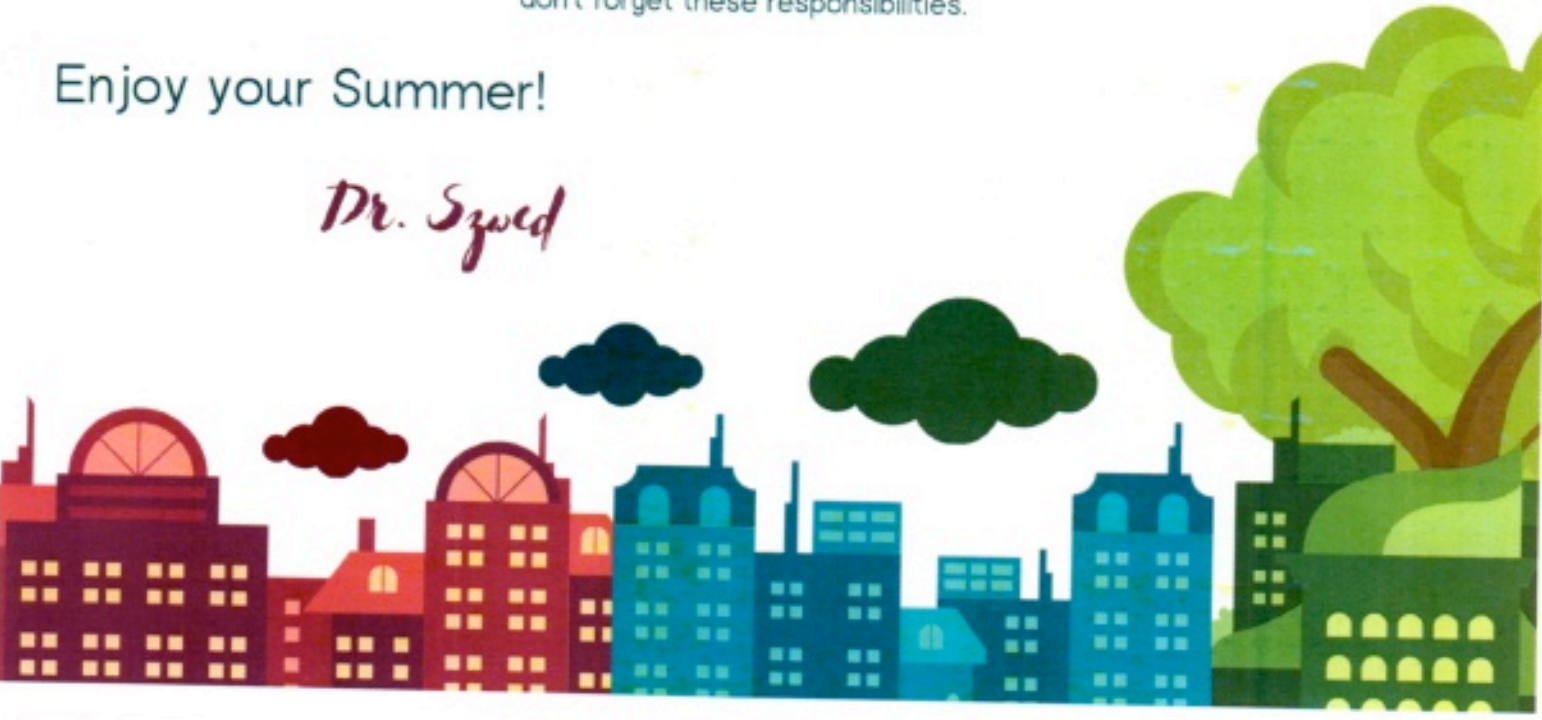
I would like your class to read the book Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan at some point over the summer. This novel is about an extraordinary girl who goes through tragedy after tragedy but ends up persevering. How does her life turn out in the end? Read on to see! For this book, you will be asked to complete the novel review and all of the parts associated with it. For length, I simply ask for 2 paragraphs noting the most important summary you have regarding the book.

Secondly for the summer, I ask that you choose a book of your own. This book can be any length, but I do ask that you choose something that is at your reading level and something that you have not read before. You will complete the Newspaper assignment attached to this assignment list for that book. Please put genuine effort into this project, as it will be displayed for all of the 7th and 8th graders in our school. If you don't know what to read, I have attached a list of books I suggested you check out and read.

Finally, if there is any tip that I can give you for these summer assignments, it is to take your time reading them and do not cram it in at the end. That will be your biggest regret! Enjoy your summer, but don't forget these responsibilities.

## Enjoy your Summer!

*Dr. Szwed*



# EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

## GRADE 8 NEWSPAPER ASSIGNMENT FOR SUMMER READING

**\*\*For this project, you'll create the front page of a newspaper with 2 articles and 2 advertisements based on your free-choice summer reading book. You'll report on one event that actually happened in the story and one event that you've made up.**

Directions:

1. Find a book that is an appropriate reading level for you to read over the summer. Please do not read the same book we're reading for our class (Counting by 7s)
2. Consider the interesting events in the story. Consider one on which to base a news article. "Write a news article summarizing the event" Make sure to include the "Who" "What" "When" "Where" and "Why" - explain your event in detail. **Include an image** (something from the internet is fine) with a caption that represents your story event, and relates to your news article. **\*Make sure your article has a title\***

3. Think of an exciting event that could have happened in the book but did not. Your event could take place at any point in the story and should include the actual characters and places from the book.

"Write a news article summarizing the event" Make sure to include the "Who" "What" "When" "Where" and "Why" - explain your event in detail. Include an image (something from the internet is fine) with a caption that represents your story event, and relates to your news article. **\*Make sure your article has a title\***

**This project should be designed like a news paper. You can find online newspaper formats on Canva or you can look into designing one on your own via GoogleDocs for Microsoft Word.**

\*Both articles should be in your own words. These summaries should not include any actual text taken from the novel. Instead you should retell event(s) in your own words, in the voice of a news reporter.

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# BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM DR. SZWED

\*WHILE I HAVE NOT READ EVERY BOOK ON THE LIST, FROM MY RESEARCH I DO BELIEVE THESE BOOKS ARE AGE APPROPRIATE AND OFFER A QUALITY OF LITERATURE\*

## HISTORICAL FICTION

*One Crazy Summer* - Rita Williams Garcia  
*Boy in the Striped Pajamas* - John Boyne  
*The Help* - Kathryn Sockett  
*Esperanza Rising* - Pam Muñoz Ryan  
*Before We Were Free* - Julia Alvarez  
*Eleven* - Tom Rogers  
*The Secret Life of Bees* - Sue Monk Kidd  
*Milkweed* - Jerry Spinelli  
*The Nightingale* - Kristin Hannah

## FANTASY

*The Harry Potter Series* - JK Rowling  
*The Lord of the Rings Trilogy* - JRR Tolkien  
*The Girl Who Drank the Moon* - Kelly Barnhill  
*Tuck Everlasting* - Natalie Babbitt  
*Treasure Island* - Robert Louis Stevenson

## SCIENCE FICTION

*Red Queen* - Victoria Aveyard  
*Cinder* - Marissa Meyer  
*Flowers for Algernon* - Daniel Keyes  
*Divergent Series* - Veronica Roth  
*Maze Runner Series* - James Dashner  
*The Inheritance Games Series* - Jennifer Lynn Barnes

## COMING OF AGE

*Stargirl* - Jerry Spinelli

## MYSTERY/THRILLER

*And Then There Were None* - Agatha Christie  
*Frankenstein* - Mary Shelley  
*Game Changer* - Tommy Greenwald  
*One of Us is Lying* - Karen M. McManus

## DYSTOPIAN

*The Hunger Games Trilogy* - Suzanne Collins  
*The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* - Suzanne Collins  
*The Lord of the Flies* - William Golding  
*Maze Runner* - James Dashner  
*Fahrenheit 451* - Kurt Vonnegut

# BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM DR. SZWED

## REALISTIC FICTION

*Front Desk* - Kelly Yang  
*My Sister's Keeper* - Jodi Picoult  
*Amal Unbound* - Aisha Saeed  
*Chomp, Hoot, Scat, & Fish* - Carl Hiassen  
*Out of My Mind* - Sharon Draper  
Alan Gratz books

## NON-FICTION

*Enrique's Journey* - Sonia Nazario  
*Sweetgrass Basket* - Marlene Carvell

## PLAYS

*Hamlet* - William Shakespeare  
*Romeo and Juliet* - William Shakespeare

## AGE-APPROPRIATE MAGAZINES

*Time* (for kids)  
National Geographic (for kids or adults, depending on their reading level)  
*Girl's Life Magazine*  
*Boy's Life Magazine*  
*Sports Illustrated*  
*Brain Space*