

Bak Middle School of the Arts: Seventh Grade Summer Reading & Writing Assignment

READING ASSIGNMENT: Read ONE novel from the list below, then complete the Circle Graph project which requires you to think deeply about the novel and create a graph that represents the characters through the use of symbolism. When you return to school, you will be given a test on your novel. You have the choice of purchasing one of the novels or choosing one that has a PDF version.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: Complete the "Do the Write Thing" assignment.

Both the reading and writing assignments must be completed before the start of school.

READING ASSIGNMENT #1: Choose a novel to read

TITLE	AUTHOR	PDF VERSION	OVERVIEW
Beautiful Creatures	Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl	N/A	Lena is more than Ethan bargained for—beautiful, different, and unexpectedly powerful. She is a caster - possessing the power to transform her surroundings. Southern history and charm mingle with Gothic sensibilities in this story that boasts a strong male narrator.
Ghetto Cowboy	Greg Neri	N/A	The mean streets of Philly are the last place Cole expects to see horses and cowboys, but that is exactly what he stumbles upon. As he reluctantly begins to shovel muck and avoid getting stomped on, Cole connects with a skittish horse named Boo and begins to appreciate the "cowboy way." Based on the real inner city horsemen of North Philadelphia and Brooklyn-Queens who continue to serve their communities and keep young people off the streets.
Cinder	Marissa Meyer	N/A	Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.

Out of My Mind	Sharon M. Draper	N/A	Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but no one knows it. From multiple Coretta Scott King Award winner Sharon M. Draper comes a story full of heartache and hope. Get ready to meet a girl whose voice you'll never, ever forget.
Silent to the Bone	E.L. Konigsburg	N/A	When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened
Okay for Now	Gary D. Schmidt	N/A	As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, with no friends and a louse for an older brother, Doug Swietek has all the stats stacked against him. So begins a coming-of-age masterwork full of equal parts comedy and tragedy from Newbery Honor winner Gary D. Schmidt. Finalist for the National Book Award in Young People's Literature
House of the Scorpion	Nancy Farmer	N/A	In the future, a strip of land is ruled by a 146-year-old man named El Patrón. His fields are tilled by illegal immigrants, called "eejits," who have computer chips implanted in their brains so that they can be kept in slavery. Matt, a boy who is confined in a cottage on El Patrón estate, manages to break out, but that is not the end of his troubles. National Book Award, 2002, Newbery Honor, 2003, Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book, 2003
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	The Book Thief	It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. To gain access to more books, Liesel Meminger, an orphan girl living with foster parents, turns to book stealing. As death and destruction rage outside, she, as well as her neighbors and a Jewish man her family is hiding, find comfort in the common language shared through her stories.
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children	Ransom Riggs	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children	When his grandfather dies under mysterious circumstances, sixteen-year-old Jacob wants to know more about his grandfather's hazy past. On a trip to Cairnholm Island, Jacob travels back in time and sees firsthand the horrors that shaped his grandfather.

Unwind	Neal Shusterman	Unwind	The world has become a place in which unwanted teenagers can be "unwound" for their body parts. Fifteen-year-olds Connor and Risa find themselves running for their lives when the orders are signed for their unwindings. When they team up, they find help in unexpected places.
The Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan	The Lightning Thief	In this blend of Greek mythology and modern pop culture, twelve-year-old Percy is always in trouble, and it doesn't help that he's started seeing monsters everywhere! Things become clearer when Percy discovers he is the son of Poseidon. But trouble starts all over again when Percy is sent on a quest to prevent war on Mount Olympus.
Travel Team	Mike Lupica	Travel Team	When 12-year-old Danny Walker is cut from the travel team, he is crushed. How can he be too short to follow in his father's footsteps? Danny and his pals have a plan. Will forming their own team get the respect they deserve?
Matched	Ally Condie	Matched	In a dystopian world where life is carefully managed by the Society, seventeen-year-old Cassia is excited about her Match to Xander. While she is viewing her microcard, she is confused when she sees the face of Ky.
Brown Girl Dreaming	Jacqueline Woodson	Brown Girl Dreaming	In this autobiography written in vivid poems, the author shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with her awareness of the Civil Rights movement, and acknowledging how the many facets of her life came together to make her into the unique person she is.
Red Kayak	Priscilla Cummings	Red Kayak	When thirteen-year-old Brady makes a horrible suggestion as a joke, his best friends actually carry out his suggestion, and ultimately cause a tragedy. Brady wrestles with his conscience until the secrets he has been carrying literally burst out of him. He has no choice but to do the right thing, but will his parents and his best friends

READING ASSIGNMENT #2: Circle Graph

Choose one of the major characters of your novel, either the protagonist (main character) or another fully-developed character. Think about the traits, both external and internal, that the character possesses. Then, based on the symbolic meanings of the colors in the symbolism chart below, create a circle graph to

represent the traits of your character. In addition to the choice of colors, the **amount** of color should also be significant. The more dominant a trait that your character displays, the larger the section of the graph and the more you use the representative color.

Requirements:

- You must use at least **three colors** in your design.
- For each color, you must write a well-written paragraph explaining your color choice and amount, and you must use at least one specific example (textual evidence) from the novel to support your choice. Remember to analyze or further explain your evidence. (See example below)
- You must include a trait & color key. (See example below)

SYMBOLISM CHART

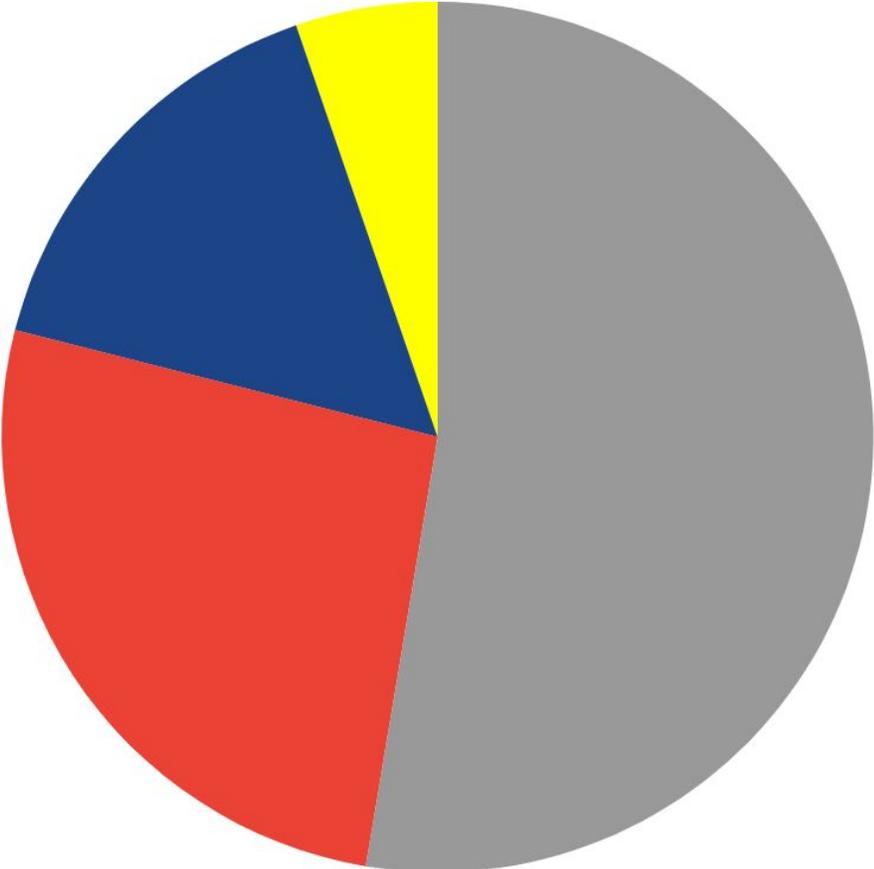
Red	excitement, energy, passion, love, desire, speed, strength, power, heat, aggression, danger, fire, blood, war, violence, all things intense and passionate, sincerity
Pink	love and romance, caring, tenderness, acceptance and calm
Beige or ivory	Beige symbolizes unification, calm and simplicity. Ivory symbolizes quiet and pleasantness.
Yellow	joy, happiness, betrayal, optimism, idealism, imagination, hope, sunshine, summer, gold, philosophy, dishonesty, cowardice, jealousy, covetousness, deceit, illness, hazard and friendship
Dark Blue	integrity, knowledge, power, and seriousness
Blue	peace, tranquility, cold, calm, stability, harmony, unity, trust, truth, confidence, conservatism, security, cleanliness, order, loyalty, sky, water, technology, depression, appetite suppressant
Turquoise	calm, sophistication, water, a feminine appeal

Purple	royalty, nobility, spirituality, ceremony, mystery, transformation, wisdom, enlightenment, cruelty, honor, arrogance, mourning, temperance
Lavender	femininity, grace and elegance
Orange	energy, balance, enthusiasm, warmth, vibrant, expansive, flamboyant, demanding of attention
Green	nature, environment, healthy, good luck, renewal, youth, spring, generosity, fertility, jealousy, service, inexperience, envy, misfortune, vigor
Brown	earth, stability, hearth, home, outdoors, reliability, comfort, endurance, simplicity, and comfort
Gray	security, reliability, intelligence, staid, modesty, dignity, maturity, solid, conservative, practical, old age, sadness, boring. Silver symbolizes calm
White	reverence, purity, birth, simplicity, cleanliness, peace, humility, precision, innocence, youth, winter, snow, good, marriage (Western cultures), death (Eastern cultures), cold, clinical
Black	power, sophistication, formality, elegance, wealth, mystery, fear, evil, unhappiness, depth, style, sadness, remorse, anger, anonymity, underground, mourning, death, austerity, detachment

Example paragraph from The Giver:

The color "gray" represents Jonas, especially at the beginning of the novel, because his ideas about the community were very conservative. For example, when Jonas has a conversation with the Giver about the freedom to make choices, he concludes that it would be much too dangerous if people made their own choices because they might make "the wrong choices." It is "much safer this way," (p.99). At this point, he is committed to the traditional values and ideas of the community, and he still blindly accepts the rules the Elders have established. He doesn't yet have the maturity and wisdom to make decisions for himself. I made more than half of my circle graph gray because he is opposed to sudden and radical changes and displays a conservative attitude.

Circle Graph Example:



- Conservative
- Excitement
- Knowledge
- Optimism

