

# Austin Road Middle School



## 2022 Summer Study for Rising Seventh Grade ELA Scholars

### Welcome Seventh Grade Scholars!

We look forward to traversing through time and space with you through the eyes of some of the best writers of all time. Students enrolled in Seventh Grade ELA are required to read two books (one fiction, one nonfiction), and learn about current events. **Students will interact in class discussions and complete a small project in class over the material, so they should read and annotate carefully.**

**NOTICE:** Please be aware that there is sensitive material in the options, parents and students should work together to choose materials to study. There are lots of choices for every student.

### PART 1: Read One Nonfiction Book - Choose one option below:

1. ***A Long Walk to Water*** by Linda Sue Park features two stories told in two different sections; one about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985. The girl, Nya's story, begins when she is getting water from a pond that is a two hours' walk from her home. Nya makes two trips to the pond every day. On the other hand, the boy, Salva, becomes a refugee who searches for his family on foot and for a safe place to stay. Salva endures loneliness and attacks, but proves himself to be a survivor; his story intersects with Nya in a very inspiring way.
2. ***Brown Girl Dreaming*** by Jaqueline Woodson is Woodson's memoir of her life growing up during the Civil Rights Movement. Using imaginative poetry, she gives you her unique perspective on the civil rights movement. For example, you see through her eyes what it's like wondering if she's as strong as Ruby Bridges.
3. ***While the World Watched*** by Carolyn Maull McKinstry is an eyewitness account of one of the most catastrophic events during the Civil Rights Movement. On September 15, 1963, a Klansmen planted a bomb that would later go off in the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Fourteen year old Carolyn Maull was a few feet away when the bomb exploded killing four of her friends.

**PART 2: Read One Fiction Book - Choose one book from the options:**

1. **Tears of a Tiger** by Sharon Draper is a novel that chronicles the story of poor teenage decisions and the effects that follow. Andy, a high school athlete, along with his friends B.J, Tyrone, and Robbie are all into the things that most high school students enjoy: parties, girls, and sports. One night after winning a game, the guys go out to celebrate. They grab a few drinks and load into Andy's car. Sadly, things take an unfortunate turn.
2. **The Giver** by Lois Lowry is a story about a young boy named Jonas who lives in a society free of crime and sadness. When children turn 12, they are assigned jobs that they are trained for and will complete for the rest of their lives. Everything in their lives is chosen from their parents to spouses. What makes their society unique is that it is free of all the negativity in life, but Jonas's new role now causes him to keep all the good and bad memories with him. Jonas is chosen as the new "Memory Keeper." This is both a good and bad thing as memories protect the inhabitants from harm, but prevent them from being exposed to all the beautiful things in life.
3. **Class Act** by Jerry Craft is about eighth grader Drew Ellis. Drew has been reminded his whole life that "You have to work twice as hard to be just as good." He battles with this statement especially when he feels that although he works hard, he is not afforded the same opportunities as his classmates. Drew begins to judge his good friend Liam who is considered one of the privileged kids; the pressure begins to mount and Drew tries to find a way to accept himself while also maintaining his friendships.

**Part 3 - Follow the News (Recommended):**

A truly educated person also has knowledge of current events. Instead of limiting yourself to one source, examine a variety of sources. To know your world better, please do one of the following weekly:

- Read a newspaper or read the news online.
- Read a weekly news magazine.
- Listen to the news on the radio.
- Watch the news on television.

Enjoy your summer. We look forward to seeing you in the classroom. If you have any questions, please feel free to email - **Ms. Adrienne Thomas, 7th Grade ELA Teacher- [adrienne.thomas@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:adrienne.thomas@henry.k12.ga.us)**