

Dear Parents,

As our students ready themselves for summer, we are happy to share the following lists of books assigned for them to enjoy over Summer Break. It is a valued characteristic among our student body to be well-read. Moreover, regular contact with well-composed text makes us better readers, writers, and speakers. We also enjoy discussing books we have read as a community. *We would like to invite all parents to share in the experience this year by reading one of the Orientation Books and attending the discussion to be held at school on Thursday, August 29 (time TBD).* At the very least, we hope you will participate in helping your student to choose from the selections described on the attached list.

Each student will read a total of **FOUR (4)** books this summer. First, students will read two of our “Orientation Book” options. They should choose **one fiction** and **one non-fiction** from the lists. Brief assignments that students will need to complete about these books can be found on the Parent Portal of the Camelot website. Students should arrive at school on the **first day of school, August 28**, with their completed orientation book assignments.

The other **TWO** assigned books will require students to take an Accelerated Reader (AR) test at school. Your student will need to make a few trips to Camelot during the summer to complete these tests. Each AR test is administered through an assigned computer at Camelot. Camelot will be open during the summer, except from June 24 - July 5 when our offices and programming are closed for vacation. Students may come to take tests during all other weeks at any time between 8 AM and 5 PM. There is no appointment needed. If your student does not meet the mastery standard of 80%, he or she is expected to review the book and take the test again on another day. Please inform the office if your student did not show mastery on a test so we can reset the account. A student must wait one day before retrying a test. AR test grades do not factor into a student’s Language Arts course grade. Their objective is to develop and maintain the habit of reading closely and to encourage an increased exposure to literature. **The deadline for completing all Summer AR tests is Friday, August 23 at 5pm.**

Inability to locate any one of the assigned books will not be an acceptable excuse for not completing the summer reading assignments. Please let us know early in the summer if you need assistance. Students who do not complete the assignments will need to attend after school Study Hall starting on Tuesday, September 3 until the assignment is complete. To indicate that you have read and understood this information, please sign the second page of this form and return by Friday, May 31. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,
Camelot’s Language Arts Teaching Team

Book List - New-to-Upper-School

ORIENTATION BOOKS - Choose ONE fiction and ONE non-fiction of the following to discuss at Orientation. Students will receive the accompanying assignment once books are selected.

FICTION: Choose 1

- ❑ **Haroun and the Sea of Stories by Salman Rushdie** - When Haroun Khalifa's storyteller father loses his gift of gab, Haroun tumbles headfirst into an adventure story to save him, journeying on the back of a flying Hoopoe bird to the Sea of Stories, where he finds a host of comical, unforgettable new friends. (review adapted from *Amazon*)
- ❑ **A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman** - This is the heartwarming, humorous tale of a grumpy curmudgeon whose well-ordered world changes dramatically when new neighbors accidentally roll over his mailbox with a U-Haul. A series of flashbacks that reveal Ove's history forces readers to reevaluate first impressions, while a quaint narrative about the interconnectedness of community unfolds. *Parents and students should note that the main character attempts suicide in order to meet his wife in the afterlife, but the book is not encouraging of Ove's drastic methods to cope with sadness and instead has an overall message of hope and universal kinship.*
- ❑ **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Hadon** - A gifted autistic protagonist sets out to solve the mystery of the murder a neighbor's dog. What follows makes for a novel that is funny, poignant and fascinating in its portrayal of a person whose mind that perceives the world entirely literally. *Parents and students should know there is some foul language.* (review adapted from *Goodreads*)

NON-FICTION: Choose 1

- ❑ **Deep Run Roots by Vivian Howard** - This autobiographical cookbook weaves anecdotes from the life of Vivian Howard, award-winning co-creator of the PBS series *A Chef's Life* and owner of the acclaimed *Chef and Farmer* restaurant in Kinston, NC, with a large selection of her delicious recipes. Students who select this book will read the narrative beginnings of each chapter, which are organized by ingredient. The assessment for this book will involve cooking something from the book and writing about the experience.
- ❑ **I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition) - by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick** - When Malala Yousafzai stood up for her right to an education in the Taliban-controlled areas of Pakistan, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head while riding the bus home from school. Her remarkable recovery took her on an extraordinary journey to become a global symbol of peaceful protest. (review adapted from *Goodreads*)
- ❑ **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Readers Edition - by William Kamkwambe and Bryan Mealer** - When 14-year-old William Kamkwamba's Malawi village was hit with drought and everyone's crops began to fail, William spent his days in the library to figure out how to bring electricity to his village. Persevering against all odds, William built a windmill out of junkyard scraps. (review adapted from *Goodreads*)

In addition, New-to-Upper-School Students will read:

- The Outsiders by SE Hinton
- 1 choice book that can be found in the AR system. Please verify eligibility here:
<https://www.arbookfind.com/>

Camelot Summer Reading SUMMARY OF DUE DATES:

Friday , May 31:

- Book selection and signatures

Friday August 23 at 5pm:

- 2 AR Tests passed with an 80% or higher

Wednesday, August 28:

- Orientation book read and mini-assignment completed - see Parent Portal of Camelot Website

Please sign that you have received and read the summer reading letter and directions and understand the expectations.

Please put a check next to the Orientation Books you plan to read. You are welcome to change your mind by letting Ms. Amy know at amy@camelotacademy.org, but we want a general idea of how many will do what and need to give you the appropriate assignment. See descriptions on attached letter.

FICTION: Choose 1

- ☐ Haroun and the Sea of Stories by Salman Rushdie
- ☐ A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman
- ☐ The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Hadon

NON-FICTION: Choose 1

- ☐ Deep Run Roots by Vivian Howard
- ☐ I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the WOrld (Young Readers Edition) - by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick
- ☐ The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Readers Edition - by William Kamkwambe and Bryan Mealer

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents, please sign that

- ☐ You have read the summer reading letter and expectations
- ☐ You approve your student reading the chosen book based on the description attached

Parent name: _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____