

WATKINSON SCHOOL

Required Summer Reading & Viewing 2018

ENGLISH

6th grade	<i>Out of My Mind</i> , by Sharon M. Draper
7th grade	<i>The Misfits</i> , by James Howe
8th grade	<i>The Outsiders</i> , by S.E. Hinton <i>Refugee</i> , by Alan Gratz
9th grade	<i>Of Mice and Men</i> , by John Steinbeck <i>The Song of Achilles</i> , by Madeline Miller
10th grade	<i>The Joy Luck Club</i> , by Amy Tan <i>The Things They Carried</i> , by Tim O'Brien
11th grade	<i>Sula</i> , by Toni Morrison <i>Goodbye, Columbus</i> , by Philip Roth
12th grade	<i>Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress</i> , by Dai Sijie <i>Eva Luna</i> , by Isabel Allende

HISTORY

6th grade	<i>One Well: The Story of Water on Earth</i> , by Rochelle Strauss
7th grade	<i>Archer's Quest</i> , by Linda Sue Park
8th grade	<i>Warriors Don't Cry</i> , by Melba Patillo Beals
9th grade	<i>Nation</i> , by Terry Pritchett
10th grade	<i>The Color of Water</i> , by James McBride
Global Studies Program	<i>A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity</i> , by Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn

SCIENCE

6th grade	<i>Project Mulberry</i> , by Linda Sue Park
7th grade	<i>There's an Owl in the Shower</i> , by Jean Craighead George Answer questions found here → https://tinyurl.com/mqyruzj

8th grade

Choose ONE: a **TV Show** or **Movie** that is at least **45** minutes long OR a **book** that has to do with outer space or astronomy. Be prepared to share about your TV show, movie, or book for the first day of class! Your sharing should be at least a page long (single spaced). PRINT NEATLY or WORD PROCESS.

1. Write a summary about the movie/TV show/book and how it relates to astronomy.
2. Write a paragraph of the new things you learned.
3. Write what you would like to learn more about this year.

Suggestions (these are only suggestions, you are welcome to find other options):

- Shows - *Edge of the Universe*, *Journey to the Edge of the Universe* (National Geographic - found on YouTube); an episode of *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey* (found on Netflix)
- Movies- *Interstellar* (Rated PG-13, 2014), *The Right Stuff* (Rated PG 1983)
- Books- *Leviathan Wakes*, by James S.A. Corey; *When the Sun Goes Dark*, by Andrew Fraknoi and Dennis Schatz.

9th grade: Environmental Science

Watch **ONE** of the following movies: *A Civil Action* (PG-13) 1998 or *Erin Brockovich* (R) 2000. Answer each of the following questions with a full paragraph. Be prepared for a class discussion on the first day! PRINT NEATLY or WORD PROCESS.

1. Watkinson's mission is to develop in our students the power to shape their lives and the world around them. How has the main character in the film fulfilled Watkinson's mission in his/her own life? Give examples by referring to specific characters and events in the film.
2. Describe the environmental problem discussed in the movie. What caused the problem? What parts of the environment were involved? How were people affected?
3. Now do some research and find facts about the real situation discussed in the film. Summarize your findings and list your source(s).

Possible Prompts: *What has happened since to the real people depicted in the film? What has happened since to the area where the problem occurred? What differences are there between the real situation and the film?*

10th Grade: Biology

Choose **ONE** of the activities listed below. Please have the written assignment digitized, with picture(s), and ready to share on the first day of class.

1. Take a picture of yourself at the source and mouth of a river. These do not need to be the same river! Write a paragraph explaining what a watershed is and how pollution can lead to eutrophication.
2. Take a picture of yourself at a zoo with an animal. Describe the animal's biome and niche in its community. Make sure to include any predator/prey interactions (what does it eat? What eats it?), the scientific name, and whether the species is threatened or endangered in the wild.
3. Take a picture of yourself at a botanical garden with a plant. Describe the plant's biome, niche in its community, any pollinators (if it's a flowering plant), and seed dispersal mechanisms (how are the seeds spread?). Make sure to include its scientific name and whether the species is threatened or endangered in the wild.
4. Visit three biomes and take a picture of yourself at each. Note that the biomes could be terrestrial or aquatic. Choose one of the biomes and describe how it is different from the other two biomes. Make sure to include terms such as temperature, precipitation, and latitude for terrestrial biomes and salinity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature for aquatic biomes.
5. Go on a mile-long (minimum) hike, and write a journal describing your hike. Categorize animals and plants that you observe and describe any challenges that you face. Was the hike difficult? Did you cross any streams? What sort of ecosystems did you traverse? How did you feel when you completed the trail? Have fun with this activity and feel free to make many journal entries.
6. For one day, keep a food journal. Take a picture of everything that you eat and investigate the impact of these foods on the environment. Make sure to include in your journal the food's origin as well as how much water and nutrients go into growing the crops or raising the animals.

11th /12th Grade: Botany

Students will take at least one original photograph related to a topic of botany and will present the image on the first day of class following summer vacation. Picture submissions are limited to **FOUR-per-person**. All images must be accompanied by a well-written explanation outlining the significance of the image to botany in language understandable to non-professionals. See the link below for a list of possible botanical terms. Please keep in mind that other terms are acceptable as some photographs may deal with historical people or events related to botany. Students will describe and present the images and terms on the first day of class. An award will be provided for the BEST botanical image and explanation.

[List of possible botanical terms](#)

Images must include:

1. A brief (100-200 word) paragraph explaining each image to a non-professional audience using, and explaining, botanical terms. (see [examples](#))
2. Image information
 - a. Your name
 - b. Image title

- c. Botanical name(s), common name(s), when the image was taken, where it was taken (longitude/latitude if available and appropriate);
- d. APA Citation of any sources used in term explanation

3. Each file must be a .JPG or .TIF within the size range **minimum 1MB - maximum 15MB** and must be an photograph taken by you.

11th /12th Grade: Zoology Summer Viewing

Please watch the movie OR read the book**, *Gorillas in the Mist*, about primatologist Dian Fossey's work with mountain gorillas. The movie can be rented online from several services or bought from Amazon as a DVD. A copy of this assignment can be found at tinyurl.com/WatGorillasInTheMist. Please answer these questions and be ready to hand them in on the FIRST day of class.

1. Dian Fossey was not a trained field scientist. Describe the challenges she faced early in her work studying gorillas and how her ability to study gorillas improved over time.
2. The protection of the wildlife (gorillas and other animals) was at odds with the lifestyle of the Batwa people that lived on the mountain. Describe what motivated Dian AND the Batwa people to deal with the wildlife from their perspective. Be sure to include the other animals besides gorillas in your explanations.
3. Dian's methods of protecting the gorillas were controversial. Suggest alternative methods that Dian or others could have used to protect the gorilla population and other wildlife on the mountain.
4. At the end of the film, Dian describes what she thinks about tourists on the mountain. Do you agree with her? What are your thoughts about ecotourism? *If needed, do a web search to understand ecotourism.*
5. Pick your favorite scene that you think we should rewatch in class. Record the approximate place in the movie (or book) and explain why you chose it.

****Read the Book:** This classic book written by Dian Fossey is the basis of the movie. While it will take you longer, reading the book gives you better insight into her life and the biology and behavior of mountain gorillas. If you chose to read it, you can still do the above questions except substitute your favorite part for the favorite scene in #5. It's one of my favorite books!