

**JSTEM**  
**7th Grade Pre-AP/ TAG Summer Reading Information**  
**Due: August 16, 2023**

Dear Incoming 7th grade Pre-AP/GT English Parents and Students:

Welcome to Pre-AP/ TAG ELAR I am so excited to meet all of you next year. Attached is your summer reading assignment. Please read through each handout very carefully and email one of the contact persons listed below. If you have any questions. It is imperative that you allow yourself enough time to thoroughly read your chosen novel. The novel will also be used in class to do Literature Circles during the first weeks of school. Your signature on our roster for the welcoming meeting indicates your accountability to complete this assignment with complete honor.

I look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

*Meghann Latimer*

JSTEM 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELAR Teacher

Campus/District Contacts	Teacher	Contact Information
JSTEM	Meghann Latimer	mlatimer@judsonisd.org

Novel Choices: Choose one of the 4 novels to read from the provided list

1. **Isaac's storm; A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History** by Erik Larson,
2. **The Secret/the Yellow Death-A true story of Medical Sleuthing** by Suzanne Jurmain
3. **Insignia** by S.J.Kincaid
4. **The Face on the Milk Carton** by Caroline B. Cooney

\*\*\*Book number 4 is on the JISD approved reading list



Summary of novels:

### **Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History**

September 8, 1900, began innocently in the seaside town of Galveston, Texas. Even Isaac Cline, resident meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau failed to grasp the true meaning of the strange deep-sea swells and peculiar winds that greeted the city that morning. Mere hours later, Galveston found itself submerged in a monster hurricane that completely destroyed the town and killed over six thousand people in what remains the greatest natural disaster in American history—and Isaac Cline found himself the victim of a devastating personal tragedy.

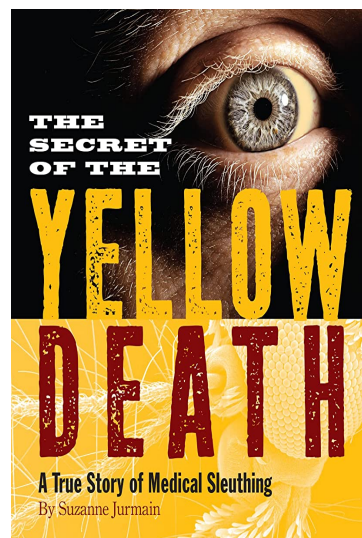
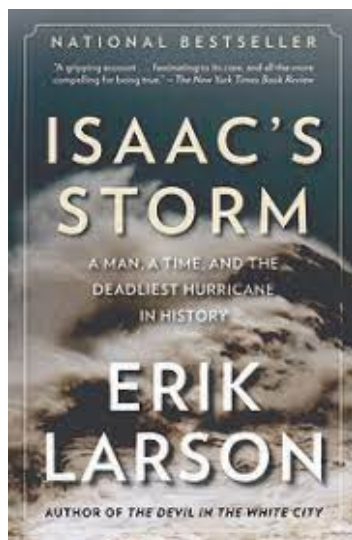
Using Cline's own telegrams, letters, and reports, the testimony of scores of survivors and our latest understanding of science of hurricanes, Erik Larson builds a chronicle of one man's heroic struggle and fatal miscalculation in the face of a storm of unimaginable magnitude. Riveting, powerful, and unbearable suspenseful, Isaac's Storm is the story of what can happen when human arrogance meets the great uncontrollable force of nature.

**\*\*Warning a lot of death and destruction noted in book\*\***

### **The Secret of the Yellow Death- A true story of Medical Sleuthing**

Red oozes from the patient's gums. He has a rushing headache, and the whites of his eyes look like lemons. He will likely die within day.

Here is the true story of how four Americans and one Cuban tracked down a killer, one of the world's most vicious plagues: yellow fever. Set in forth-stricken Cuba, this book allows the reader to feel the heavy air, smell the stench of disease, hears the whine of mosquitoes biting human volunteers during the surreal experiments. Exploring themes of courage, cooperation, and the ethics of human experimentation, this gripping account is ultimately a story of the triumph of science.



## Insignia

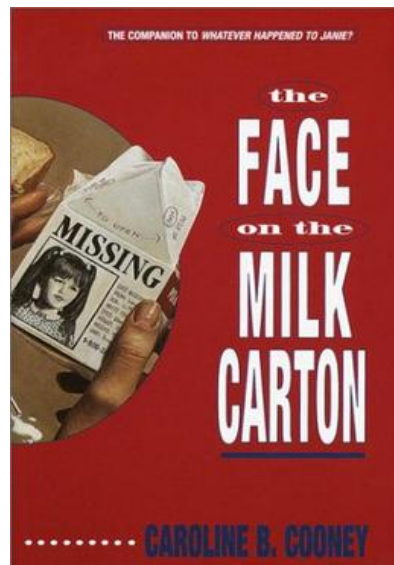
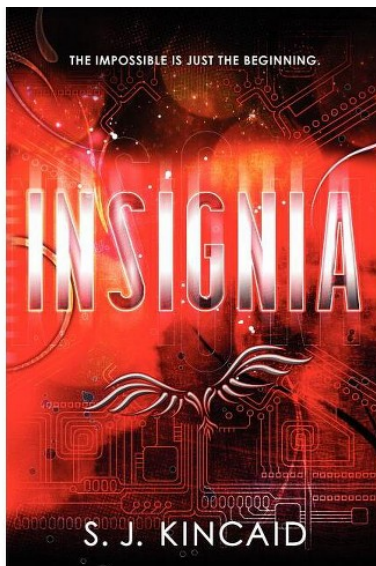
The earth is in the middle of WWII in *Insignia*, the first entry in S. J. Kincaid's fast-paced sci-fi adventure trilogy perfect fans of *Ender's Game*.

The planet's natural resources are almost gone, and war is being fought to control the assets of the solar system. The enemy is winning. The salvation may be Tom Raines. Tom doesn't seem like a hero. He's a short fourteen-year-old with bad skin. But he has the virtual-reality gaming skills that make him a phenom behind the controls of the battle drones. As" new member of the Intersolar Forces, Tom's life completely changes. Suddenly, he's someone important. He has new opportunities, friends, and a shot at having a girlfriend. But there is a price to pay...

## The Face on the Milk Carton

No one ever really paid close attention to the faces of the missing children on the milk cartons. But as Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl with her hair in tight pigtails, wearing a dress with a narrow white collar—a three-year-old who had been kidnapped twelve years before from a shopping mall in New Jersey—she felt that her loving parents kidnapped her, but as she begins to piece things together, nothing makes sense. Something is terribly wrong. Are Mr. and Mrs. Johnson really her parents? And if not, who is Janie Johnson, and what really happened?

\*\* warning contains a few mature scenes \*\*

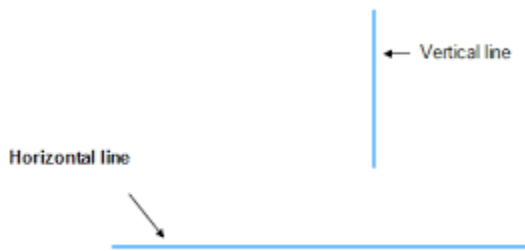


# Summer Assignment Directions:

*Please see the next page for your bingo board assignments. **YOU** will choose what you do. You will need to complete one bingo line. Complete the rows of your choice.*

*Each writing should be about a page in length unless otherwise stated. If you are handwriting. If you are doing your writing electronically a ½ page will suffice.*

*You must either go  
Horizontal  
Vertical*




*Diagonal*



*Remember you can always do more !!!!!*

*HAVE FUN AND I WILL SEE YOU IN AUGUST*

# Summer Reading Choice Board

Convince me that this book should (should not) be taught next year. Support your opinion with specific events in the story	Make a soundtrack for the book. create a playlist of 10-15 songs along with an album cover. Email me your playlist (see front of assignment)	Summarize the events from the text by creating a comic strip	Pretend you are a talk show host and are interviewing your favorite character from the book. Write down questions you would ask, and what they'd probably say	Make a connection! Did anything in this novel sound like something that has happened to you? Write about it.
Analyze the title of the book after reading it. Does it fit? What else could it be called? Write three (3) alternative titles and explain why they might work	Discuss similarities and differences between this book and another book you have read. Write a page response outlining the similarities and differences.	Redesign the cover of the book. What other images might be appropriate for the front of the book?	After reading this book, what do you want to learn more about? List 5 connected topics of research and what you found out.	Summarize the novel in the fewest words possible. Aim for 30 words or less like in a tweet
Make a tik tok like video using props and other people to make a 30 second to 1 minute video of the basic plot of the novel. Email me your video (see front of assignment)	Compose a letter to the author (neatly written or typed) suggesting an idea for a sequel. What do you want to see continued or updated from the story?	 <p><b>FREE SPACE</b></p>	Make a map of important places where the story takes place. Label the reason why each place is significant. Make sure they are on a map of some sort.	Draw a portrait of you favorite character. Include details from the story in the person's image.
Sketch a detailed image of an important/ your favorite scene. Stick figures are NOT ok. Use details and other elements in your drawing	Write a review for this book. Would you give it a thumbs up or down? Why? Use examples from your book to answer in a one page response.	Make a collage for your book using pictures you find online or in old magazines. They can also be hand drawn. What 10 images represent the story best.	Create a crossword or word search from at least 10-15 words that were challenging from the text.	Pretend you are a character from the book and write five ½ page journal entries that tell about your adventure.
Think of an activity in the book that one of the characters did. Make a documentary video of you doing it.	Construct a symbolism suitcase of items around your house that would symbolize the novel. Snap a picture and write a page on how those items would symbolize the novel.	<p>Using an iPad or a digital camera, make faces of the emotions the main characters would have gone through in your book and take photos of them.</p> <p>Put them together in a document on your computer or device and explain the emotion below the image and when the character would have felt this way.</p>	<p>Create a Facebook page for your character with some status updates about what they have been up to.</p> <p>Include some pictures and ensure your status updates are relevant to the character and the story.</p> <p>Around 3 – 4 status updates with images should give an overall picture of the character.</p>	<p>Choose three important events from the text and explain how you would have handled them differently from the characters in the story.</p> <p>Explain how it may have changed the story's outcome in either a minor or significant way.</p> <p>Be insightful here and think of the cause and effect. Sometimes your smallest action can have a significant impact on others.</p>

<b><i>Category</i></b>	<b><i>Level 4</i></b>	<b><i>Level 3</i></b>	<b><i>Level 2</i></b>	<b><i>Level 1</i></b>
<b><i>Quality of Work</i></b>	The student completed more than the required number of tasks by their due date	The student completed all the required tasks by their due date	The student completed most of the required tasks by their due date	The student completed very few of the required tasks by the due date
<b><i>Choices</i></b>	The student chose a great mixture of assignments to complete, showing at least 4 different skills. Based on their abilities, the student pushed themselves to complete challenging assignments that were out of their comfort zone	The student chose a good mixture of assignments to complete, showing at least 3 different skills. Based on their abilities, the student pushed themselves to complete challenging assignments	The student chose an adequate mix of assignments to complete showing at least 2 different skills. Based on their abilities, the student could have pushed themselves to complete more challenging assignments	The student chose only easy tasks and showed 1-2 skills. Based on their abilities, the student chose less challenging assignments
<b><i>Completeness</i></b>	The student completed all parts of each of their assignments, and extended their thinking beyond what was required.	The student completed all parts of their assignments to their individual ability	The student completed most parts of their assignments to their individual ability, or completed the tasks with little detail	The student completed few parts of their assignments, or completed the assignments with no additional detail
<b><i>Accuracy</i></b>	The answers are correct and show connections and extensions	The answers are correct and show connections	The answers are mostly correct and show some connection	There are many errors in the assignments and there is no connection