

**Pine Lake Preparatory  
Seventh-Grade  
2018 Summer Reading**

**Please choose ONE novel to read from the following list:**

- *Cracker (The Best Dog in Vietnam)* by Cynthia Kadohata (Cracker, an intelligent German Shepherd, becomes a soldier's best friend during the war.)
- *Shooting Kabul* by N. H. Sensai (Twelve-year-old Fadi, a young boy, comes to the U.S. from Afghanistan in 2001 and starts at a middle school; then 9/11 occurs!)
- *The Elephant in the Garden* by Michael Morpurgo (In 1942 in war-torn Dresden, a family must save themselves as well as a special animal from the zoo.)

**Assignment Details:**

**\*Students are required to write two essays on the novel selected. Both essays should be typed in black ink, 12 pt. font.**

**\*Essays should be turned in to your ELA teacher on Canvas when you return to school in August; then you will know who your ELA teacher will be!**

**\*Please save your essays until you return to school for the 2018-19 year!**

**Essay I. Genre of your summer reading novel:**

In an essay of 350 words or more, discuss the genre of the novel you have read.

After deciding between fiction and non-fiction, **choose** from more specific genres:

*historical fiction, science fiction, mystery, autobiography, biography, etc.* Discuss

in your essay two to three characteristics of the genre represented in your novel and

two to three examples from your novel that support these characteristics. In other

words, how did you decide or how did you know that your novel was

\_\_\_\_\_ fiction (for example)?

## **Essay II. “Survival Theme” in relation to your summer reading novel:**

In the 7th grade our year long theme will be “Survival.” In an essay of 350 words or more, discuss how your summer reading novel is/was related to the survival theme. Think outside of the box with this theme-- survival is not only demonstrated in wars or natural disasters; humans can survive a dentist appointment, a speech, a scary movie, etc. You can discuss one or more characters in the novel that struggled to survive in some way.

Remember--choose one book but answer two essay questions!

And don't forget to have a wonderfully fun and adventurous summer!

Can't wait to see you all in August!

Questions? Please contact [natalie.goodwin@pinelakeprep.org](mailto:natalie.goodwin@pinelakeprep.org) or [teresa.naylor@pinelakeprep.org](mailto:teresa.naylor@pinelakeprep.org)