



Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet School
for Health Sciences and Engineering
9th Grade Summer Reading
2016-2017

All 9th Graders are required to read two novels: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The book is light; the story is heavy. This slim volume goes deep, exploring the relationships and forces that bring humans together and pull us apart. Meet George and Lennie, a pair of best friends with little more than a head full of dreams and past full of problems. Set against the backdrop of the Great Depression, workers, owners, enemies, friends, women, men, the past, present, future, and rabbits all play a part as Steinbeck critiques the value of dreams, weighs the power of the heart and the mind, and measures the distance we go for those we love.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses and then training them in the arts of war. The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of 'games'. Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games. He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet?

The first few weeks of class will be devoted to the study of the summer reading novels. You should bring your own copy of each novel with you when you report to school. (If this proves to be problematic for you and your family, see your teacher at the beginning of school.) Because you will be required to create meaning from what you read, you are expected to be an active reader. That means you should take notes (highlighting or underlining important parts, writing notes in the margins or on the front and end covers) on the novels as you read to help you remember important parts.

Some things to take notes on as you read:

- Study the setting of each novel and think about the impact it has on the plot and characterization
- Describe the characters, both primary and secondary
- Note the primary conflicts in each novel and how they are resolved
- Note the climax, or highest point of action, in each novel
- Major themes
- Symbolism

Again, you are expected to be an active and engaged reader of the books. **While you are not required to complete a writing assignment on the reading over the summer, you are responsible for the reading and creating meaning from it. Testing on the books will begin the second day of school. Bring copies of the books with you when you report to school. These guidelines and any appropriate additional instructions will be posted on the school's website (www.mlmagnet.mnps.org). Check the website frequently for any updates.**