Often in life, as in literature, people are confronted with personal difficulties or challenges. How each person chooses to face these difficulties can be very different. Some face difficulties head on, while others need time to determine a solution. As a result of this experience, a person changes his attitude or learns something about himself that he didn't know before.

During your reading, complete the graphic organizer above, using separate paper if necessary. Once you have completed both the reading and the graphic organizer, write a one-page response that discusses:

- the difficulty, or challenge, that the main character faces
- how she or he handled this difficulty or challenge
- how she or he changed as a result of this experience.

Students are to complete the specified graphic organizer and the writing prompt before the school year begins, and they are to bring their responses to school the first week of school. Students will use both resources to complete the summer reading project when they return to school in September.
Grade 7: Summer Reading with Student Choice and Voice

This annotated bibliography provides information about a variety of books from many literary genres to help guide your selection. You are required to select from this list. Many of these books are of high interest to students at typical reading levels. Other selections may be written at a more challenging reading level or contain more mature content. You will take notes about your reading on a graphic organizer (see the model on the back side). Parental review of this list or of a student’s choice is encouraged in order to assist students in making personally challenging and satisfying choices.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. Fever, 1793. This story is set in Philadelphia. Matilda Cook learns about perseverance and self-reliance when forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. (580L)

Asher, Jay. The Future of Us. What if you could see how your life would unfold? It's 1996, and less than half of all American high school students have ever used the Internet. Emma just got her first computer and an America Online CD-ROM. Josh is her best friend. They power up and log on—with discover themselves on Facebook, fifteen years in the future. (1100L)

Carvell, Marlene. Sweetgrass Basket. Two Mohawk sisters are sent to an off-reservation school after the death of their mother. Subject to intimidation and corporal punishment, the girls are taught menial tasks to prepare them for life as domestics. How Mattie and Sarah protect their culture, their memories, and their love for each other makes for a powerful historical novel. (1000L)

Choldenko, Gennifer. Al Capone Does My Shirts. Moose Flanagan and his family move to Alcatraz, famous island that’s home to criminal Al Capone. Moose has to fit in at school and keep an eye on his sister while trouble is never very far away. (600L)

Davis, Sampson. We Beat the Street. Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison, but they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. It took a lot of determination, but despite all the hardships along the way, the three succeeded. (860L)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Among the Hidden. Born third at a time when having more than two children per family is illegal, Luke has spent all of his 12 years in hiding. The loss of free will is the fundamental theme of an exciting and compelling story of one young person defying authority and the odds to make a difference. (800L)

Mass, Wendy. A Mango-Shaped Space. Fearing she’s crazy, Mia keeps secret that she sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound until she becomes overwhelmed by school and changes in her life. (770L)

O’Grady, Scott. Basher Five-Two. While 29-year-old Air Force Captain Scott O’Grady flew his 47th mission over Bosnia, his F-16 fighter plane was downed by a Serbian land missile. O’Grady relates the events of his six-day, harrowing adventure after parachuting from his disabled plane. (1040L)

Pfeiffer, Susan Beth. Life as We Knew It. Miranda’s disbelief turns to fear in a split second when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth. The result is catastrophic. Worldwide tsunamis are wiping out the coasts, earthquakes are rocking the continents, and volcanic ash is blocking out the sun. Miranda, and her family retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom. Told in a year’s worth of journal entries, this heart-pounding story chronicles Miranda’s struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all—hope. (770L)

Preller, James. Bystander. Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you’re new in town, it’s hard to know who to hang out with—and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular. But something isn’t right about Griffin. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things. And if Griffin doesn't like you, you’d better watch your back. There might be a target on it. (600L)

Shusterman, Neal. Everlost. Nick and Allie don’t survive the crash, and now their souls are stuck halfway between life and death in a limbo called Everlost. Frightened and determined, Nick and Allie aren’t ready to rest in peace just yet. But the longer they stay, the more they forget about their pasts. And if all memory of home is lost, they may never escape this strange, terrible world. (860L)

The Lexile measure of each text appears in parentheses following the text annotation. A Lexile measure indicates the difficulty of a text, like a book or magazine article. The Lexile measure is shown as a number with an "L" after it — 880L is 880 Lexile. Lexile measures generally indicate level of vocabulary used in a text; Lexile measures do not take into account subject matter or maturity of content.

For additional information, please contact Principal Amanda Caldwell at 453-1283 or at acaldwell@liverpool.k12.ny.us