



Hello seventh graders, and welcome to (almost) being eighth graders!

Your summer reading book for 2023 is Steve Sheinkin's *Bomb: The Race to Build -- and Steal -- the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*. The eighth grade English teachers have compiled the attached materials to offer you some structure and guidance as you read.

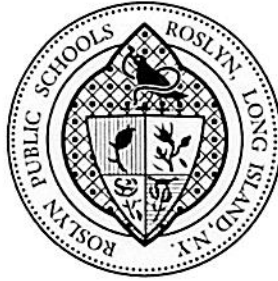
Eighth grade is an exciting year in English as we work to help you establish habits and develop practices and skills that will prepare you for high school level material. It is our goal to support you through this period of growth and guide you toward becoming more independent and confident in your reading and writing. As you read, use this resource to help you record your observations, reactions, thoughts, and opinions.

When you begin school, we will focus our first unit of study on the book, and eventually we will assign a first quarter writing assessment by the end of September. You may use these original notes to help you compose that assignment, so we urge you to take advantage of the material being provided to you. Take thorough and accurate notes, enjoy the story, and have a great summer!

Warmly,
The Eighth Grade English Team

Access a digital copy of the reading guide here.





Dear Parents,

Welcome to eighth grade English! We are eagerly looking ahead to greeting your children when they walk through our doors in September!

Sustained reading over summer months has countless benefits for developing students. It builds skills, combats learning loss, keeps kids engaged in thinking about the world beyond themselves, and deepens knowledge, awareness, and understanding. Reading can have the greatest impact when students select titles that are appropriately suited to their current interests and ability.

If you are interested in supporting your child's pursuit of additional reading over the summer but aren't sure where to start, we offer the following lists. These are merely recommendations, so feel free to be choosy! Use your discretion in identifying selections that you think are good fits for your specific child.

We do hope you find these resources helpful, and we can't wait to see you all in September!

Warmly,
Jennifer Sapir
English Chair

Mensa for Kids Excellence
in Reading Program
Grades 7-8



TIME Magazine's 100 Best
YA Books of All Time



American Library Association's
Best Fiction for Young Adults



New York Public Library's
Best Books of 2022
(Watch for the 2023 release!)



Roslyn Middle School
8th grade summer reading
Bomb reading guide

The eighth grade team is excited about our summer reading selection of *Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon*. To make your reading experience as rewarding and productive as possible, we would like to offer you some guidance:

While reading:

1. **Keep track of the major players.** It helps to take notes on individual profiles and connections between individuals as the events unfold. Don’t feel the need to annotate every page, but jotting down key people and events as you move along helps you comprehend, remember, and better understand the significance of what you’re reading.
2. **Balance judgment and empathy.** Part of what makes some situations confusing is there doesn’t seem to be a good answer. Check in with your own moral compass as you read. Consider what you think is right, and then ask yourself why someone might be motivated to act in a different way.
3. **Notice the format.** Part of what is so interesting about Sheinkin’s approach is that he took the material you’d normally read in a history textbook and wrote it as a story. As you read, try to pay attention to how the way the story is told impacts your interest, understanding, and desire to read on.

After reading:

Once you’re done, reflect on the following “big” questions:

1. What is your opinion about the United States’ decision to drop the atomic bomb, and how has the book impacted your opinion?
2. In a country like the United States, what should the relationship between science and the military look like?
3. Is it ever acceptable to deliberately target civilians during wartime, and what is your reasoning for your response?

We hope the reading proves to be a positive and engaging experience. Have a wonderful and restorative summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September!