

You have two choices for your Summer Reading Assignment:

Olivia Twist by Lori Langdon ([Link to book](#))

Or

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson ([Link to book](#))

Here are a few things that apply to your purchase of EITHER book...

1. You are totally welcome to purchase either a print version or a Kindle (e-reader) version as you wish. The only stipulation is that, when we get back to school, you need to have a device other than a phone to access your copy. But you can hi-light and make notes in a Kindle book just as easily as you can in a physical book. So--that choice is completely available to you.
2. Both of these books are available in audio form, which you are encouraged to use if you wish as a supplement to reading. You really can't do JUST the audiobook, because of our in-class assignments in the fall.
3. If you want the physical book, I highly, highly, highly recommend that you purchase a used copy via Amazon. You'll save a ton of money and help a small business.

Now, here are a few items to consider when choosing which book you want to read. These are not necessarily Pros and Cons--it just depends on what you want to choose.

Olivia Twist	Peter and the Starcatchers
Re-imagining of Dickens' <i>Oliver Twist</i> with a grown-up female Oliver and grown-up Dodger.	Imagined prequel to <i>Peter Pan</i> .
336 pages	450-480 pages (depending on edition)
Written for an older audience (Young Adult, Grades 7 and up), so maybe a more sophisticated story.	Written for a younger audience (Children, Grades 5-8), so maybe an easier book to read.
Movie Rating Equivalent: PG	Movie Rating Equivalent: G
Romance? YES Violence? YES	Romance? NO Violence? YES

My advice with every summer assignment is that you buy the book right away (so it can sit around as a reminder), but then spend most of the summer reading whatever you want to...And

then start the summer assignment about 3 weeks before the first day of school. Also, especially if you are buying a used copy of a book, buying early is a good idea, just in case there are delays in shipping.

Assignment:

Read the book.

You do NOT have a series of plot-based reading questions. However, you do have thematic questions to mark throughout your reading. You may hi-light or use sticky notes, finding passages that respond to the following questions:

1. POWER: What different power structures are evident in your novel? How are they used/maintained? Who decides who is in power? Are these structures in existence today?
2. ETHICS: "Ethics" are the rules that determine our behavior. Our sense of right and wrong. The question is--Is it ever acceptable to do a "wrong" thing for a "good" reason? Where in the book do you see this question put to the test. What is "wrong?" What is the "good" reason?
3. THRILL = EXCITEMENT+DANGER: Where are there moments in the story when your protagonist feels "thrill?" Meaning, he or she might be in real danger, but he/she is also experiencing something close to fun.
4. CRISSxCROSS: Where does your chosen novel overlap with the "original" of the other story? Meaning... Where do *Peter and the Starcatchers* and *Oliver Twist* overlap? Where do *Olivia Twist* and *Peter Pan* overlap? (you can rely on your memory of Peter Pan, or watch a version sometime over the summer...)

Be ready to talk about / write about these questions in the first few days of class.

Also, you'll need a new composition book for next year :)

Feel free to email me throughout the summer with questions, but remember that I'll be on vacation, too, so it might take me a day (or a few) to get back to you.