

## English 8 Summer Reading Assignment

Dear rising eighth graders,

The required book this summer is *Elatsoe* by Darcie Little Badger. *Elatsoe* combines mystery, horror, noir, ancestral knowledge, haunting illustrations, fantasy elements, and is one of the most-talked about debuts of the year (from publisher). **So that it is fresh in your mind, you should read this book close to the end of the summer.**

In addition to the required reading selection, you must read **two books** from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 8” or “Recommended Books for Grade 9,” both of which can be found at: <http://library.danahall.org/readinglists/summer-reading>.

As you read *Elatsoe*, have a pen or pencil in hand and take notes to keep track of the novel’s themes and the characters’ development. Underline words or phrases that stand out to you. In particular, **prepare bullet points on each of these four questions** (from National Education Association) so that you are prepared to engage in discussions and write a graded essay when you return to school. You **do not have to turn in** these notes and they **will not be graded**.

1. What makes it possible for Ellie to seek justice for somebody she loves? How does the theme of justice present in *Elatsoe* resonate with issues of injustice in society today? What do you do to make the world a more just place?
2. Ellie’s family often share stories of their ancestors. How do these stories help Ellie? How is the connection between Ellie’s supernatural abilities and her ancestors significant to the plot? How does it aid her personal journey?
3. How would you characterize Ellie’s relationship with her parents? How does it compare with parent-child relationships you’ve read in other books?
4. The author grounds her novel in Indigenous heritage but it's also filled with fairy rings, vampires, and other aliens. How was understanding what the Lipan Apache suffered at the hands of colonists important to the story?

I look forward to teaching you in the fall!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Elwell