

All incoming advanced English 7 students should read **ONE** of the following books:

Waiting for Snow in Havana:
Confessions of a Cuban Boy
by **Carlos Eire**

OR

Rocket Boys
(also known as *October Sky*)
by **Homer Hickam, Jr.**

Both books are widely available at many bookstores and local libraries. You may either rent or purchase the book, but I would encourage a purchase if you are able. This way you will have them in September to use through the beginning of school. I have arranged for the Barnes and Noble at Rochester and Auburn to have multiple copies of these books in stock.

For each book, there is a study guide to complete. **The study guide for the book you choose is a required assignment and IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. Failure to have this assignment completed may result in your seat in this class being given to someone on the waitlist.**

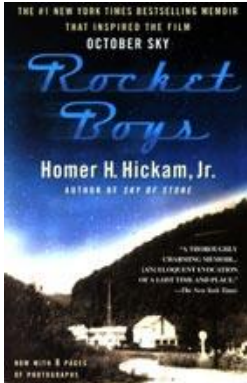
Assignment Expectations

- Copy and paste the study guide from the AMS website into a Microsoft Word Document or other word processor file. In this method, you can **type** answers to the questions on your computer. **I DO NOT** want hand-written responses.
- **Complete sentences** should always be used.
- Approximately **seven weeks** should be dedicated to the reading of this book and accompanying assignments. Given this amount of time, **quality responses and reflections** worthy of an advanced English student will be expected.

Please also note that you may disregard any additional seventh grade summer reading lists that may be distributed through school. Those lists are intended for regular English students only. Happy reading this summer! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at mary.nofs@avondale.k12.mi.us.

Extra credit points will be awarded to students who e-mail their study guides to Mrs. Nofs by **Thursday, August 22, 2019**. (Extra credit will not apply if there is an instructor change for the advanced English class).

Advanced English 7 Summer Memoir Reading Choices



Rocket Boys

(also known as *October Sky*)
by Homer Hickam

#1 New York Times bestselling memoir

Description:

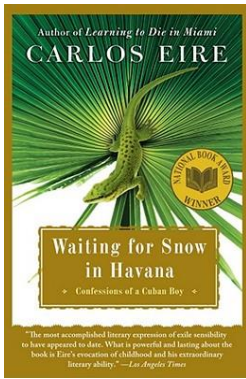
With the grace of a natural storyteller, NASA engineer Homer Hickam paints a warm, vivid portrait of the harsh West Virginia mining town of his youth, evoking a time of innocence and promise, when anything was possible, even in a company town that swallowed its men alive. A story of romance and loss, of growing up and getting out, Homer Hickam's lush, lyrical memoir is a chronicle of triumph—at once exquisitely written and marvelously entertaining.

One of the most beloved bestsellers in recent years, *Rocket Boys* is a uniquely American memoir. A powerful, luminous story of coming of age at the end of the 1950s, it is the story of a mother's love and a father's fears, of growing up and getting out.

With the grace of a natural storyteller, Homer Hickam looks back after a distinguished NASA career to tell his own true story of growing up in a dying coal town and of how, against the odds, he made his dreams of launching rockets into outer space come true.

A story of romance and loss and a keen portrait of life at an extraordinary point in American history, *Rocket Boys* is a chronicle of triumph.

www.goodreads.com



Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy

by Carlos Eire

2003 National Book Award Winner: Nonfiction

Description:

In 1962, at the age of eleven, Carlos Eire was one of 14,000 children airlifted out of Cuba, his parents left behind. His life until then is the subject of *Waiting for Snow in Havana*, a wry, heartbreaking, intoxicatingly beautiful memoir of growing up in a privileged Havana household -- and of being exiled from his own childhood by the Cuban revolution.

That childhood, until his world changes, is as joyous and troubled as any other -- but with exotic differences. Lizards roam the house and grounds. Fights aren't waged with snowballs but with breadfruit. The rich are outlandishly rich, like the eight-year-old son of a sugar baron who has a real miniature race car, or the neighbor with a private animal garden, complete with tiger. All this is bathed in sunlight and shades of turquoise and tangerine: the island of Cuba, says one of the stern monks at Carlos's school, might have been the original Paradise -- and it is tempting to believe.

Then, in January 1959, President Batista is suddenly gone, a cigar-smoking guerrilla named Castro has taken his place, and Christmas is canceled. The echo of firing squads is everywhere. At the Aquarium of the Revolution, sharks multiply in a swimming pool. And one by one, the author's schoolmates begin to disappear -- spirited away to the United States. Carlos will end up there himself, alone, never to see his father again.

Narrated with the urgency of a confession, *Waiting for Snow in Havana* is both an exorcism and an ode to a paradise lost. More than that, it captures the terrible beauty of those times in our lives when we are certain we have died -- and then are somehow, miraculously, reborn.

www.goodreads.com

Note:

This book has a "Moderate" rating from ratedreads.com for language and extensive references to Deity. Some adult content. See more at:

<http://ratedreads.com/waiting-for-snow-in-havana-confessions-of-a-cuban-boy/#sthash.J72PfXKl.dpu>