

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST (2019/20)

### Entering 6th Grade Required Reading

Incoming sixth grade students are required to read **two** books over the summer. The first book is required for all students, and no substitutions may be made. The remaining book is completely up to the students to choose for themselves. We recognize that students have their own diverse interests and varied reading abilities, so we strongly recommend that students choose books that are written at an appropriate reading level, are an achievable length, and most importantly, are high interest.

English class will begin with a discussion of the required book, along with accompanying assignments and projects. Thus, it is essential all summer reading and summer reading assignments must be completed by the first day of school.

***The Lightning Thief***—Rich Riordan. Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. He must catch a thief who has stolen Zeus’s lightning bolt, and along the way, battle a host of mythological enemies trying to stop him. (Fantasy)

### Entering 7th Grade

Incoming seventh grade students may select any **two** books from their respective reading lists. English classes will begin with a discussion of these works, along with accompanying assignments and projects. Thus, it is essential all summer reading and assignments must be completed by the first day of school.

***Fever 1793***—Laurie Halse Anderson. Young Mattie Cook, living in Philadelphia, struggles with the aftermath of the American Revolution and the onslaught of the plague. Read about her fight for survival (Historical Fiction)

***My Brother Sam Is Dead***—James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier. A young boy struggles to discover where his loyalties lie during the Revolutionary War; with his father or his brother. (Historical Fiction)

***Milkweed***—Jerry Spinelli. A young Jewish boy living on the streets of the Warsaw ghetto is intrigued by the soldiers he sees walking about and aspires to become one, until he finds the terrifying truth of who they are and what they are there to do. (Historical Fiction)

***The Giver***—Lois Lowry. In this futuristic novel, Jonah must cope with his “assignment” which sets him apart from the rest of his community, something he knows to be very dangerous. (Science Fiction)

***Uglies***—Scott Westerfeld. Set in a futuristic society, this novel follows Tally, an "ugly" who is trying to survive in a society out to control her every move, including one day making her a "pretty". (Science Fiction)

***Make Lemonade***—Virginia Euwer Wolff. LaVaughn is an inner city kid trying to make good by earning a college scholarship. Through this poetic narrative, we join Jolly, a teen-aged mom, and LaVaughn in the dedication and frustration of creating and keeping a family while also being true to themselves. (Realistic Fiction)

***The Pigman***---Paul Zindel. Don't let the title fool you! This wonderful coming of age tale takes place in a time when teenagers began questioning the values of the adults around them. The novel's main characters are challenged to question their own beliefs and choices as they develop a close relationship with an elderly man. A wonderful classic! (Classic Fiction)

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***—Sherman Alexie. This novel chronicles the life of Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, WA. When a teacher pleads with this bright fourteen-year-old to escape the hopelessness of "the rez," Arnold switches to a rich white school and immediately becomes as much an outcast in his own community as he is a curiosity in his new one. Through art and soul-searching, he figures out where he truly belongs. (Multicultural Fiction)

***Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment***—James Patterson This action packed novel has a group of unique kids on the run from an organization. They are fiercely loyal to one another and work to find a way to survive in the wilderness while uncovering the mystery of this secret organization. A story of friendship and survival that will keep you on the edge of your seat! (Science Fiction)

***Moo*** –Sharon Creech This novel, written in verse, tells the story of a young girl who is uprooted from her home to move with her family to Maine. As she and her brother develop an unexpected relationship with an eccentric neighborhood, they learn that a little kindness can change lives. (Realistic Fiction)

***When the Sea Turned to Silver***—Grace Lin This enchanting novel tells the story of a young girl who has to try to rescue her grandmother, the Storyteller, who has been kidnapped by the Emperor. She must go on a journey to find the Luminous Stone and bring it back to the emperor. A fast paced adventure filled with magic! (Fantasy)

## **Entering 8th Grade**

Incoming eighth grade students may select any **two** books from the summer reading list. Students may not substitute books on the reading list with those of their own choosing. Written assignments exploring these books will be shared with students in time for summer break.

English classes will begin with an examination of these works. Thus, it is essential all summer reading and assignments must be completed by the first day of school.

***The Hate U Give***—Angie Thomas. Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. (Realistic Fiction)

***The Book Thief***—Markus Zusak. A story of a young girl growing up in Germany during WWII. As she struggles with the War and death, she turns to stealing books to fulfill her love for reading and help her to cope with her surroundings. (Historical Fiction)

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime***—Mark Haddon. When his neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes (one of his favorite characters) and track down the killer. The mystery leads him on a quest to find his place in the world. (Mystery)

***Ender's Game***—Orson Scott Card. In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, along with his siblings, has the ability to remake the world, if the world survives. An exciting tale of psychological and physical battles. (Science Fiction)

***Habibi***—Naomi Shihab Nye. In a story filled with beautiful imagery and intriguing characters, fourteen-year-old Liyana's father, a native Palestinian, decides to move his family from America back to Jerusalem. Liyana's happiness improves when she makes a friend, Omar, a Jewish boy. A tale of the meaning of home. (Multicultural Fiction)

***Picture Me Gone***—Meg Rosoff. A page-turner about the relationship between parents and children, love and loss. Mila a teenager girl with a special talent for reading a room—sensing hidden facts and unspoken emotions from clues that others overlooked—uses her senses when her father's best friend goes missing from his upstate New York home. Yet, just when she's closest to solving the mystery, a shocking betrayal calls into question her trust in the one person she thought she could read best. (Mystery)

***Inherit the Wind***—Jerome Lawrence. A legal drama based upon the Scopes Trial, involving the debate between creationism and evolution. Again, do not let yourself be swayed by length, as this is a most serious work. (Historical Fiction)

***Brown Girl Dreaming***—Jacqueline Woodson. In this National Book Award Winner and Newbery Honor Book, Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in

the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remains of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Written in powerful, yet simple poetry, each poem is a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world, finding joy in stories even as she struggles with reading. (Memoir)

***Hole in My Life***—Jack Gantos. In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was a high school graduate looking for adventure, cash for college tuition, and a way out of a dead-end job. He recklessly agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with a ton of hashish from the Virgin Islands to New York City, where he and his partners sold the drug until federal agents caught up with them. This is a fast-paced read about the struggle that marked the end of his youth. (Memoir)

***Wolf Hollow***—Lauren Wolk. Annabelle has lived a happy life in her small Pennsylvania town until the day a new student, Betty Glengarry, walks into her class. Betty acts cruelly, and, while her bullying seems isolated at first, things quickly escalate. A reclusive World War I veteran Toby becomes a target of her attacks. While others have always seen Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. She will soon need to find the courage to stand as a lone voice of justice as tensions mount. (Fiction)