

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2020

As human beings we all have the right to see ourselves and our own cultures depicted in the books we read. At the same time, we have a great need to read books that connect us with people who are different than we are. We must have the opportunity to fall in love with protagonists with different ethnicities, religious backgrounds, cultural experiences and family stories. Each of these books introduces us to a protagonist who finds their voice and learns to speak their truth. One of the most powerful things about reading is its ability to help us widen our own circles of connection and empathy. Reading helps us realize we are not alone while at the same time reminding us that ours is not the only story that matters.

Each incoming 8th grade student should read at least five books over the summer. **Pick at least two titles from the following list** about voice, race, culture and identity and then at least three others of your own choice.

Absolutely Normal: Nora Carpenter
Amal Unbound: Aisha Saeed
American Born Chinese: Gene Luen
Apple Skin to the Core: Levine Querido
Audacity: Melanie Crowder
Brown Girl Dreaming: Jacqueline Woodson
Fish in a Tree: Linda Mulaly Hunt
King and the Dragonflies: Kacen Calendar
Inside out and Back Again: Thanna Lai
Interpreter of Maladies: Jhumpa Lahiri
Me Moth: Amber McBride
New Kid: Jerry Craft
Other Words for Home: Jasmine Warga
Persepolis: Mariane Satrapi
Punching the Air: Ibbi Zobois
Sing, Unburied, Sing: Jessamyn Ward
Starfish: Lisa Fipps
The Boy with the Butterfly Mind: Victoria Williamson
They Called us Enemy: George Takei
The Nickel Boys: Colson Whitehead
The Poet X: Elizabeth Acevedo
There, There: Tommy Orange
Trowbridge Road: Marcella Pixley
We are not Free: Tracy Chee
When the Emperor Was Divine: Julie Otsuka
Where the Crawdads Sing: Delia Owens
Rural Voices: Nora Carpenter

Please make a numbered list of all the books you read along with author names and page numbers.