8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2025

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 get to know protagonists with different ethnicities, religious backgrounds, cultural experiences and family stories. The following list of books introduce readers to protagonists who each seek to come to terms with what it means to be a human being within a dominant culture that defines them as "other." Each of these books introduces us to a protagonist who finds his or her voice and speaks his or her truth. One of the most powerful things about literature is its ability to help us widen our own circles of connection and empathy in a world that often discourages us from stepping outside of our comfort zones. Literature 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 three titles from the following list** about finding your voice and then at least two others of your own choice. Please type a numbered list of all the books you read along with author names and page numbers and bring it in on the first day of school.

A Mango Shaped Space: Wendy Maas
Almost American Girl: Robin Ha
Amal Unbound: Aisha Saeed
Crying in H Mart: Michelle Zauner
Dear Martin: Nic Stone
Efren Divided: Ernesto Cisneros
Enchanted Air: Margarita Engle
Everythhing Sad is Untrue: Daniel Nayeri
Fish in a Tree: Linda Hunt
Ghost Boys: Jewell Parker Rhodes
Inside out and Back Again: Thanna Lai
Interpreter of Maladies: Jhumpa Lahiri
Long Way Down: Jason Reynolds
Louder Than Hunger: John Schu
Neshama: Marcella Pixley
No Place Like Home: James Bird
Octopus Moon: Bobby Pyron
Other Words for Home: Jasmine Warga
Piecing Me Together: Renee Watson
Punching the Air: Ibi Zobois
Red, White and Whole: Rajani LaRocca
Show me a Sign: Anne Claire LaZotte
Starfish: Lisa Fipps
The Hate you Give: Angie Thomas
The Magical Imperfect: James Baron
The Nickel Boys: Colson Whitehead
The Night Diary: Veera Hiranandani
The Red Pencil: Andrea David Pinkney
There, There: Tommy Orange
Trowbdige Road: Marcella Pixley
Turtle Boy: M. Evan Wolkenstein
When the Emperor Was Divine: Julie Otsuka
Yusuf Azeem is Not Hero: Saadia Faruqi