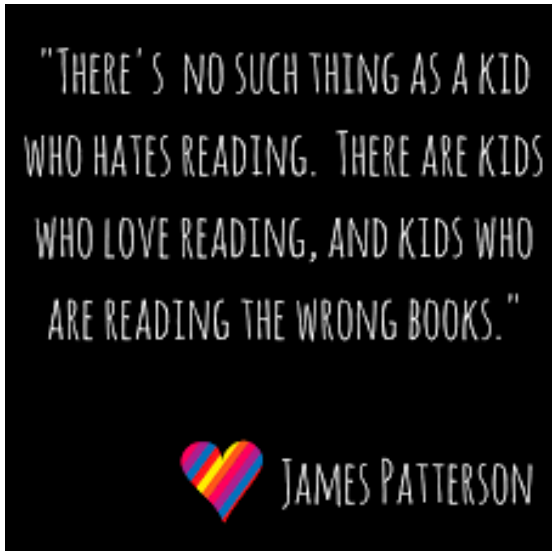
CLARENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING

The summer is upon us, and finally, the weather is warm. After a rigorous academic year, it's time for us to rest and relax, and what better way to do that than with the help of a good book? Like other muscles in the body, it's crucial to keep the brain active as well. Reading is a great way to strengthen your mental muscles during these summer months.



Research tells us that you need to read during the summer to maintain your independent reading levels. More importantly, reading a great book is F.U.N. To that end, the ELA team at Clarence Middle School has created a list of *Highly Recommended Books* and a list of *Other Books We Love*… and middle schoolers love. These are the tried and true favorites, and there might even be one or two *WE* read when we were in middle school! You're welcome to go rogue and choose books you don't see on the list, too. We're good with that! <u>All we ask is one thing: This summer, relax and unwind with a great book - or two</u>!!! (No notes required!)

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you this fall. Can't wait to talk about all the great books you've read!

The ELA Team at Clarence Middle School

Highly Recommended Books by Grade (Summaries Follow)

Incoming GRADE 6	Incoming GRADE 7	Incoming GRADE 8
One for the Murphys (Lynda Mullaly Hunt)	*Found* (Margaret Peterson Haddix)	*The Crossover* (Kwame Alexander)
Lawn Boy (Gary Paulsen)	*Hoot* (Carl Hiaasen)	*Girl, Stolen* (April Henry)
So B. It (Sarah Weeks)	*Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark* (Ridley Pearson)	*Prisoner B-3087* (Alan Gratz)
Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer (John Grisham)	*Ungifted* (Gordon Korman)	*Red Queen* (Victoria Aveyard)

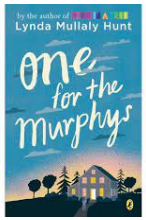
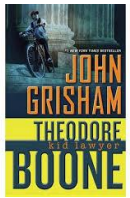
Other Books We LOVE...*and so do our students*! (Summaries Follow)

***To determine if a book is appropriate for you, consult commonsensemedia.org or read reviews on amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com.**

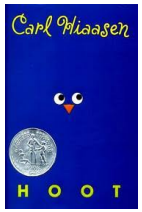
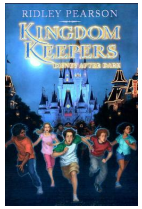
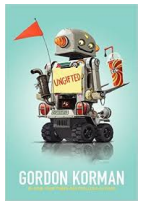
Mrs. Chriswell: ~*A Good Kind of Trouble* (Lisa Moore-Ramée) ~*Restart* (Gordon Korman) ~*The Benefit of Being an Octopus* (Ann Braden)	**Mrs. Matteson:** ~*Before the Ever After* (Jacqueline Woodson) ~*Bud, Not Buddy* (Christopher Paul Curtis) ~*Ida B* (Katherine Hannigan)	**Mrs. Mohr:** ~*The Giver* (Lois Lowry) **Mrs. Dietz:** ~*Flipped* (Wendelin Van Draanen)
Mr. Herbold: ~*Brown Girl Dreaming* (Jacqueline Woodson) ~*Chains* (Laurie Halse Anderson) ~*Where the Red Fern Grows* (Wilson Rawls)	**Mrs. Kolek:** ~*Because of Mr. Terupt* (Rob Buyea) ~ *The Naturals* (Jennifer Lynn Barnes) ~**Orphan Train Girl* (Christina Baker Kline)	**Mrs. Lauricella:** ~*Hello, Universe* (Erin Entrada Kelly)
Mrs. Elibol: ~*Out of My Mind* (Sharon Draper) ~*Projekt 1065* (Alan Gratz) ~*The Testing* (Joelle Charbonneau)	**Mrs. Heim:** ~*The Candymakers* (Wendy Mass)	**Mrs. Rook:** ~*Every Soul a Star* (Wendy Mass) ~*Shouting at the Rain* (Lynda Mullaly Hunt) ~*Wonder* (R.J. Palacio)
Mrs. Ibowicz: ~*Deepfake* (Sarah Darer Littman) ~*A Rebel in Auschwitz* (Jack Fairwether)	**Mrs. Lilac:** ~*Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* (David Lubar) ~*Notes From the Midnight Driver* (Jordan Sonnenblick)	**Mrs. Pukalo:** ~*Counting by 7s* (Holly Goldberg Sloan) ~*The Book Thief* (Markus Zusak) ~*Red Thread Sisters* (Carol Peacock)
Mrs. Bork: ~*Ghost* (Jason Reynolds) ~*The War that Saved My Life* (Kimberly Brubaker Bradley)	GREAT SPORTS AUTHORS: Mike Lupica and Tim Green GREAT DYSTOPIAN AUTHORS: Suzanne Collins, Veronica Roth, Ally Condie, and Jeanne DuPrau GREAT SCI FI/FANTASY AUTHORS: J.R.R. Tolkien, Rick Riordan, and J.K. Rowling, of course! Prefer TRUE stories or NONFICTION? Read about a person or subject you're interested in!	

*Young Reader's Edition (*Orphan Train Girl*)

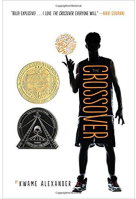
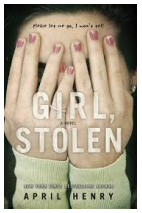
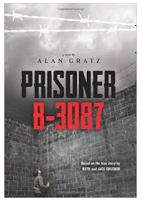
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR INCOMING SIXTH GRADERS:

	***One for the Murphys*** **by Lynda Mullaly Hunt** Shortly after a heart-breaking betrayal, Carley Connors is thrust into foster care and dropped off at the Murphys, a happy, busy family. Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick so she isn't rattled easily. Her new life with her foster family isn't one that she naturally understands, so she resists this side of life she'd believed did not exist with dinners around a table and a "zip your jacket, here's your lunch" kind of mom. This loving family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. However, with the help of her unpredictable friend, Toni, the Murphys do the impossible in showing Carley what it feels like to belong somewhere. When her mother wants her back, will she lose the only family that she has ever known? (Tassy Walden Award)
	Lawn Boy **by Gary Paulsen** Things get out of hand when a neighbor convinces a boy (no name) to expand his summer lawn mowing business. One of his customers, an aging hippie day trader named Arnold, gives the boy advice on running his business and invests his money for him. Soon the boy has more than a dozen employees, a wad of money, an interest in a prizefighter, and a problem with a protection racket. (2009 Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award)
	So B. It **by Sarah Weeks** Although she lives an unconventional lifestyle with her mentally disabled mother and their doting neighbor, Bernadette, Heidi has a lucky streak that has a way of pointing her in the right direction. When a mysterious word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi's thirst for the truth leads her on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past. (Best Book for Young Adults 2005)
	***Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer*** **by John Grisham** In the small city of Strattenburg, there are many lawyers, and though he's only thirteen years old, Theo Boone thinks he's one of them. Theo knows every judge, policeman, court clerk—and a lot about the law. He dreams of being a great trial lawyer, of a life in the courtroom. But Theo finds himself in court much sooner than expected. Because he knows so much—maybe too much—he is suddenly dragged into the middle of a sensational murder trial. A cold-blooded killer is about to go free, and only Theo knows the truth. The stakes are high, but Theo won't stop until justice is served. (Young Reader's Choice Award 2013; mild references to violence)

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR INCOMING SEVENTH GRADERS:

	***Found* by Margaret Peterson Haddix** Thirteen-year-old Jonah has always known he's adopted; Chip learns of his adoption when both friends start receiving threatening letters labeling them "the missing". They realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time. (first novel in a series of four; Top 10–ALA Best Books for Young Adults; Young Adult Awards in various states)
	***Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen** Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. These young environmental conservationists lead their readers through a hilarious tale and set a great example as they develop friendships and save the world. (Newbery Honor Book 2003; mild violence and swearing)
	***Kingdom Keepers*: *Disney After Dark* by Ridley Pearson** Five teens are selected to be Holographic Hosts at Florida's Disney World. Holograms of these teens lead visitors through the Magic Kingdom, giving visitors information. Life is fine until they discover that at night while they sleep, they become both hologram and human. Their holograms are lured back into the Magic Kingdom at night by a retired park Imagineer who convinces them to fight against the evil Overtakers, who are trying to take control of the Magic Kingdom and eventually the world. Cameos from some of Disney's famous characters include Maleficent from Disney's *Sleeping Beauty,* pirates from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and the cute dolls from It's a Small World. (Family Choice Award 2013)
	***Ungifted* by Gordon Korman** Middle-school troublemaker Donovan Curtis figures he's doomed when one of his pranks goes spectacularly bad. But instead, there's an administrative mix-up, and he's sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, the district's school for the gifted. Donovan knows quite well he's "ungifted," but genius school is a good place to hide from the superintendent's wrath. Donovan, the brainiacs, and Donovan's delinquent pals ensure that things are never the same at the academy again. (Young Readers' Awards from multiple states; some mild crude language)

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR INCOMING EIGHTH GRADERS:

	***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander** 12-year-old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood - he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious tale of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize that breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family. (2015 John Newbery Medal and 2015 Coretta Scott King Award Honor)
	***Girl, Stolen* by April Henry** Sixteen-year-old Cheyenne, blinded in an accident that killed her mother three years earlier, has pneumonia. As she sleeps in the back of her stepmother's car, Griffin steals it, inadvertently kidnapping her. Once Griffin's car-thief father learns that Cheyenne's father is a wealthy executive at Nike, he decides to demand ransom. Griffin is torn between loyalty to his father and the desire to protect Cheyenne. (Black-Eyed Susan Award, among others; some references to adult situations)
	***Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz** Survive. At any cost. Yanek Gruener is a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland when the Nazis invade. Everything he has and everyone he loves is brutally taken from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner, his arm tattooed with the number B-3087. Forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another as World War II rages around him, Yanek encounters evil he could never have imagined - and yet finds surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror. Based on the astonishing true story of one extraordinary boy. (YALSA 2014 Best Fiction for Young Adults Award; Holocaust and WWII-related violence and topics)
	***Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard** This is a world divided by blood - red or silver. The Reds are commoners, ruled by a Silver elite in possession of superhuman powers. And to Mare Barrow, a seventeen-year-old Red girl from the poverty-stricken Stilts, it seems like nothing will ever change. That is, until she finds herself working in the Silver Palace. Here, surrounded by the people she hates the most, Mare discovers that, despite her red blood, she possesses a deadly power of her own, one that threatens to destroy the balance of power. This is a world of betrayal and lies, and Mare has entered a dangerous dance - Reds against Silvers, Prince against Prince, and Mare against her own heart. (2015 Amazon.com Best Books of the Year, among others; some battle violence)

...AND ALL THE REST OF OUR FAVORITES!

Because of Mr. Terupt Rob Buyea	It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn't let them get away with much...until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything - and everyone.
Before the Ever After Jacqueline Woodson	Twelve-year-old Zachariah, Jr. (Z.J.) enjoys having a father who's a professional football player, and a star. When his father begins having troubling symptoms, Z.J. struggles to maintain a connection to his father. This story is told in verse, not traditional chapters.
The Benefit of Being an Octopus Ann Braden	Zoey thinks how much easier everything would be if she were an octopus: eight arms to do eight things at once. Incredible camouflage ability and steady, unblinking vision. Powerful protective defenses. Unfortunately, she's not totally invisible, and one of her teachers forces her to join the debate club.
The Book Thief Markus Zusak	In 1939 Nazi Germany, Liesel finds *The Gravedigger's Handbook* - her first act of book thievery. Soon she is stealing more books from Nazi book burnings - and things become even more dangerous when her foster family takes in a Jew and hides him in their basement.
Brown Girl Dreaming Jacqueline Woodson	This beautiful book tells the childhood story of the author in verse. Raised in both South Carolina and New York, she never felt quite at home. It shares her joy at finding her voice through writing, despite the fact she struggled as a reader in school.
Bud, Not Buddy Christopher Paul Curtis	Bud has run away from his abusive foster family and he's sleeping outside without enough to eat. There's nothing left to do but go find the man who he thinks must be his father. He is in for an adventure in this historical fiction novel, set during the Great Depression.
The Candymakers Wendy Mass	Logan, Miles, Daisy, and Philip are chosen to compete in a competition to see who can make the tastiest candy in the country. Logan is the Candymaker's son with a taste for chocolate. Miles is the boy who is allergic to everything. Daisy is a cheerful girl with a dark secret. Finally, Philip is the arrogant boy who scribbles everything in his notebook. Narrated by all four characters, Candymakers is an endearing story of friendship, acceptance, and forgiveness.

Chains Laurie Halse Anderson	As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, are bought by a malicious NYC couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution.

Counting by 7s Holly Goldberg Sloan	Willow Chance is a 12-year-old genius who finds it comforting to count by 7s. Her world is tragically changed when both her parents are killed in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world, but this book is not a tragedy. Find out what happens on her fascinating journey.

Deepfake Sarah Darer Littman	Dara Simons and Will Hochman have everything they've ever wanted. They are the rulers of Greenpoint High's geekdom, overachieving in every way, and it's an intense competition to see who will be valedictorian. One the entire school is invested in. That is, until Rumor Has It, the anonymous gossip site, posts a video of Dara accusing Will of paying someone to take the SAT for him.

Every Soul a Star Wendy Mass	The lives of three kids come together in preparation for a solar eclipse. Ally has always been homeschooled and has grown up at the Moon Shadow Campground, the best place to view the eclipse. Enter Bree, an aspiring model and popular teenage girl, and Jack, a socially awkward artist and lover of science fiction. Told through the voices of each of these characters, we learn that sometimes we have to accept things we can't control, and in our efforts to make the best of situations, we can actually find true happiness.

Flipped Wendelin Van Draanen	If you like romcoms, this is the book for you! This unique story has two alternating narrators and follows Juli and her long-time crush, Bryce. She is head over heels for him until things change in 8th grade.

A Good Kind of Trouble Lisa Moore- Ramée	Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. She'd also like to make it through seventh grade with her best friendships intact, learn to run track, and have a cute boy see past her giant forehead. But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed.

Ghost Jason Reynolds	Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with explosive personalities clash when they are chosen for an elite middle school track team - a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together.

The Giver Lois Lowry	This science-fiction story is about twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal world. That is, until he's given the assignment as the Receiver, and he realizes how dark his world really is.

Hello, Universe Erin Entrada Kelly	Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner *bayani* (hero). “Readers will be instantly engrossed in this relatable neighborhood adventure and its eclectic cast of misfits.”—*Booklist*

Ida B Katherine Hannigan	Ida B. is an only child living with her parents on their farm, being homeschooled, and loving the outdoors. Her life is focused on having fun, until some not-so-great things happen in her world. This realistic fiction novel is told through Ida’s fun and creative voice.

The Naturals Jennifer Lynn Barnes	The Naturals is a young adult mystery/thriller series about teenagers with special abilities, like profiling and reading emotions, who are recruited by the FBI for a secret program to solve cold cases.

Notes from the Midnight Driver Jordan Sonnenblick	Alex ends up in trouble with the law and is ordered to do community service at a senior center where he is assigned to Solomon Lewis, a "difficult" senior with plenty of attitude. As if life weren't complicated enough already! These two learn to deal with their past and each other in ways that are entertaining and will have you laughing out loud.

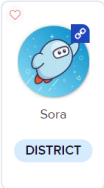
***Orphan Train Girl* (young reader’s edition)** Christina Baker Kline	Twelve-year-old Molly, an orphan since she was eight, rides the orphan train in the hopes of finding a home and family. Unfortunately, she’s had one terrible foster family after the other. It isn’t until she encounters 91-year-old Vivian, an orphan herself, that she is given new hope, and the two forge a friendship over their shared experiences.

Out of My Mind Sharon Draper	Imagine having so much to say and no way to communicate it. That's the problem for Melody, who can't talk, walk, or write, but she has an ability no one knows about until a new device changes her life forever. I cheered for her, cried for her, and LOVED the characters in this book!

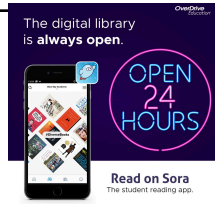
Projekt 1065 Alan Gratz	What could be scarier than being an Irish boy living in Nazi Germany and finding out your parents are part of a spy network? The answer is becoming a part of that spy network, too. Michael puts his life in danger by joining the Hitler Youth...and then working against it in this action-packed story.

A Rebel in Auschwitz Jack Fairweather	Witold Pilecki, a Polish underground operalong-timeepted a mission to uncover the fate of thousands interned at a new concentration camp, report on Nazi crimes, raise a secret army, and stage an uprising. The camp -- Auschwitz.

Red Thread Sisters Carol Antoinette Peacock	Eleven-year-old Wen has just been adopted by an American family. Life should be perfect, but all she can think about is her best friend, Shu Ling, left behind in the Chinese orphanage. Wen must find a family for her, and time is running out.
Restart Gordon Korman	*Restart* is the story of a kid with a messy past who has to figure out what it means to get a clean start. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again...starting with his own name. It ends up not only a question of who Chase is - it's a question of who he was...and who he's going to be.
Shouting at the Rain Linda Mullaly Hunt	"There are two kinds of people. Those who like surprises, and those who don't. I don't." This is how Delsie begins her story set on Cape Cod. Through their escapades, Delsie, Brandy, and Ronan learn how to tell the difference between anger and sadness, what it means to be broken and made whole, and how even in the face of abandonment, we can still find acceptance and love.
Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie David Lubar	Scott is a freshman in high school learning to navigate his new surroundings, social status, and crush. He gets the news that his mother is pregnant while he tries to keep his sanity throughout all of this. Scott records all of the entertaining details of this journey for his sibling's -and your- enjoyment.
The Testing Joelle Charbonneau	This is an exciting dystopian novel for kids who love The Hunger Games and the Divergent series. The main character, Cia, undergoes a series of competitions to see if she has what it takes to make it to the next level.
The War That Saved My Life Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	In London just before World War II, Ada doesn't know how old she is, her last name, or much about anything in life outside the room where her mother has kept her in terrible conditions. As a possible German invasion looms, the kids are evacuated to the countryside.
Where the Red Fern Grows Wilson Rawls	An exciting tale of love and adventure in the Ozark Mountains. Billy and his coon hounds - Old Dan & Little Ann - range the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country, trying to be the best hunting team in the valley.
Wonder R. J. Palacio	Told from multiple voices, Wonder is the story of fifth-grade Auggie Pullman, a boy with a severe facial deformity, who changes his own life and the lives of the people around him. We follow his journey to a new school through his eyes, and the eyes of new kids he meets, his sister, and his sister's boyfriend. Through these characters, we learn we all have our own set of issues, and that's what makes us human.



Many of these books are AVAILABLE to you for free through SORA! Go to the Library Resources in CLEVER to access this or see the directions below!



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Step 3
Browse the Explore tab and borrow a book. Your book will open so you can start reading right away.

Step 4
Close the book and go to Shelf to see all your books. From there, you can:

- Select **Open book** or **Open audiobook** to read or listen to the book.
- Select **Options** to renew or return the book, see your notes and highlights, and more.

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