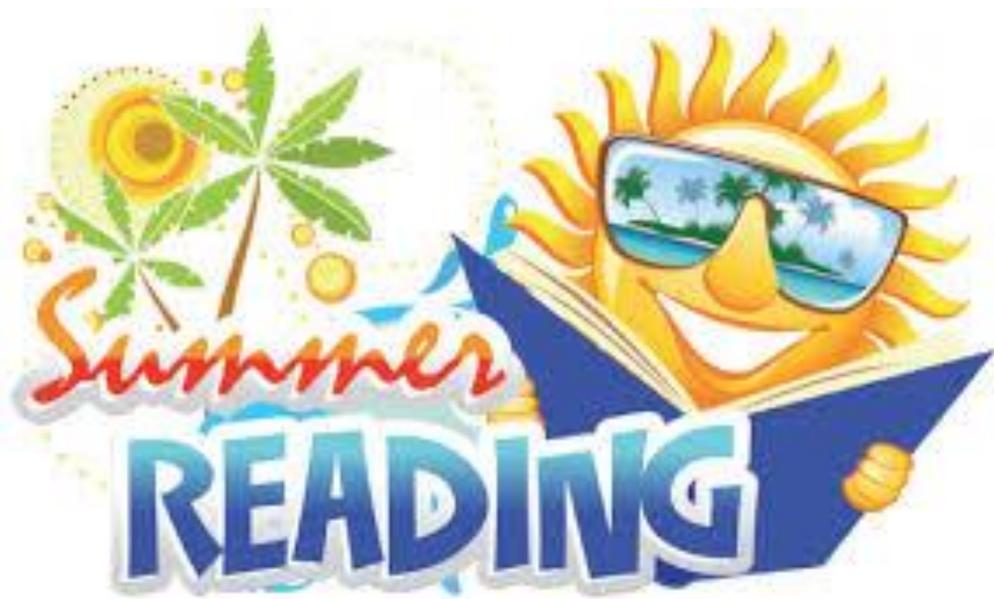


Middle Township Middle School
Summer Reading Guide
2019





Middle Township Middle School

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Mr. J. Ortman
Principal

Mr. A. Hodges
Asst. Principal

June, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Reading is one of the most fundamental skills, laying the groundwork for all other educational pursuits and career opportunities. Summer can be a season full of good times and fun memories, but did you know that kids may experience learning losses when they don't read during the summer? Summer is a great time to support your child's reading progress! Students who don't read much over the summer show a decline in reading performance from the end of one year to the start of the next. Reading over the summer can help your child maintain the reading gains they made during the year AND also help prepare them for next year! The Middle Township Summer Reading Program provides students an opportunity to stay connected to literature while enjoying their summer vacation.

Children who read throughout the summer gain skills, can start the new school year with a better understanding of language and the world around them, and discover the joy of reading. The more they like to read, the more they will read. It's not hard to help your children keep their interest in reading and learning.

Middle Township's Summer Reading Program increases opportunities for discussion about literature and can provide a meaningful experience for your child when reading a book. Enclosed is a list of books your child can choose from for their summer reading assignment. The selections on this list represent a wide variety of genres, authors, and readability levels. The summer reading list can also be found on the school website (www.middle.twp.k12.nj.us/ms/). These titles are available at the Cape May County Library (www.cmclibrary.org), book stores, and online sites such as Amazon.com and Scholastic.com.

Have a great summer and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Constance Chabok
English/Language Arts Supervisor

Summer Reading List 2019

Incoming 6th

Breakout – **Kate Messner**

Out of My Mind – **Sharon Draper**

Lost in the Sun – **Lisa Graff**

Every Soul a Star – **Wendy Mass**

The Calder Game – **Blue Balliett**

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster – **Jonathan Auxier**

Mockingbird: (Mok'ing-burd) – **Kathryn Erskine**

Where I'd Like to Be – **Frances O'Roark Dowell**

The Incredible Journey – **Sheila Burnford**

The Devil's Arithmetic – **Jane Yolen**

Mysterious Benedict Society – **Trenton Lee Stewart**

Matilda Bone – **Karen Cushman**

Kingdom Keepers 1: Disney After Dark – **Ridley Pearson**

Shoot Out – **Mike Lupica**

Origami Yoda (any book in the series)– **Tom Angleberger**

39 Clues (any book in the series)

The Tale of Despereaux – **Kate DiCamillo**

Louisiana's Way Home – **Kate DiCamillo**

Savvy – **Ingrid Law**

Rules – **Cynthia Lord**

Jackie's Wild Seattle – **Will Hobbs**

Becoming Naomi Leon – **Pam Munoz Ryan**

The Invention of Hugo Cabaret – **Brian Selznick**

The View From Saturday – **E.L. Konigsburg**

Wonder – **R.J. Palacio**

Lily & Jake- **Jerry Spinelli**

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson- **Bette Lord**

Ninth Ward- **Jewell Parker Rhoades**

Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini –**Sid Fleischman**

Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott- **Russell Friedman**

Hana's Suitcase – **Karen Levine**

Pax – **Sarah Pennypacker**

The League of Seven (any book in the series) – **Alan Gratz**

The Exact Location of Home – **Kate Messner**

The First Rule of Punk – **Celia C. Perez**

The Harlem Charade – **Natasha Anastasia Tarpley**

Full of Beans – **Jennifer L. Holm**

Incoming 7th

The Next Great Paulie Fink – **Ali Benjamin**

Infinity Ring: A Mutiny in Time: Book 1 or (any book in the Infinity series)

One Crazy Summer – **Rosa Garcia-Williams**

Stargirl – **Jerry Spinelli**

The Thing About Jellyfish – **Ali Benjamin**

Blended – **Sharon Draper**

Football Genius (or any book in the series) – **Tim Green**

After Ever After – **Jordan Sonnenblick**

Goodbye Stranger – **Rebecca Stead**

Summer Before Boys – **Nora Raleigh Baskin**

Dead End in Norvelt - **Jack Gantos**

Lifeboat 12 – **Susan Hood**

Bystander: a novel – **James Preller**

Shakespeare Bats Cleanup – **Ron Koertge**

The Name of this Book is Secret – **Pseudonymous Bosch**

Scat – **Carl Hiassen**

Ruby Holler – **Sharon Creech**

In Your Shoes – **Donna Gephart**

Ranger's Apprentice (any book in the series) – **John Flanagan**

Waiting For Normal – **Leslie Connor**

Stormbreaker (or any book in the Alex Rider series) – **Anthony Horowitz**

A Thousand Never Evers- **Shana Burg**

The Wednesday Wars – **Gary Schmidt**

The House on Mango Street – **Sandra Cisneros**

The Secret Life of Bees-**Sue Monk Kidd**

A Boy Called Slow-**Joseph Bruchac**

Steal Away...to Freedom –**Jennifer Armstrong**

Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood- **Ibtisam Barakat**

10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War- **Philip Caputo**

The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous, Life of Showman P.T. Barnum-
Cadence Fleming

September 11, 2001: Attack on New York City-**Wilborn Hampton**

No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War- **Anita Lobel**

The Hypnotist – **Gordon Korman**

Sister Sirens – **Dana Langer**

See You in the Cosmos – **Jack Cheng**

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora – **Pablo Cartaya**

The Ethan I was Before – **Ali Standish**

Incoming 8th

The Worst Class Trip Ever – **Dave Barry**

The Worst Night Ever – **Dave Barry**

A Dog's Purpose – **W. Bruce Cameron**

Listen, Slowly – **Thanhha Lai**

Ship Breaker – **Paolo Bacigalupi**

Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold At the 1936 Olympics (Young Readers Adaptation) – **Daniel James Brown**

Miracle's Boys – **Jacqueline Woodson**

Flipped – **Wendelin Van Draanen**

Lost & Found – **Anne Schraff**

Sunrise Over Fallujah – **Walter Dean Myers**

The Poet X – **Elizabeth Acevedo**

Pop – **Gordon Korman**

The House of the Scorpion – **Nancy Farmer**

The Eleventh Plague – **Jeff Hirsch**

Things Not Seen – **Andrew Clements**

Code Talker: a novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II – **Joseph Bruchac**

Matched – **Ally Condie**

Perfect - **Natasha Friend**

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian – **Sherman Alexie**

Taking Sides – **Gary Soto**

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman-**Ernest J. Ganes**

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow-**Susan Campbell Bartoletti**

A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968- **Diane McWhorter**

Buffalo & the Indians: A Shared Destiny – **Dorothy Hinshaw Patent**

Jungle of Bones – **Ben Mikaelson**

A School for Unusual Girls (Stranje House series) – **Kathleen Baldwin**

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Series) – **Ransom Riggs**

The Siren – **Kiera Cass**

Bomb: the race to build and steal the world's most dangerous weapon – **Steve Sheinkin**

Heartless – **Marissa Meyer**

We Could Be Brothers – **Derrick Barnes**

In the Shadow of Liberty: the hidden history of slavery, four presidents, and five black lives

– **Kenneth Davis**

Code of Honor – **Alan Gratz**

Prisoner B-3087 – **Alan Gratz**

Everything, Everything – **Nicola Yoon**

Brown Girl Dreaming – **Jacqueline Woodson**

Summer Reading List Book Descriptions – 2018

Incoming 6th grade:

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and her Monster – Jonathan Auxier

For nearly a century, Victorian London relied on "climbing boys"--orphans owned by chimney sweeps--to clean flues and protect homes from fire. The work was hard, thankless and brutally dangerous. Eleven-year-old Nan Sparrow is quite possibly the best climber who ever lived--and a girl. With her wits and will, she's managed to beat the deadly odds time and time again.

But when Nan gets stuck in a deadly chimney fire, she fears her time has come. Instead, she wakes to find herself in an abandoned attic. And she is not alone. Huddled in the corner is a mysterious creature--a golem--made from ash and coal. This is the creature that saved her from the fire. Sweep is the story of a girl and her monster. Together, these two outcasts carve out a life together--saving one another in the process.

Out of My Mind – Sharon Draper

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient, young girl with cerebral palsy discovers a way to speak for the first time.

Lost in the Sun – Lisa Graff

Everyone says that middle school is awful, but Trent knows nothing could be worse than the year he had in fifth grade, when a freak accident on Cedar Lake left one kid dead, and Trent with a brain full of terrible thoughts he can't get rid of. Trent's pretty positive the entire disaster was his fault, so for him middle school feels like a fresh start, a chance to prove to everyone that he's not the horrible screw-up they seem to think he is. If only Trent could make that fresh start happen. It isn't until Trent gets caught up in the whirlwind that is Fallon Little—the girl with the mysterious scar across her face—that things begin to change. Because fresh starts aren't always easy. Even in baseball, when a fly ball gets lost in the sun, you have to remember to shift your position to find it.

Breakout – Kate Messner

Nora Tucker is looking forward to summer vacation in Wolf Creek—two months of swimming, popsicles, and brushing up on her journalism skills for the school paper. But when two inmates break out of the town's maximum security prison, everything changes. Doors are locked, helicopters fly over the woods, and police patrol the school grounds. Worst of all, everyone is on edge, and fear brings out the worst in some people Nora has known her whole life. Even if the inmates are caught, she worries that home might never feel the same. Told in letters, poems, text messages, news stories, and comics—a series of documents Nora collects for the Wolf Creek Community Time Capsule Project

Every Soul a Star – Wendy Mass

Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, to watch a total eclipse of the sun. They soon begin to learn a great deal about themselves, each other, and the universe.

The Calder Game – Blue Balliett

When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him.

Mockingbird – Kathryn Erskine

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

Where I'd Like to Be – Frances O'Roark Dowell

A group of foster children build a home of their own.

The Incredible Journey – Sheila Burnford

A doughty young Labrador retriever, a roguish bull terrier, and an indomitable Siamese cat set out through the Canadian wilderness to make their way home to the family they love.

The Devil's Arithmetic – Jane Yolen

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Mysterious Benedict Society – Trenton Lee Stewart

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Matilda Bone – Karen Cushman

Fourteen-year-old Matilda, an apprentice bonesetter and practitioner of medicine in a village in medieval England, tries to reconcile the various aspects of her life, both spiritual and practical.

Kingdom Keepers I: Disney after Dark – Ridley Pearson

Thirteen-year-old Finn Whitman and four other young teens have been transformed into holograms to be guides for visitors to Disney World. When Finn is unexpectedly transported to the Magic Kingdom in his hologram form, Wayne, an Imagineer, tells him that he and the other guides must save the park from the scheming witch Maleficent and the Overtakers

Shoot Out –Mike Lupica

Jake goes from playing on a winning soccer team to being on the worst in the league, testing his sportsmanship and teaching him that there is more to being a star player.

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda or Darth Paper– Tom Angleberger

Origami Yoda seems to have a way of knowing things but can Dwight's origami finger puppet be real? Tommy is determined to find out and, with the help of his fellow sixth graders, builds a case file for and against Origami Yoda's fabled powers.

39 Clues (any book in series) – various authors

Follow Amy Cahill and her brother, Dan, as they travel the world to hunt for the 39 Clues in a race against unscrupulous foes. Book one in the series is *Maze of Bones* by Rick Riordan.

The Tale of Despereaux – Kate DiCamillo

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Savvy – Ingrid Law

Turning 13 for Mibs Beaumont is a much anticipated event. Mibs will finally get her savvy – or special superpower-like talent. What will her talent be? When her father gets into a car accident the day before her big day, she hopes her new savvy will be one that helps him get better.

Rules – Cynthia Lord

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

Jackie's Wild Seattle – Will Hobbs

Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother, Cody, spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle.

Becoming Naomi Leon – Pam Munoz Ryan

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret – Brian Selznick

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

The View from Saturday – E.L. Konigsburg

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Wonder – R.J. Palacio

Ten-year-old Auggie, born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school, where he endures taunts and bullying and struggles to be seen as just another student.

Lily & Jake – Jerry Spinelli

Jake and Lily are twins and have always felt the same, like two halves of one person, but the year they turn eleven years old and Jake begins hanging out with Bump Stubbins, everything changes.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson-Bette Lord

In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.

Ninth Ward-Jewell Parker Rhoades

In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Laneshia, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them.

Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini- Sid Fleischman

A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. Profiling his early years, personal life, and great accomplishments in show business, the story of the famous magician, Harry Houdini, comes to life through a review of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats, complete with index, photos, and author's notes.

Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott- Russell Friedman

Covers the events surrounding and including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the end of segregation on buses.

Hana's Suitcase: A True Story-Karen Levine

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.

Pax – Sarah Pennypacker

Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. One day, the unimaginable happens, Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be, with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own.

Full of Beans – Jennifer L. Holm

Grown-ups lie. That's one truth Beans knows for sure. He and his gang know how to spot a whopper a mile away, because they are the savviest bunch of barefoot conchs (that means "locals") in all of Key West. Not that Beans really minds; it's 1934, the middle of the Great Depression. With no jobs on the island, and no money anywhere, who can really blame the grown-ups for telling a few tales? Besides, Beans isn't anyone's fool. In fact, he has plans. Big plans. And the consequences might surprise even Beans himself.

The Exact Location of Home – Kate Messner

Kirby "Zig" Zigoski lives for the world of simple circuits, light bulbs, buzzers, and motors. Electronics are, after all, much more predictable than most people--especially his father, who he hasn't seen in over a year. When his dad's latest visit is canceled with no explanation and his mom seems to be hiding something, Zig turns to his best friend Gianna and a new gizmo--a garage sale GPS unit--for help. Convinced that his dad is leaving clues around town to explain his absence, Zig sets out to find him. Following one clue after another, logging mile after mile, Zig soon discovers that people aren't always what they seem . . . and sometimes, there's more than one set of coordinates for home.

The League of Seven – Alan Gratz

Young Archie Dent knows there really are monsters in the world. His parents are members of the Septemberist Society, whose job it is to protect humanity from hideous giant monsters called the Mangleborn. Trapped in underground prisons for a thousand years, the Mangleborn have been all but forgotten--until now. Evil genius Thomas Alva Edison and his experiments in the forbidden science of electricity have awakened a Mangleborn in the swamps of Florida. When Archie's parents and the rest of the Septemberists are brainwashed by the monster, it's up to Archie and his loyal Tik Tok manservant Mr. Rivets to assemble a new team of seven young heroes to save the world: the League of Seven.

Louisiana's Way Home – Kate DiCamillo

When Louisiana Elefante's granny wakes her up in the middle of the night to tell her that the day of reckoning has arrived and they have to leave home immediately, Louisiana isn't overly worried. After all, Granny has many middle-of-the-night ideas. But this time, things are different. This time, Granny intends for them never to return. Separated from her best friends, Raymie and Beverly, Louisiana struggles to oppose the winds of fate (and Granny) and find a way home. But as Louisiana's life becomes entwined with the lives of the people of a small Georgia town -- including a surly motel owner, a walrus-like minister, and a mysterious boy with a crow on his shoulder -- she starts to worry that she is destined only for good-byes. (Which could be due to the curse on Louisiana's and Granny's heads. But that is a story for another time.)

The First Rule of Punk – Celia C. Perez

There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: be yourself. The real Malú loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyrizo (hold the cilantro, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts a band, Malú finally begins to feel at home. She'll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself!

The Harlem Charade – Natasha Anastasia Tarpley

Harlem is home to all kinds of kids. Jin sees life passing her by from the window of her family's bodega. Alex wants to help the needy one shelter at a time, but can't tell anyone who she really is. Elvin's living on Harlem's cold, lonely streets, surviving on his own after his grandfather was mysteriously attacked. When these three strangers join forces to find out what happened to Elvin's grandfather, their digging leads them to an enigmatic artist whose missing masterpieces are worth a fortune -- one that might save the neighborhood from development by an ambitious politician who wants to turn it into Harlem World, a ludicrous historic theme park. But if they don't find the paintings soon, nothing in their beloved neighborhood will ever be the same...

Incoming 7th Grade

The Next Great Paulie Fink – Ali Benjamin

Led by new student Caitlyn, seventh-graders at a tiny rural school in Vermont create a reality-show inspired competition to determine who will replace the school's legendary class clown, Paulie Fink.

Infinity Ring: A Mutiny in Time: Book 1 (or any book in the series) – James Dashner

Time has gone wrong, and best friends Dak Smyth and Sera Froste, together with the young Hystorian Riq, must use the infinity ring to travel back to one of the Great Breaks--a mutiny on the Santa María--to correct history and defeat the SQ.

One Crazy Summer – Rosa Garcia-Williams

Three Brooklyn sisters are sent off to stay with the mother they barely remember in Oakland, California in tumultuous 1968. The Civil Rights Movement is taking place and the Black Panthers are organizing. Eleven year old Delphine and her sisters learn about the movement taking place while they get to know their mother.

Newbery Honor Book, Coretta Scott King Award, National Book Finalist, Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction

Stargirl – Jerry Spinelli

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out--under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes--for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body. But the delicate scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl's arrival and rise and fall, normal Leo Borlock has tumbled into love with her. In a celebration of nonconformity, a tense, emotional tale about the fleeting, cruel nature of popularity--and the thrill and inspiration of first love.

Blended – Sharon Draper

"You're so exotic!" "You look so unusual." "But what are you really?"

Eleven-year-old Isabella is used to these kinds of comments - her father is black, her mother is white - but that doesn't mean she likes them. And now that her parents are divorced (and getting along WORSE than ever), Isabella feels more like a push-me-pull-me toy. Being split between Mom and Dad is more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities. If you're only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

The Thing About Jellyfish – Ali Benjamin

Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.

In Your Shoes – Donna Gephart

Miles is an anxious boy who loves his family's bowling center. Amy is the new girl at school, who tries to write her way to her own happily-ever-after and does not want to live above her uncle's funeral home. Then Miles and Amy meet in the most unexpected way ... and it is the beginning of everything.

Football Genius (or any book in the series)– Tim Green

Troy White can predict football plays with amazing accuracy. When his mom gets a job with his favorite team, will he be able to convince the star player of his ability and help them win the season?

Lifeboat 12 – Susan Hood

In 1940, a group of British children, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed. Includes historical notes.

After Ever After – Jordan Sonneblick

Jeffrey is in remission from cancer but life is far from normal. He suffers from a limp and an inability to do well in school, his parents still constantly worry, his brother moved far away, and his friend is keeping a secret.

Goodbye Stranger – Rebecca Stead

As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvaceous Em, crusader Tab, and a curious new friend--or more than friend--Sherm, she finds the answer she has been seeking since she barely survived an accident at age eight: "What is my purpose?"

Summer Before Boys – Nora Raleigh Baskin

Julia and Eliza are cousins and best friends. They share everything but when Julia comes to live with Eliza the summer her mother is deployed in the military, Julia's new interest in boys leaves Eliza behind.

Dead in Norvelt – Jack Gantos

When Jack is grounded for two-months, his parents give him the odd job of helping a feisty elderly neighbor write obituaries. 2012 Newbery Medal Winner.

Bystander: a Novel - James Preller

Seventh grader Eric Hayes is new in town and is befriended by Griffin but Griffin seems to always be in the middle of trouble. Eric is just trying to fit in so he stands by as Griffin torments and bullies other kids. As Eric discovers just how cruel Griffin can be, he wants to break away from the friendship but will Eric become Griffin's next target? Will he stand by as Griffin bullies again?

Shakespeare Bats Cleanup – Ron Koertge

Kevin is out of baseball season and out of the loop at school when he's stuck at home with mononucleosis. Trying to combat boredom, Kevin tries his hand at poetry where he laments about missing baseball and comes to grips with the loss of his mother.

The Name of this Book is Secret – Pseudonymous Bosch

Two eleven-year-old misfits try to solve the mystery of a dead magician and stop the evil Dr. L and Ms. Mauvais, who are searching for the secret of immortality.

Scat – Carl Hiaasen

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

Ruby Holler – Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

Ranger's Apprentice (any book in series) – John Flanagan

Ruins of Gorlan is first in the series. When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

Waiting for Normal – Leslie Conner

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Stormbreaker (or any book in the Alex Rider series) – Anthony Horowitz

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency. Book #1

A Thousand Never Evers – Shana Burg

As the civil rights movement in the South gains momentum in 1963--and violence against African Americans intensifies--the black residents, including seventh-grader Addie Ann Pickett, in the small town of Kuckachoo, Mississippi, begin their own courageous struggle for racial justice.

The Wednesday Wars- Gary Schmidt

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

The House on Mango Street - Sandra Cisneros

A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends.

The Secret Life of Bees - Sue Monk Kidd

During the summer of 1964 in rural South Carolina, a young girl is given a home by three black, beekeeping sisters. As she enters their mesmerizing *secret world of bees* and honey, she discovers a place where she can find *the* single thing her heart longs for most.

A Boy Called Slow - Joseph Bruchac

During the winter of 1831, a boy was born into a family of Sioux. As was the custom, he was given a name that came from his actions--Slow. As Slow grew older, he proved his courage, and for his daring acts of bravery, his people came to call him by a new name--Sitting Bull.

Steal Away...To Freedom- Jennifer Armstrong

In 1855 two thirteen-year-old girls, one white and one black, run *away* from a southern farm and make the difficult journey north *to freedom*, living *to* recount their story forty-one years later *to* two similar young girls.

Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood - Ibtisam Barakat

In this groundbreaking memoir set in Ramallah during *the* aftermath of *the* 1967 Six-Day War, Ibtisam Barakat captures what it is like to be *a* child whose world is shattered by war. Transcending *the* particulars of politics, this illuminating and timely book provides *a* telling glimpse into *a* little-known culture that has become an increasingly important part of *the* puzzle of world peace.

10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War - Philip Caputo

It was the war that lasted ten thousand *days*. Pulitzer Prize- winning journalist Philip Caputo writes about our country's most controversial war -- the Vietnam War -- for young readers. Included are the first stirrings *of* unrest in Vietnam under French colonial rule, to American intervention, to the battle at Hamburger Hill, to the Tet Offensive, to the fall *of* Saigon.

The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum-Cadence Fleming

Biography of P.T. *Barnum*, showman *and* founder of *the* *Barnum & Bailey* Circus. Readers can visit *Barnum's* American Museum; meet Tom Thumb, *the* miniature man (*only* 39 in. tall) *and* his tinier bride (32 in.); experience *the* thrill *Barnum* must have felt when, at age 60, he joined *the* circus; *and* discover *Barnum's* legacy.

September 11, 2001: Attack on New York City-Wilborn Hampton

Describes the *September 11* attacks in the United States and presents several personal stories of tragedy told by *New Yorkers* who lived through the collapse of the World Trade Center.

No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War-Anita Lobel

The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards.

Sister Sirens – Dana Langer

Lolly Salt has three beautiful sisters. When they're not in school or running their small town's diner, they're secretly luring ships to their doom from the cliffs of Starbridge Cove, Maine. With alluring voices that twelve-year-old Lolly has yet to grow into (not that she wants to anyway) the Salt sisters do the work mandated by the Sea Witch, a glamorously frightening figure determined to keep the girls under her control. With their mother dead after a terrible car crash, and their father drowning in grief, the sisters carry on with their lives and duties...until a local sea captain gets suspicious about the shipwrecks.

On the day before her birthday, Lolly watches in helpless horror as her sisters are lured themselves by curse-reversing fishermen—and suddenly it's up to her and her best friend Jason to rescue the sirens of Starbridge Cove.

The Hypnotists – Gordon Korman

Twelve-year-old Jackson Opus is descended from two powerful hypnotist bloodlines, but he has just begun to realize that he can control other peoples' actions with sometimes frightening results--especially when the head of the Sentia Institute plans to use Jackson for his own benefit.

See You in the Cosmos – Jack Cheng

All eleven-year old Alex wants is to launch his iPod into space. With a series of audio recordings, he will show other lifeforms out in the cosmos what life on Earth, his Earth, is really like.

But for a boy with a long-dead dad, a troubled mom, and a mostly-not-around brother, Alex struggles with the big questions.

Where do I come from? Who's out there? And, above all, How can I be brave?

Determined to find the answers, Alex sets out on a remarkable road trip that will turn his whole world upside down . . .

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora – Pablo Cartaya

For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. And maybe a few shifts as junior lunchtime dishwasher at Abuela's restaurant. Maybe. But this summer also includes Carmen, a poetry enthusiast who moves into Arturo's apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn't notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.

The Ethan I Was Before – Ali Standish

Ethan had been many things. He was always ready for adventure and always willing to accept a dare, especially from his best friend, Kacey. But that was before. Before the accident that took Kacey from him. Before his family moved from Boston to the small town of Palm Knot, Georgia. Palm Knot may be tiny, but it's the home of possibility and second chances. It's also home to Coralee, a girl with a big personality and even bigger stories. Coralee may be just the friend Ethan needs, except Ethan isn't the only one with secrets. Coralee's are catching up with her, and what she's hiding might be putting both their lives at risk.

Incoming 8th Grade

The Worst Night Ever – Dave Barry

Wyatt Palmer is just another undersized freshman hoping to fit in at high school, but when his best friend Matt Diaz's pet ferret ends up in the hands of the Bevins, the most popular boys at Coral Cove High, Wyatt and Matt try to get the animal back by attending a party for the cool clique and stumble onto the Bevin family's dark secret.

The Worst Class Trip Ever – Dave Barry

In this hilarious novel, written in the voice of eighth-grader Wyatt Palmer, Dave Barry takes us on a class trip to Washington, DC. Wyatt, his best friend, Matt, and a few kids from Culver Middle School find themselves in a heap of trouble—not just with their teachers, who have long lost patience with them—but from several mysterious men they first meet on their flight to the nation's capital. In a fast-paced adventure with the monuments as a backdrop, the kids try to stay out of danger and out of the doghouse while trying to save the president from attack—or maybe not.

The Poet X – Elizabeth Acevedo

A young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world.

A Dog's Purpose – W. Bruce Cameron

A dog's search for his purpose in life takes him through many lives as he learns to be a good dog, creates unbreakable bonds with humans, and shows us that love never ends.

Listen, Slowly – Thanhha Lai

A California girl born and raised, Mai can't wait to spend her vacation at the beach. Instead, though, she has to travel to Vietnam with her grandmother, who is going back to find out what really happened to her husband during the Vietnam War. Mai's parents think this trip will be a great opportunity for their out-of-touch daughter to learn more about her culture. But to Mai, those are their roots, not her own. Vietnam is hot, smelly, and the last place she wants to be. Besides barely speaking the language, she doesn't know the geography, the local customs, or even her distant relatives. To survive her trip, Mai must find a balance between her two completely different worlds.

Ship Breaker – Paolo Bacigalupi

A fast-paced adventure set in the distant future, where oil is scarce. Nailer scavenges metal scraps, hoping to make quota, when he discovers a wrecked clipper ship. Should he strip the ship or save the lone passenger?

Printz Award, National Book Award

The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold At the 1936 Olympics (Young Readers Adaptation) – Daniel James Brown

The true story of nine young men from the University of Washington who, against all odds, won the gold medal in rowing at the 1936 Olympics. The Husky Clipper was “a graceful needle of cedar and spruce,” a racing shell manned by an eight-oar crew very different from their Ivy League counterparts. They were the sons of farmers, loggers, and fishermen, hardy young men fully up to the rigors of training, each committed “to being part of something larger and more powerful and more important than himself.” Against the backdrop of the Great Depression and the rise of Nazi Germany, the inspiring tale of young Joe Rantz and his teammates is also about the many people who helped to make them heroes—the coaches, parents, fundraisers, girlfriends, and boat builders.

Miracle's Boys – Jacqueline Woodson

Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother.

Flipped – Wendelin Van Draanen

Juli Baker has had a crush on Bryce Loski forever but he's never noticed her – that is, not until the 8th grade. Just when Juli starts to see Bryce as he really is, Bryce finally notices Juli. Their romance is told from both sides, alternating between Juli and Bryce's points of view.

Lost and Found – Anne Schraff

Darcy Willis' long absent father returns, she is involved with her first relationship and her sister is getting in trouble in the first book of the Bluford High series.

Sunrise Over Fallujah – Walter Dean Myers

After September 11, Robin decides to enlist rather than going to college. After basic training, Robin is sent to Iraq where he learns the harsh realities of war while trying to stay hopeful.

Pop – Gordon Korman

When Marcus moves to town, he meets his neighbor Charlie and can't believe his good luck when he realizes Charlie is the "King of Pop" – an ex NFL star. Charlie teaches Marcus some great football moves, but his childish behavior gets Marcus into trouble.

The House of the Scorpion – Nancy Farmer

Matteo lives in a futuristic world along the American border. Most of the inhabitants think he is a monster, but the little boy doesn't understand why. As he grows up he comes to realize he is a clone of the corrupt ruler El Patron and his very existence is threatened by many. Escape is his only chance for survival.

The Eleventh Plague – Jeff Hirsch

Twenty years after the start of the war that caused the Collapse, fifteen-year-old Stephen, his father, and grandfather travel post-Collapse America scavenging, but when his grandfather dies and his father decides to risk everything to save the lives of two strangers, Stephen's life is turned upside down.

Things Not Seen – Andrew Clements

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Code Talker: a novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II – Joseph Bruchac

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Matched – Ally Condie

In the society, officials decide who you love, where you work and when you die. Cassia has always trusted their choices. It's hardly any price to pay for a long life, the perfect job, the ideal mate. So when her best friend appears on the Matching screen. Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is the one, until she sees another face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. Now Cassia is faced with impossible choices, between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path no one else has ever dared follow, between perfection and passion.

Perfect – Natasha Friend

Following the death of her father, a thirteen-year-old uses bulimia as a way to avoid her mother's and ten-year-old sister's grief, as well as her own.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian - Sherman Alexie

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Taking Sides – Gary Soto

Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white, suburban neighborhood.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman - Ernest J. Ganes

Presents the story of the long life of Miss Jane Pittman, who began her life as a slave in the South and who marched for her civil rights in the 20th century.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow-Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Susan Campbell Bartoletti explores the riveting and often chilling story of Germany's powerful Hitler Youth groups. By the time Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, 3.5 million children belonged to the Hitler Youth. It would become the largest youth group in history.

A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968- Diane McWhorter

In this history of the modern Civil Rights movement, the author focuses on the monumental events that occurred between 1954 (the year of *Brown v. the Board of Education*) and 1968 (the year that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated).

Buffalo & the Indians: A Shared Destiny-Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

Provides a review of the bond between Native Americans and buffalo's throughout history and examines how European settlers disrupted nature's balance and nearly caused the extinction of an animal so highly respected by the native tribes.

Jungle of Bones – Ben Mikaelson

Dylan Barstow, “major screw-up from Wisconsin,” finds his life changed by a trip to Papua New Guinea. Dylan has been in trouble with the law many times, even though he’s just going into the eighth grade; he has “a file as thick as a phone book.” Last time, it was for stealing candy bars; this time, he stole a car and took a joy ride through a planted field, tearing down the fence and wrecking the car. Since his father, a war correspondent, was killed covering the genocide in Darfur, Dylan has been an angry young man, disaffected and thumbing his nose at the world. His mother has had enough and unloads Dylan on Uncle Todd, who takes him to Papua New Guinea to locate the B-17 bomber Dylan’s grandfather crashed in the jungle during World War II. Uncle Todd figures an encounter with the jungle, swamps, 14,000-foot mountains, crocodiles and snakes just might make a man of Dylan. The third-person perspective is appropriate here, as a narrative in Dylan’s voice would be dripping with his anger, cynicism and self-absorption. The story weaves a father’s letter, the grandfather’s journal entries and plenty of hallucinatory jungle-survival scenes to make this a fast-paced adventure with quick resolutions.

A School for Unusual Girls (Stranje House Series) – Kathleen Baldwin

It’s 1814. Napoleon is exiled on Elba. Europe is in shambles. Britain is at war on four fronts. And Stranje House, a School for Unusual Girls, has become one of Regency England’s dark little secrets. The daughters of the beau monde who don’t fit high society’s constrictive mold are banished to Stranje House to be reformed into marriageable young ladies. Or so their parents think. In truth, Headmistress Emma Stranje, the original unusual girl, has plans for the young ladies—plans that entangle them in the dangerous world of spies, diplomacy, and war.

After accidentally setting her father’s stables on fire while performing a scientific experiment, Miss Georgiana Fitzwilliam is sent to Stranje House. But Georgie has no intention of being turned into a simpering, pudding-headed, marriageable miss. She plans to escape as soon as possible—until she meets Lord Sebastian Wyatt. Thrust together in a desperate mission to invent a new invisible ink for the English war effort, Georgie and Sebastian must find a way to work together without losing their heads—or their hearts...

Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children – Ransom Riggs

After a family tragedy, Jacob feels compelled to explore an abandoned orphanage on an island off the coast of Wales, discovering disturbing facts about the children who were kept there.

The Siren – Kiera Cass

Forced to work as a Siren and lure strangers to their deaths after being rescued from drowning by the Ocean, Kahlen falls in love with a human and defies the rules of her service in order to follow her heart.

Bomb: the race to build and steal the world’s most dangerous weapon – Steve Sheinkin

Recounts the scientific discoveries that enabled atom splitting, the military intelligence operations that occurred in rival countries, and the work of brilliant scientists hidden at Los Alamos.

Heartless – Marissa Meyer

In this prequel to *Alice in Wonderland*, Cath would rather open a bakery and marry for love than accept a proposal from the King of Hearts, especially after meeting the handsome and mysterious court jester.

We Could Be Brothers - Derrick Barnes

Robeson Battlefield and Pacino Clapton meet in detention, where they discover they both had scuffles with the same person, Tariq. Although the boys have different mannerisms (Robeson is more respectful of the girl sharing detention with them) and lifestyles (Pacino lives in a sketchy part of town; Robeson lives in a huge well-to-do house), they become friends. As the tension with Tariq intensifies, Robeson is conflicted about what to do. His father insists on nonviolence. But Tariq will have none of that. And the final confrontation is fast approaching.

In the Shadow of Liberty: the hidden history of slavery, four presidents, and five black lives. – Kenneth Davis

Through the powerful stories of five enslaved people who were "owned" by four of our greatest presidents, this book helps set the record straight about the role slavery played in the founding of America. From Billy Lee, valet to George Washington, to Alfred Jackson, faithful servant of Andrew Jackson, these dramatic narratives explore our country's great tragedy--that a nation "conceived in liberty" was also born in shackles.

Code of Honor – Alan Gratz

Kamran Smith has it all. He's the star of the football team, dates the most popular girl in school, and can't wait to join the Army like his big brother, Darius. Although Kamran's family hails from Iran, Kamran has always felt 100% American. Accepted. And then everything implodes.

Darius is accused of being a terrorist. Kamran refuses to believe it, but the evidence is there -- Darius has been filmed making threats against his country, hinting at an upcoming deadly attack. Kamran's friends turn on him -- suddenly, in their eyes, he's a terrorist, too.

Kamran knows it's up to him to clear his brother's name. In a race against time, Kamran must piece together a series of clues and codes that will lead him to Darius -- and the truth.

But is it a truth Kamran is ready to face? And is he putting his own life at risk?

Prisoner B-3087 – Alan Gratz

10 concentration camps. 10 different places where you are starved, tortured, and worked mercilessly. It's something no one could imagine surviving. But it is what Yanek Gruener has to face. As a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland, Yanek is at the mercy of the Nazis who have taken over. Everything he has, and everyone he loves, have been snatched brutally from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner -- his arm tattooed with the words PRISONER B-3087. He is forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another, as World War II rages all around him. He encounters evil he could have never imagined, but also sees surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror. He just barely escapes death, only to confront it again seconds later. Can Yanek make it through the terror without losing his hope, his will -- and, most of all, his sense of who he really is inside? Based on an astonishing true story.

Everything, Everything – Nicola Yoon

My disease is as rare as it is famous. Basically, I'm allergic to the world. I don't leave my house, have not left my house in seventeen years. The only people I ever see are my mom and my nurse, Carla. But then one day, a moving truck arrives next door. I look out my window, and I see him. He's tall, lean and wearing all black—black T-shirt, black jeans, black sneakers, and a black knit cap that covers his hair completely. He catches me looking and stares at me. I stare right back. His name is Olly. Maybe we can't predict the future, but we can predict some things. For example, I am certainly going to fall in love with Olly. It's almost certainly going to be a disaster.

Brown Girl Dreaming – Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

Directions for students-

1. Read any book on the book list for the grade you will be entering in September, 2019.
2. Complete **ONE** of the assignments listed on the following pages.
3. Be sure to follow all the directions carefully and complete all the parts.
4. Check your spelling.
5. Your assignment should be colorful and reflect the events in your book.
6. You will present this project to your class in September.
7. It will be graded by your literacy teacher and count toward your first marking period grade.

Below is a list of assignments. You only have to complete **ONE** of these. Choose one that will “show-off” your book and will be enjoyable for you to complete.

CREATE A BOARD GAME. The game must include directions, pawns, and question/answer cards. The questions must include information about the characters, setting, plot, problem, and solution in the book you choose. The board game should be completed on a 12x18 or larger piece of construction paper.

CREATE A COMIC STRIP. Include at least 6 captions and illustrations depicting the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Be sure your first strip includes the title and author of the book you read. Use clear, colorful images that depict the characters, setting, and events of the story. The comic strip should be completed on a 12x18 or larger piece of construction paper.

CREATE A SLIDE PRESENTATION. This presentation should be 8-10 slides. The first slide should include the title and author of the book. Your slides should include information about the characters, events, setting, problem, and solution. This presentation should be a combination of sentences and pictures. You will bring your power point presentation to school on a USB drive for your teacher to download onto a computer. If you choose a Prezi, on the first day of school, ask your teacher for their email address and “share” it with them.

DEVELOP A BOOK TRAILER. Create a 30 second - 1 minute book trailer selling your book. This video/iMovie must be able to be viewed in class. It must include the title and author of the book. Your video should include information about the characters, events, setting, problem, and solution. This trailer should be an advertisement to get people interested in wanting to read this book. You must bring this video to school on a USB drive for your teacher to download or you may email it.

