



Miscoe Hill Middle School

Summer Reading Philosophy

The philosophy of the Mendon-Upton Regional School District's summer reading program is to continue to empower our learners to thrive in the summer months. We believe that reading is not just a school-based activity, but a lifelong activity and our mission is to foster life-long learners and readers. Therefore, we believe establishing a high quality summer reading program provides our learners an avenue to explore their interests, pursue their passions, and grow as individuals.

Summer Reading Goals

- To foster student engagement and enjoyment in reading through choice
- To extend curriculum opportunities beyond the academic school year
- To communicate with students and families high quality literature options

Expectations

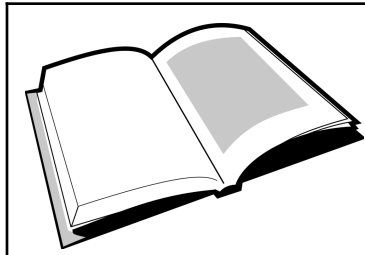
Students in all grades at Miscoe Hill Middle School are expected to read **two** books. The school year will begin with activities and discussions related to summer reading books. This year students are able to choose which two books they would like to read. To aid in your selection, we are providing a list of recommended books, authors, and topics that will appeal to a broad range of students of different ages, interests, and reading abilities. Summer reading books should be selected according to interest and independent reading ability. If a student struggles with a book, please try another text that more comfortably fits interest and independent reading level. We encourage you to read additional materials of your choice throughout the summer.

Access

Please take advantage of the numerous formats to access books. For example, many of these books can be found through your local libraries, through e-books such as Kindle, at bookstores, and through audiobooks such as using the Audible app. Please choose which method of access works best for you to read, explore, and grow.

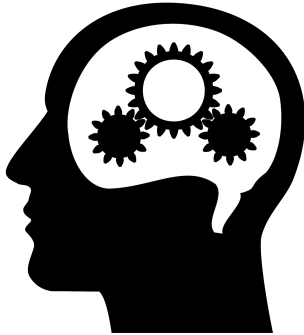
**Both Mendon and Upton libraries offer curbside pickup of items. You also have the option of signing up for an ecard through [Boston Public Library](#). [Epic](#) is also offering free online access for families for 30 days.*

Questions to Think About As You Read



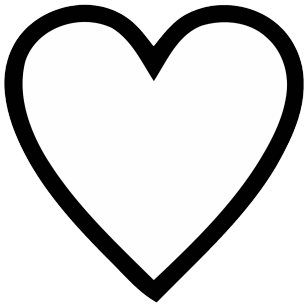
BOOK

- ☐ What is this book about?
- ☐ Why do you think the author chose the title for this book?
- ☐ From whose point of view is this written?
- ☐ What does the author want me to know?
- ☐ If it is fiction, does the main character have a problem? What is it? How is it solved?



HEAD

- ☐ What surprised me?
- ☐ What does the author think I already know?
- ☐ What challenged or confirmed my thinking?
- ☐ What did I notice?
- ☐ What are similarities or differences between this book and other books I have read?



HEART

- ☐ What did I learn about myself?
- ☐ What will I do with what I've learned from reading this?
- ☐ What does the writing make me think about in a new way?
- ☐ What emotions does the writing make me feel or want to do?
- ☐ If the book is fiction, what would I have done if I were in similar circumstances as the main character?



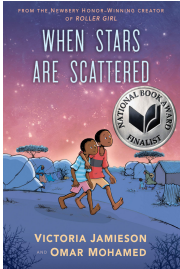
HAND

- ☐ If this book is fiction and had a sequel, what do I think it would be about?
- ☐ What is the main message of this book?
- ☐ What questions would I like to ask the author right now?
- ☐ If I could change one thing in the book, what would it be?
- ☐ Would I recommend this book to someone else? Why or why not?

Staff Recommendations & Favorites

Grades 5 & 6

2023

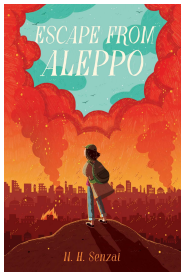


When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohammed

A National Book Award Finalist, this remarkable graphic novel is about growing up in a refugee camp, as told by a former Somali refugee.

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day. Heartbreak, hope, and gentle humor exist together

in this graphic novel about a childhood spent waiting, and a young man who is able to create a sense of family and home in the most difficult of settings. It's an intimate, important, unforgettable look at the day-to-day life of a refugee, as told to *New York Times* Bestselling author/artist Victoria Jamieson by Omar Mohamed, the Somali man who lived the story.



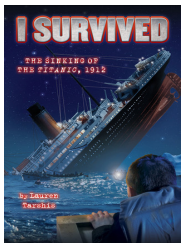
Escape from Aleppo by N.H. Senzai

Nadia's family is forced to flee their home in Aleppo, Syria, when the Arab Spring sparks a civil war in this timely, "harrowing" (*Publishers Weekly*) coming-of-age novel from award-winning author N.H. Senzai. *Silver and gold balloons. A birthday cake covered in pink roses. A new dress.*

Nadia stands at the center of attention in her parents' elegant dining room. *This is the best day of my life*, she thinks. Everyone is about to sing "Happy Birthday," when her uncle calls from the living room, "Baba, brothers, you need to see this." Reluctantly, she follows her family into the other room. On TV, a reporter stands near an overturned vegetable cart on a dusty street. Beside it

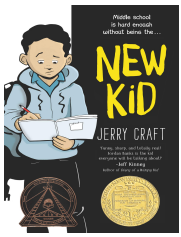
is a mound of smoldering ashes. The reporter explains that a vegetable vendor in the city of Tunis burned himself alive, protesting corrupt government officials who have been harassing his business. Nadia frowns.

It is December 17, 2010: Nadia's twelfth birthday and the beginning of the Arab Spring. Soon anti-government protests erupt across the Middle East and, one by one, countries are thrown into turmoil. As civil war flares in Syria and bombs fall across Nadia's home city of Aleppo, her family decides to flee to safety. Inspired by current events, this novel sheds light on the complicated situation in Syria that has led to an international refugee crisis, and tells the story of one girl's journey to safety.



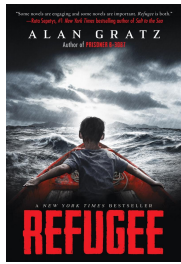
I Survived Series by Lauren Tarshis

Each book in my series tells a terrifying and thrilling story from history, through the eyes of a kid who lived to tell the tale. Lauren Tarshis has brought her signature warmth and exhaustive research to topics such as the September 11 attacks, the destruction of Pompeii, Hurricane Katrina, and the bombing of Pearl Harbor, among others.



New Kid by Jerry Craft (Graphic Novel)

Jordan Banks is anxious about being the new kid at Riverdale, especially since he'd rather be going to art school. He's even more nervous when he realizes that, unlike in his Washington Heights neighborhood, at Riverdale, he's one of the few kids of color. Despite some setbacks, Jordan eventually makes a few friends and chronicles his experiences in his sketch pad.



Refugee by Alan Gratz

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . . ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . .

MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals.

But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.



Resistance by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Chaya Lindner is a teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. Simply being Jewish places her in danger of being killed or sent to the camps. After her little sister is taken away, her younger brother disappears, and her parents all but give up hope, Chaya is determined to make a difference. Using forged papers and her fair features, Chaya becomes a courier and travels between the Jewish ghettos of Poland, smuggling food, papers, and even people.

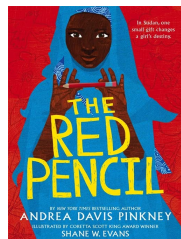
Soon Chaya joins a resistance cell that runs raids on the Nazis' supplies. But after a mission goes terribly wrong, Chaya's network shatters. She is alone and unsure of where to go, until Esther, a member of her cell, finds her and delivers a message that chills Chaya to her core, and sends her on a journey toward an even larger uprising in the works -- in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Though the Jewish resistance never had much of a chance against the Nazis, they were determined to save as many lives as possible, and to live -- or die -- with honor.



A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass

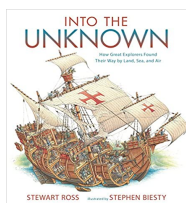
Mia Winchell appears to be a typical kid, but she's keeping a big secret--sounds, numbers, and words have color for her. No one knows, and Mia wants to keep it that way. But when trouble at school finally forces Mia to reveal her secret, she must learn to accept herself and embrace her ability--called synesthesia--a mingling of the senses.



The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney and Shane W. Evans

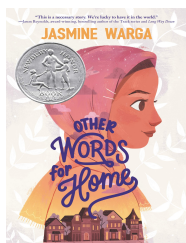
The powerful story of one girl's triumphant journey, inspired by true tales of life in Sudan.

Life in Amira's peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when Janjaweed attackers arrive, unleashing unspeakable horrors. After losing nearly everything, Amira needs to find the strength to make the long journey on foot to safety at a refugee camp. She begins to lose hope, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind -- and all kinds of possibilities.



***Into the Unknown: How Great Explorers Found Their Way by Land, Sea, and Air* by Stuart Ross, Illus. by Stephen Biesty (Nonfiction)**

How did those great explorers travel? What did they wear? Where did they pee? And what did they find on their journeys? Much is revealed in the text and unfolding cross-sections of this fascinating volume.

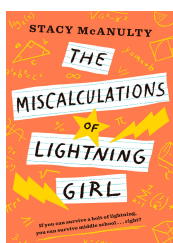


***Other Words for Home* by Jasmin Warga**

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives.

At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of “Middle Eastern,” an identity she's never known before.

But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.

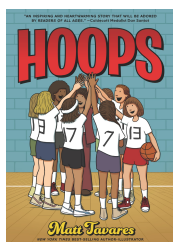


***Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* by Stacy McAnulty**

Lucy Callahan's life was changed forever when she was struck by lightning. She doesn't remember it, but the zap gave her genius-level math skills, and she's been homeschooled ever since. Now, at 12 years old, she's technically ready for college. She just has to pass 1 more test--middle school!

Lucy's grandma insists: Go to middle school for 1 year. Make 1 friend. Join 1 activity. And read 1 book (that's not a math textbook!). Lucy's not sure what a girl who does calculus homework for fun can possibly learn in 7th grade. She has everything she needs at home, where nobody can make fun

of her rigid routines or her superpowered brain. The equation of Lucy's life has already been solved. Unless there's been a miscalculation?

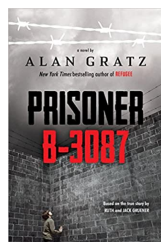


***Hoops* by Matt Tavares**

A work of fiction inspired by a true story, Matt Tavares's debut graphic novel dramatizes the historic struggle for gender equality in high school sports.

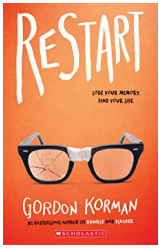
It is 1975 in Indiana, and the Wilkins Regional High School girls' basketball team is in their rookie season. Despite being undefeated, they practice at night in the elementary school and play to empty bleachers. Unlike the boys' team, the Lady Bears have no buses to deliver them to away games and no uniforms, much less a laundry service. They make their own uniforms out of T-shirts and

electrical tape. And with help from a committed female coach, they push through to improbable victory after improbable victory. Illustrated in full color, this story about the ongoing battle of women striving for equality in sports rings with honesty, bravery, and heart.



***Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz**

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 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?



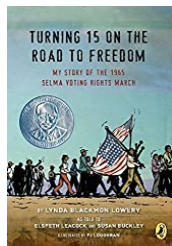
Restart by Gordon Korman

Chase's memory just went out the window. 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. He knows he's Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is--it's a question of who he was . . . and who he's going to be.



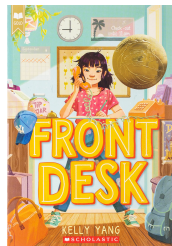
Wings of Fire (series) by Tui T. Sutherland (Fantasy)

A war has been raging between the dragon tribes of Pyrrhia for years. According to a prophecy, five dragonets will end the bloodshed and choose a new queen. But not every dragonet wants a destiny. And when Clay, Tsunami, Glory, Starflight, and Sunny discover the truth about their unusual, secret upbringing, they might choose freedom over fate--and find a way to save their world in their own way.



Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March by Lynda Blackmon Lowery

As the youngest marcher in the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Lynda Blackmon Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed nine times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. In this memoir, she shows today's young readers what it means to fight nonviolently (even when the police are using violence, as in the Bloody Sunday protest) and how it felt to be part of changing American history.



Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

Grade 5 and Grade 6 Recommended Authors

Check out books written by the following authors, many of which come recommended by former grade 5 and grade 6 students.

Authors			
Kwame Alexander	Sharon Draper	Lois Lowry	Roland Smith
Katherine Applegate	Alan Gratz	Mike Lupica	Lauren Tarshis
Avi	Dan Gutman	Wendy Mass	Matt Tavares
Judy Blume	Karen Hesse	Brandon Mull	Jerry Spinelli
Sharon Creech	Anthony Horowitz	Scott O'Dell	Wendelin Van Draanen
Andrew Clements	Erin Hunter	James Patterson	Kelly Yang
Sandra Cisneros	Gordon Korman	Gary Paulsen	Jane Yolen
Eoin Colfer	Madeleine L'Engle	Rick Riordan	
Jerry Craft	Grace Lin	Pam Munoz Ryan	
Kate Di Camillo	Cynthia Lord	Holly Goldberg Sloan	

Grade 5 and Grade 6 Nonfiction Topics

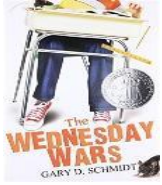
For students who are interested in reading nonfiction texts, the following are an outline of science and social studies topics that you will learn about in grades 5 and 6. Explore topics of interest. Reach out to your local libraries or teachers to find nonfiction texts in these areas. Don't see a topic of interest on this list, but if you want to explore other nonfiction books, please read about any topics that interest you.

Science		Social Studies	Other
Inventors/ Inventions	Rocks/Crystals	Explorers/Adventurers	Travel/World Geography
Energy	Natural Disasters	American Revolution	Royalty
Physical Sciences	Scientists	Colonial America	Advice
Life Sciences		Ancient Civilizations	Writers/Poets
Astronomy		Government	Hobbies
		Civil Rights	Any other topics that interest you!

Staff Recommendations & Favorites

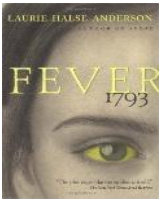
Grade 7

2023



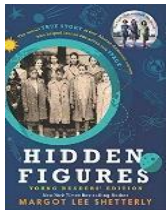
The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

In this Newbery Honor-winning novel, Gary D. Schmidt offers an unforgettable antihero. *The Wednesday Wars* is a wonderfully witty and compelling story about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967–68 school year in Long Island, New York.



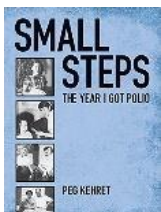
Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.



Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition) by Margot Lee Shetterly

Before John Glenn orbited the earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African-American women who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.



Small Steps by Peg Kehret

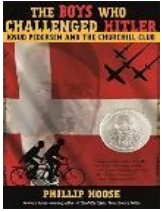
Almost twenty years ago, in a riveting story of courage and hope, Peg Kehret wrote of months spent in a hospital when she was twelve, first struggling to survive a severe case of polio, then slowly learning to walk again. The book deeply touched readers of all ages and received many awards and honors. This anniversary edition includes an updated and extended epilogue about the author's experiences since the original publication. It also includes twelve pages of new photos and a lengthy section about polio, past and present.



This Book is Anti-Racist by Tiffany Jewell

This book is **written for EVERYONE who lives in this racialized society**—including the young person who doesn't know how to speak up to the racist adults in their life, the kid who has lost themselves at times trying to fit into the dominant culture, the children who have been harmed (physically and emotionally) because no one stood up for them or they couldn't stand up for themselves, and also for their families, teachers, and administrators.

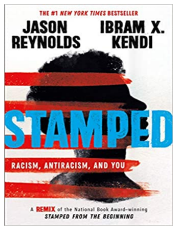
****Recommended by Grade 8****



***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Phillip Hoose**

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance.

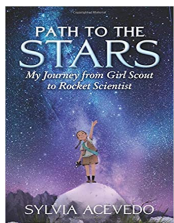
****Recommended by Grade 8****



***Stamped* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi**

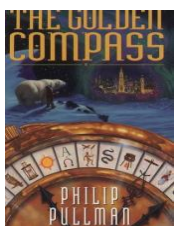
The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited. Through a gripping, fast-paced narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

****Recommended by Grade 8****



***Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist* by Sylvia Acevedo (memoir)**

A meningitis outbreak in their underprivileged neighborhood left Sylvia Acevedo's family forever altered. As she struggled in the aftermath of loss, young Sylvia's life transformed when she joined the Brownies. The Girl Scouts taught her how to take control of her world and nourished her love of numbers and science. With new confidence, Sylvia navigated shifting cultural expectations at school and at home, forging her own trail to become one of the first Latinx to graduate with a master's in engineering from Stanford University and going on to become a rocket scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.



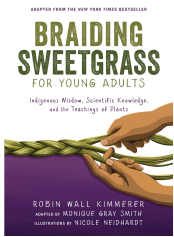
***His Dark Materials Trilogy* by Phillip Pullman**

The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, and The Amber Spyglass are available together in one volume perfect for any fan or newcomer to this modern fantasy classic series. These thrilling adventures tell the story of Lyra and Will—two ordinary children on a perilous journey through shimmering haunted otherworlds. They will meet witches and armored bears, fallen angels and soul-eating specters. And in the end, the fate of both the living—and the dead—will rely on them. Phillip Pullman's spellbinding trilogy has captivated readers for over twenty years and won acclaim at every turn. It will have you questioning everything you know about your world and wondering what really lies just out of reach.

Staff Recommendations & Favorites

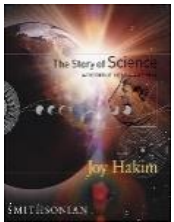
Grade 8

2023



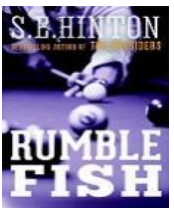
Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Drawing from her experiences as an Indigenous scientist, botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer demonstrated how all living things—from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen—provide us with gifts and lessons every day in her best-selling book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Adapted for young adults by Monique Gray Smith, this new edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth's oldest teachers: the plants around us. With informative sidebars, reflection questions, and art from illustrator Nicole Neidhardt, *Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults* brings Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the lessons of plant life to a new generation.



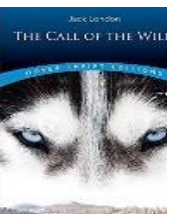
The Story of Science: Aristotle Leads the Way by Joy Hakim

Readers will travel back in time to ancient Babylonia, Egypt, and Greece. They will meet the world's first astronomers, mathematicians, and physicists and explore the lives and ideas of such famous people as Pythagoras, Archimedes, Brahmagupta, al-Khwarizmi, Fibonacci, Ptolemy, St. Augustine, and St. Thomas Aquinas. Hakim will introduce them to Aristotle—one of the greatest philosophers of all time—whose scientific ideas dominated much of the world for eighteen centuries.



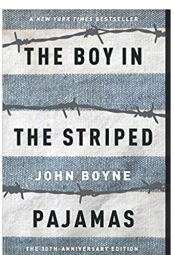
Rumble Fish by S. E. Hinton

Rusty-James is the top tough guy among junior high kids, but what he wants most of all is to be just like his older brother, the Motorcycle Boy, the toughest, most respected street fighter.



The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, Buck is a sturdy crossbreed canine accustomed to a comfortable life as a family dog -- until he's seized from his pampered surroundings and shipped to Alaska to be a sled dog. There, the forbidding landscape is as harsh as life itself during the gold rush of the 1890s.



The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very

different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.



***March Trilogy* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin**

Congressman John Lewis is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president. *March* is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.



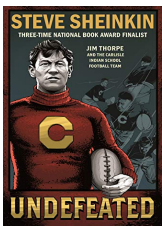
***Legend* by Marie Lu**

What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths – until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.



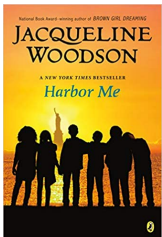
***The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen**

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she's both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say act like she's not there. Jessica's embarrassed to realize that she's done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her.



***Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team* by Steve Sheinkin**

An underdog sports story. It's an unflinching look at the U.S. government's violent persecution of Native Americans and the school that was designed to erase Indian cultures. Expertly told by three-time National Book Award finalist Steve Sheinkin, it's the story of a group of young men who came together at that school, the overwhelming obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat.



***Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson**

It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.



Spanish Immersion students entering 5th through 8th grade are expected minimally to read **one** Spanish book of their choice as part of their summer reading assignment. The book chosen should be a book that they have not read before.