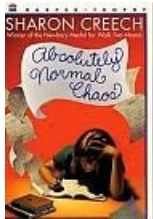




Suggested Books & Authors for Summer Reading  
Seventh Grade into Eighth Grade – Summer 2016  
Middletown Public Schools

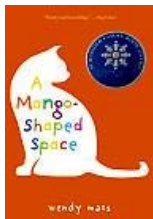
**REALISTIC FICTION**



**Creech, Sharon**

**Absolutely Normal Chaos**

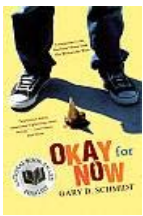
Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up quickly during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his biological father. (Publisher)



**Mass, Wendy**

**A Mango-Shaped Space**

Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango. (Publisher)



**Schmidt, Gary D.**

**Okay for Now**

Fourteen-year-old Doug Swieteck faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer; he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library. (Publisher)



**Weeks, Sarah**

**So B. It**

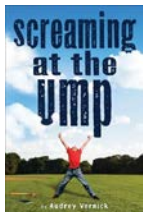
Although she lives an unconventional lifestyle with her mentally disabled mother and their doting neighbor, Bernadette, Heidi has a lucky streak that has a way of pointing her in the right direction. When a mysterious word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi's thirst for the truth leads her on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past. (Publisher)



**Van Draanen, Wendelin**

**The Running Dream**

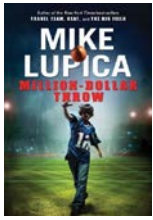
When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again. (Publisher)



**Vernick, Audrey**

**Screaming at the Ump**

Twelve-year-old Casey lives with his father and grandfather at their family-run umpire school, and as he deals with middle school and his mother's unwelcome return, he stumbles on a sensational story that has him questioning his dream of becoming a journalist. (Publisher)

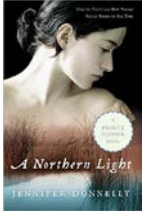


**Lupica, Mike**

**Million Dollar Throw**

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind, so when he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed. (Publisher)

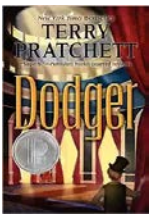
**HISTORICAL FICTION**



**Donnelly, Jennifer**

**A Northern Light**

In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancée, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story. (Publisher)



**Pratchett, Terry**

**Dodger**

Seventeen-year-old Dodger is a "tosher," a sewer scavenger living in Victorian London. When he rescues a girl from a beating, his fortunes in life unexpectedly change. He meets Charles Dickens, has an encounter with Sweeney Todd, and soon everyone is after Dodger. (Publisher)



**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell**

**The Boy Who Dared**

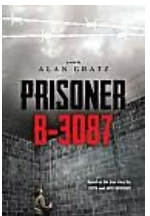
In October 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people. (Publisher)



**Elliott, L.M**

**Under a War-Torn Sky**

When Henry Forrester is shot down during a bombing run over France, the World War II pilot finds himself trapped behind enemy lines. In constant danger of discovery by German soldiers, Henry begins a remarkable journey to freedom. (Publisher)



**Gratz, Alan**

**Prisoner B-3087**

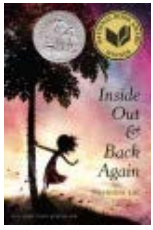
Survive. At any cost. 10 concentration camps. 10 different places where you are starved, tortured, and worked mercilessly. It's something no one could imagine surviving. But it is what Yanek Gruener has to face. (Publisher)



**Klages, Ellen**

**The Green Glass Sea**

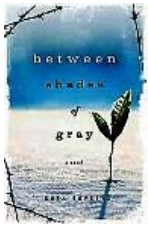
In 1943, eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan lives with her scientist father in Los Alamos, New Mexico, as he works on a top secret government program and befriends an aspiring artist who is a misfit just like her. (Publisher)



**Lai, Thanhha**

**Inside Out & Back Again**

Inspired by the author's childhood experience of fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama, this coming-of-age debut novel told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. (Publisher)

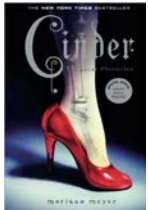


**Sepetys, Ruta**

**Between Shades of Gray**

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp. Lina fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family and includes a historical note. (Publisher)

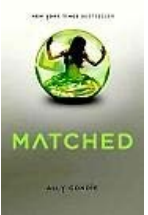
**ADVENTURE/SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY/MYSTERY**



**Meyer, Marissa**

**Cinder: Book One of the Lunar Chronicles** (Any in the series)

As plague ravages the overcrowded Earth, observed by a ruthless lunar people, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world in this futuristic take on the Cinderella story. (Publisher)



**Condie, Ally**

**Matched** (Any book in the series)

All her life, Cassia has never had a choice. The Society dictates everything: when and how to play, where to work, where to live, what to eat and wear, when to die, and most importantly to Cassia as she turns 17, who to marry. When she is matched with her best friend Xander, things couldn't be more perfect. But why did her neighbor Ky's face show up on her match disk as well? (Publisher)



**Henry, April**

**Girl, Stolen**

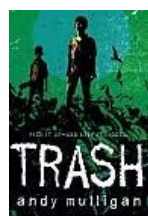
When an impulsive carjacking turns into a kidnapping, Griffin, a high school dropout, finds himself more in sympathy with his wealthy, blind victim, sixteen-year-old Cheyenne, than with his greedy father. (Publisher)



**Lu, Marie**

**Legend** (Any book in the series)

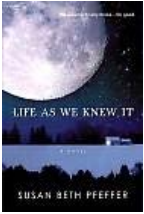
In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy. (Publisher)



**Mulligan, Andy**

**Trash**

A group of fourteen-year-old boys, who make a living picking garbage from the outskirts of a large city, finds something special and mysterious that brings terrifying consequences. (Publisher)



**Pfeffer, Marybeth**

**Life as We Knew It** (Any book in the series)

Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. (Publisher)



**Riggs, Ransom**

**Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children** (Any book in the series)

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. (Publisher)



**Westerfeld, Scott**

**Leviathan** (Any book in the series)

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts. (Publisher)



**Riordan, Rick**

**Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard, Book 1: The Sword of Summer** (Any book in series)

Magnus Chase has always been a troubled kid. Since his mother's mysterious death, he's lived alone on the streets of Boston, surviving by his wits, keeping one step ahead of the police and the truant officers. One day, he is tracked down by a man he's never met -- a man his mother claimed was dangerous. The man tells him an impossible secret: Magnus is the son of a Norse god. The Viking myths are true. Doomsday is approaching. Will Magnus makes a fatal decision? (Publisher)

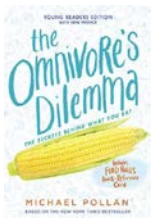


**Ritter, William**

**Jackaby**

Newly arrived in New Fiddleham, New England, 1892, and in need of a job, Abigail Rook meets R. F. Jackaby, an investigator of the unexplained with a keen eye for the extraordinary--including the ability to see supernatural beings. Abigail has a gift for noticing ordinary but important details, which makes her perfect for the position of Jackaby's assistant. On her first day, Abigail finds herself in the midst of a thrilling case: A serial killer is on the loose. The police are convinced it's an ordinary villain, but Jackaby is certain the foul deeds are the work of the kind of creature whose very existence the local authorities...seem adamant to deny.

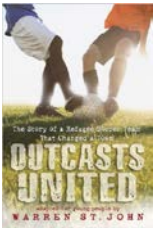
**NONFICTION**



**Pollan, Michael**

**The Omnivore's Dilemma** (young adult)

“What’s for dinner?” seemed like a simple question—until journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes. From fast food and big organic to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, this young readers’ adaptation of Pollan’s famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices through a smart, compelling format with updated facts, plenty of photos, graphs, and visuals. (Publisher)



**St. John, Warren**

**Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town** (young adult)

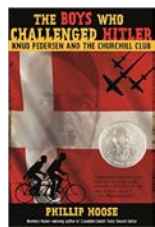
The extraordinary tale of a refugee youth soccer team and the transformation of a small American town. Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical Southern town until it was designated a refugee settlement center in the 1990s, becoming the first American home for scores of families in flight from the world's war zones—from Liberia and Sudan to Iraq and Afghanistan. Suddenly Clarkston's streets were filled with women wearing the hijab, the smells of cumin and curry, and kids of all colors playing soccer in any open space they could find. The town also became home to Luma Mufleh, an American-educated Jordanian woman who founded a youth soccer team to unify Clarkston's refugee children and keep them off the streets. (Publisher)



**Van Wagenen, Maya**

**Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek**

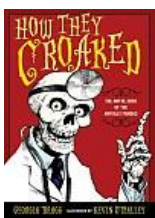
Stuck near the bottom of the social ladder at "pretty much the lowest level of people at school who aren't paid to be here," Maya has never been popular. But before starting eighth grade, she decides to begin a unique social experiment: spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide written by former teen model Betty Cornell. The real-life results are hilarious, painful, and filled with unexpected surprises. Told with humor and grace, Maya's teenage memoir offers readers of all ages a thoroughly contemporary example of kindness and self-confidence, along with a better understanding of what it means to be popular. (Publisher)



**Hoose, Phillip**

**The Boys Who Challenged Hitler**

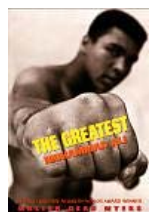
At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British 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. Interweaving his own narrative with the recollections of Knud himself, here is Phillip Hoose's inspiring story of these young war heroes. (Publisher)



**Bragg, Georgia**

**How They Croaked : The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous**

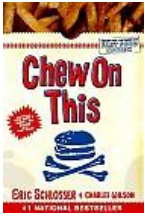
Over the course of history men and women have lived and died. In fact, getting sick and dying can be a big, ugly mess—especially before the modern medical care that we all enjoy today. *How They Croaked* relays all the gory details of how nineteen world figures gave up the ghost. Readers will be fascinated well past the final curtain, and feel lucky to live in a world with painkillers, X-rays, soap, and 911. (Publisher)



**Myers, Walter Dean**

**The Greatest: Muhammad Ali**

An illustrated biography of boxing great Muhammad Ali that addresses his politics, his fight against Parkinson's disease, and boxing's dangers. (Publisher)

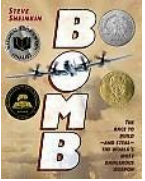


**Schlosser, Eric**

**Chew on This**

A look at fast food, what's in it, how it's made, and what it does to our bodies.

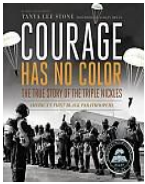
In the New York Times bestseller *Chew on This*, Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson unwrap the fast-food industry to bring you a behind-the-scenes look at a business that both feeds and feeds off the young. Find out what really goes on at your favorite restaurants—and what lurks between those sesame seed buns. (Publisher)



**Sheinkin, Steve**

**Bomb**

*Bomb* examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world. (Publisher)



**Stone, Tanya Lee**

**Courage Has No Color**

World War II is raging, and thousands of American soldiers are fighting overseas against the injustices brought on by Hitler. Back on the homefront, discrimination against African Americans plays out as much on Main Street as in the military. Tanya Lee Stone examines the little-known history of the Triple Nickles, America's first black paratroopers, who fought in an attack on the American West by the Japanese. (Publisher)

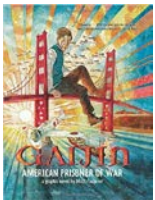


**Tougas, Shelley**

**Little Rock 1957**

Nine African American students made history when they defied a governor and integrated an Arkansas high school in 1957, but it was the photo of a young girl being taunted, harassed and threatened by an angry mob that grabbed the world's attention. (Publisher)

**GRAPHIC NOVEL**

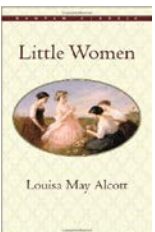


**Faulkner, Matt**

**Gaijin: American Prisoner of War**

With a white mother and a Japanese father, Koji Miyamoto quickly realizes that his home in San Francisco is no longer a welcoming one after Pearl Harbor is attacked. And once he's sent to an internment camp, he learns that being half white at the camp is just as difficult as being half Japanese on the streets of an American city during WWII. (Publisher)

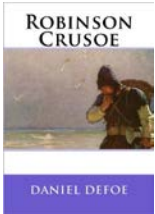
**CLASSICS**



**Alcott, Louisa May**

**Little Women**

*Little Women* chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England. (Publisher)

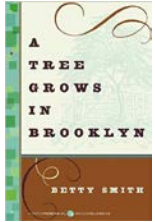


**Defoe, Daniel**

**Robinson Crusoe**

Robinson Crusoe, set ashore on an island after a terrible storm at sea, is forced to make do with only a knife, some tobacco, and a pipe. He learns how to build a canoe, make bread, and endure endless solitude. That is, until, twenty-four years later, when he confronts another human being.

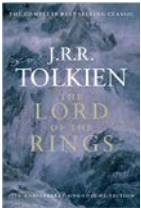
(Publisher)



**Smith, Betty**

**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**

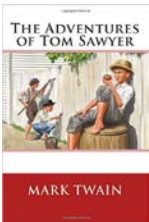
A poignant tale of childhood and the ties of family, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" will transport the reader to the early 1900's where a little girl named Francie dreamily looks out her window at a tree struggling to reach the sky. (Publisher)



**Tolkien, J.R.R.**

**The Lord of the Rings** (Any book in the series)

First in the trilogy which tells of the quest undertaken by the hobbit Frodo and his companions to journey across Middle-earth and cast the evil One Ring, into the Cracks of Doom. (Publisher)



**Twain, Mark**

**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**

This childhood classic relates a small-town boy's pranks and escapades with timeless humor and wisdom. In addition to his everyday stunts (searching for buried treasure, trying to impress the adored Becky Thatcher), Tom experiences a dramatic turn of events when he witnesses a murder, runs away, and returns to attend his own funeral and testify in court. (Publisher)