

Required Summer Reading Middle School

Students are encouraged to bring in a purchased or borrowed copy of each book on the second week of school and will be expected to have read the books in full and be prepared to be able to be tested on their knowledge of them.

Grade 6 *El Deafo* by Cece Bell and *Holes* by Louis Sachar

El Deafo

In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful and very awkward hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear (including some things she wasn't intended to hear), but it also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is.

After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." More importantly, Cece declares a place for herself in the world and finds the friend she's longed for.

Holes

This winner of the Newbery Medal and the National Book Award features Stanley Yelnats, a kid who is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats.

Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake: the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime, punishment, and redemption.

Grade 7 *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jaimieson and *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

Roller Girl

Astrid has always done everything with her best friend Nicole. So when Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for a summer camp, she's sure Nicole will be right by her side – until Nicole signs up for ballet camp instead, with Astrid's biggest rival. So begins the hardest summer of Astrid's life, as she struggles to stay on her skates, to learn who she is without Nicole . . . and to find out what it takes to be a strong, tough, awesome roller girl.

The Crossover

Josh and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood. He's got mad beats too, beats that tell his family's story in verse. But both brothers must come to grips with growing up, on and off the court, as they realize breaking the rules can come at a terrible price, resulting in a game-changer for their entire family. Winner of the 2015 Newbery Medal.

Grade 8 *New Kid* by Jerry Craft and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

New Kid

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

The Outsiders

Ponyboy Curtis is a good-natured teen who loves books and movies. He's also an orphan whose two older brothers and street-smart friends guard and protect him. Together these ragtag, working-class boys, known as "greasers" to the locals, try to make their way in the world, without privilege, supervision, or education.

But it isn't easy. A bunch of wealthy kids, called the "Socs, " target Ponyboy and his friends. They bully, mock, and ridicule the greasers. Until one night they push the greasers too far, and violence explodes. Now young Ponyboy has a decision to make: Does he run or does he stand his ground and try to find justice?

This realistic novel was written by a first-time teen author no older than the characters she depicted. The story remains as hard-hitting and important today as when it was published in 1967.