

Summer 2024 Junior High Reading List

Each junior high student is expected to read at least two books over the summer. One is assigned to every member of the class and is listed below. Students should read and take notes, so they are ready for activities, assignments, and quizzes when the school year begins. Students need to bring a copy of the assigned book to school along with notes and have both available for that first day of class in the 2024-2025 school year. Enjoy!!

6th Graders

The Giver by Lois Lowry

7th Graders

A Teen's Gameplan for Life by Lou Holtz

8th Graders

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

The second required summer reading book is the student's choice, but it must come from the following list or be approved in advance. (Email me for permission at BMoldavon@cathedralchapel.org) Students are required to prepare an original PowerPoint or similar slide presentation of the book. The presentation must include at least six slides in addition to the title slide. Presentations should exhibit original thought and effort. They should include information about the theme or life lesson and the personal and educational value of the book. Presentations should also include the student's opinion of the book and whether he or she would recommend it to others and why. Presentations should be ready to share the first week of the new school year.

Most of the following books can be found on the Scholastic website. All of the books can be found on Amazon or at Barnes and Noble. I've tried to include a helpful synopsis, awards, and grade level suggestions. All junior high students may choose any book from the list, regardless of suggested grade level, so long as they have never read the book.

Junior High Summer 2024 Reading Book Choices:

Amos Fortune: freeman by Elizabeth Yates (Newbery Medal winner)

"When Amos Fortune was only fifteen years old, he was captured by slave traders and brought to Massachusetts, where he was sold at auction. Although his freedom had been taken, Amos never lost his dignity and courage. For 45 years, Amos worked as a slave and dreamed of freedom. And, at age 60, he finally began to see those dreams come true." ("The moving story of a life dedicated to the fight for freedom."—Booklist)

Anne of Green Gables, by L.M. Montgomery (4-8)

Considered a classic and must read for young readers, this book is set in Canada and tells the story of an orphan girl who finds a home when sent by mistake to two middle-aged siblings who were hoping to find a boy to work on their farm.

Believe by Julie Mathison (Eric Hoffer Book Award, First Horizon Award)

“Melanie knows she's special. She understands the secret language of old houses and can make jewels out of broken glass. Her imagination can do anything - except make friends. But then, she meets Sabrina, who looks like a TV star and acts like a spy, and who doesn't care what anyone thinks. She teaches Melanie how to believe in herself, and soon Melanie starts living her dreams. She even lands the lead in Peter Pan! If only she could share it all with Mom. Sabrina thinks they can track her down, and Melanie wants to believe, but sometimes it's easier to pretend. Her new life feels like a house of cards, until one day it all comes crashing down and she finds herself with no choice but to face the truth... and let go.”

Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk (NPR Book of the Year, Parents Magazine Best Book Award)

“Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.”

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (Best Book of the Year)

The Book Thief is about a girl during World War II in Nazi Germany. Her foster parents hide a Jewish man, but this man is forced to leave once attention is drawn to the family. Ultimately the girls' town is bombed, and her foster parents and best friend are killed.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba (Alex Award from the American Library Association.)

“When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of their crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. This memoir shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world.”

Carlo Acutis: The First Millennial Saint by Nicola Gori

“Carlos Acutis, born in 1991, was known as a computer whiz, soccer enthusiast, video gamer, and talented saxophone player. He embraced life and loved spending time with friends. The Word of God and the Eucharist were the center of his life. He wanted to be holy. He taught catechism classes and worked in a soup kitchen. He died from a sudden illness in 2006 at the age of fifteen. Pope Francis declared him “venerable” in 2018, and his beatification took place in Assisi in 2020. The next step is canonization, which will make him the first saint of the new millennium.

The Chosen by Chaim Potok (Nominated for a National Book Award, Edward Lewis Walant Award)

A coming-of-age classic about two Jewish boys growing up in Brooklyn in the 1940s, this “profound and universal” (*The Wall Street Journal*) story of faith, family, tradition, and assimilation remains deeply pertinent today. “Works of this caliber should be occasion for singing in the streets and shouting from the rooftops.” —*Chicago Tribune*

Circle of Gold by Candy Dawson Boyd (4-7) (Coretta Scott King Award Honor Book and Notable Children's Trade Book)

“This book tells the story of one fatherless young girl who tries her best to improve her family's situation. After the death of her father, Mattie attempts to bring her family closer together and bring back the happiness they seem to have lost.”

Courage Has No Color by Tanya Lee Stone (5-8) (NAACP Image Award)

“During World War II as thousands of American soldiers are fighting overseas against the injustices brought on by Hitler, the Triple Nickles, America's first black paratroopers, train to fight against discrimination at home and abroad.”

Crispin the Cross of Lead by Avi (Newbery Medal Winner)

“*Sometimes I ran, sometimes all I could do was walk. All I knew was that if the steward overtook me, I'd not survive for long....*” Crispin is a poor thirteen-year-old peasant in medieval England. Accused of a crime he did not commit, he has been declared a “wolf's head,” meaning he may be killed on sight, by anyone. He flees his tiny village with nothing but his mother's cross of lead. This book is filled with plot twist and amazing characters.

Crow by Barbara Wright (6-10) (Spur Award)

“The summer of 1898 is filled with difficulties for 11-year-old Moses. He's growing apart from his best friend; his superstitious Boo-Nanny butts heads with his father, and his mother is reeling from the discovery of a family secret. There are good times too. He's teaching his grandmother how to read, and she's sharing stories about her life as a slave. His father and his friends are finally getting the respect and positions of power they've earned in their community. But not everyone is happy with the political changes at play, and some will do anything, even participate in a violent plot. The book touches on the harm caused by racism and bigotry, the impact of overcoming adversity, and the importance of just laws.

The Diary of Anne Frank (6-8)

An important autobiography written during the Holocaust that is a classic of literature.

Dragonwings by Laurence Yep (6-8) (Newbery Medal Runner Up)

The book follows Moon Shadow Lee as he arrives in San Francisco from China in 1903, the culture shock he experiences, and his changing relationships with his family and others. Themes touch on dreams, hopes, racism, family, and fear.

Eight Keys, by Suzanne La Fleu

Elise, who has been facing family issues and bullying in middle school, receives a key as a 12th birthday gift. The story is filled with suspense as she realizes the key fits one of eight doors in the barn.

An Elephant in the Garden by Michael Morpurgo (Student Visionary Award)

Lizzie and Karl's mother is a zoo keeper; the family has become attached to an orphaned elephant named Marlene, who will be destroyed as a precautionary measure so she and the other animals don't run wild should the zoo be hit by bombs. The family persuades the zoo director to let Marlene stay in their garden instead. When the city is bombed, the family flees with thousands of others, but how can they walk the same route when they have an elephant in tow, and keep themselves safe? Along the way, they meet Peter, a Canadian navigator who risks his own capture to save the family.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis (6-8) (Coretta Scott King Award and a Newbery Honor Book for 2008)

This is the tale of eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman. The first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves. Elijah is best known in his hometown as the boy who threw up on Frederick Douglass. Things change when a former slave calling himself the Right Reverend Zephariah W. Connerly the Third steals money from Elijah's friend Mr. Leroy, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Elijah joins Mr. Leroy on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of the disreputable preacher, and he discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of the life his parents fled-if he can find the courage to go back home.

The Eyes & the Impossible by Dave Eggers (Newbery Medal)

“An enthralling novel told from the perspective of one uniquely endearing dog.”

Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson (Newbery Honor Award)

“Hope is the thing with feathers” starts the poem Frannie is reading in school. Frannie hasn't thought much about hope. There are so many other things to think about. Each day, her friend Samantha seems a bit more “holy.” There is a new boy in class everyone is calling the Jesus Boy. And although the new boy looks like a white kid, he says he's not white. Who is he? The author takes readers on a journey into a young girl's heart and reveals the pain and the joy of learning to look beneath the surface.

Fort Mose by Glinnett Tilley Turner (6-10)

This book tells the story of the first free African settlement to exist legally in colonial America, established in St. Augustine, Florida in 1738. It includes over forty images, as well as notes on the uncovering of the fort.”

Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule by Harriette Gillem Robinet and Wendell Minor (5-7)

“Like other ex-slaves, Paschal and his brother, Gideon, have been promised 40 acres and maybe a mule. But the notorious night riders have plans to take it away, threatening to tear the beautiful freedom that the two boys are enjoying for the first time in their young lives.”

Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor: Book One, by John Sciesczka

This book combines a great story with science, technology, and art.

Freewater by Aminan Luqman-Dawson (6-8) (Newbery Medal)

This book is about two enslaved children’s escape from a plantation and the many ways they find freedom. Under the cover of night, twelve-year-old Homer flees Southerland Plantation with his little sister Ada, unwillingly leaving their beloved mother behind. Much as he adores her and fears for her life, Homer knows there’s no turning back, not with the overseer on their trail. Through tangled vines, secret doorways, and over a sky bridge, the two find a secret community called Freewater, deep in the swamp. It is a tale of survival, adventure, friendship, and courage.

A Gathering of Days by Joan W. Blos (National Book Award, Newbery Award)

The journal of a 14-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.

Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams (6-8) (Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Award) This novel tells the story of a thirteen-year-old who must overcome internalized racism and a verbally abusive family to finally learn to love herself.

Gifted Hands, the Revised Kids’ Edition: The Ben Carson Story by Gregg Lewis (6-12)

When Ben Carson was in school, his classmates called him the class dummy. Many—including Ben himself—doubted that he would ever amount to anything. But his mother never let him quit. She encouraged Ben to do better and reach higher for his dreams, and eventually he discovered a deep love of learning. He became one of the world’s greatest pediatric neurosurgeons. Through determination and a lot of hard work, Ben overcame his many obstacles. (***This book was recommended by Miss Mitchell.***)

The Glory Field by Walter Dean Meyers (8-12) (Parent’s Choice Award, Alan Award)

This novel follows five generations of one African American family from Africa to a South Carolina plantation through the Civil War, to the end of segregation, and beyond, to a moving and redemptive finale, when a young drug-addicted cousin is brought home to the glory field for a day of reunion and renewal. It is a story of pride, determination, struggle, and love. It connects the people to the piece of land that holds them together throughout it all.

Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson (6-12) (Winner of the Coretta Scott King Author Book Award)

This book is a story of hope, inspiration, and courage. It is also the story of injustice; of a country divided by law, education, and wealth. It is the story of a people whose struggles and achievements helped define their country. This is the story of the men, women, and children who toiled in the hot sun picking cotton for their masters; it's about the America ripped in two by Jim Crow laws; it's about the brothers and sisters of all colors who rallied against those who would bar a child from an education. It's a story of discrimination and broken promises, determination and triumphs.

The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart

This is the story of a boy, his dog, and the mountains they face together.

"It's never too late for the adventure of a lifetime. In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day. But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So, Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan. A plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier. Even if it's the last thing he ever does."

Hoot, by Carl Hiaasen (6-7) (New York Times Bestseller, Newbery Honor book)

The story of an underdog who finds his way as the new kid in school. *Hoot* deals with some difficult topics, but it does so in an entertaining way that provokes thought and discussion without being preachy or condescending. The lessons of this story are universal - about friendship, family loyalty, corruption on both small scales and large-scale government malfeasance.

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai (New York Times Bestseller, Newbery Honor, National Book Award)

"After the fall of Saigon, Ha and her family must flee. Their new lives are waiting for them in America, but leaving home and reaching new land is yet another challenge. Follow along as Thanhha weaves her personal experiences into Ha's story in this story told in free-verse poetry."

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch (7-8)

This award-winning book was written by a professor who knew his days were numbered and wanted to leave his children with the best advice he could for living their lives with purpose and courage.

Lions of Little Rock by Barbara Schultz (5-7)

“*The Lions of Little Rock* is a fictional story about a meaningful friendship between two girls during the late 1950s in Little Rock, Arkansas. The novel is set against the backdrop of high school closings by local and state governments opposed to integrating Little Rock schools. Children and adults in the novel struggle to form their own opinions on the issue, and they grapple with how much to speak up in the face of real threats of being ostracized, losing a job, or being violently attacked.”

Loser by Jerry Spinelli (6-7)

Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." In the book, the author creates a story about a boy's individuality surpassing the need to fit in and the genuine importance of failure.

Make Your Bed by William H. McRaven (7-12)

“Former Navy SEAL William H. McRaven teaches you how this menial task leads to big rewards. Using advice he gave graduating college students during a commencement address, McRaven develops 10 lessons for life learned during his time as a SEAL. Follow these lessons to lead a more meaningful life, and you just might change the world in the process.”

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli (5-6) (John Newbery Medal)

Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and difficult aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--not just run away-but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

March: Book One by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell (7+)

“*March* is a look back at the early days of the Civil Rights Movement in the American South. Both a history and a memoir of Congressman John Lewis' early life, the book emphasizes the power of nonviolent protest and shows how people can band together to affect social change. It contains some violence, including beatings by police and the murder of a 14-year-old boy, but these scenes are not graphic or lingered upon. Bigoted characters use the "N" word throughout the book.” **(If you choose this book, please discuss these issues with a parent and prepare yourself for the violence and language.)**

M.C. Higgins the Great by Virginia Hamilton (5-8) (Newbery Medal winner, National Book Award winner, and Boston Globe-Horn winner)

The story of a young Black boy who lives in the Appalachian Mountains and dreams of escape when two strangers appear, and his life will change for ever.

The Mona Lisa Vanishes by Nicholas Day

On a hot August day in Paris, just over a century ago, a desperate guard burst into the office of the director of the Louvre and shouted, *La Joconde, c'est partie!* The *Mona Lisa*, she's gone! In this book you'll be able to travel back to an extraordinary period of revolutionary change: turn-of-the-century Paris. Walk its backstreets. Meet the infamous thieves—and detectives—of the era. And then slip back further in time and follow Leonardo da Vinci, painter of the *Mona Lisa*, through his dazzling, wondrously weird life. Discover the secret at the heart of the *Mona Lisa*—the most famous painting in the world should never have existed at all.

Music for Tigers by Michelle Kadarusman (6-8) (Governor General's Literary Award)

"A novel about a young violinist who discovers that her mother's family secretly harbors a sanctuary for extinct Tasmanian tigers in the remote Australian rainforest." The numerous themes touch on family, legacy, friendship, and environmentalism. (This book is from the AJHD 2024 Super Quiz)

New Kid by Jerry Craft (2019)

Being the new kid in middle school can be tough. In this humorous graphic novel by Jerry Craft, *New Kid* explores the story of Jordan Banks, who is just like any other kid his age. He likes playing video games and drawing cartoons. But when he transfers from his neighborhood public school to a private one where most students are white, things get complicated fast.

Now or Never by Ray Anthony Shephard (6-8)

This book includes dual biographies of the war correspondents who served in the well-respected black regiment that fought to end slavery.

Refugee, by Alan Gratz (7-8)

This book tells the story of refugees from three different perspectives. Themes of courage and family and home are woven throughout the story.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor (6-8) (Winner of the 1977 Newbery Medal and nominated for the National Book Award)

"The land is all-important to the Logan family. But it takes a while for Cassie and her three brothers to understand just how lucky they are to have it. They must learn the hard way that having a place they can call their own in rural Mississippi permits the Logans the luxuries of pride and courage that their poor black sharecropper neighbors can't afford."

Simon Sort of Says by Erin Bow (Newbery Honor Winner)

Simon O’Keeffe’s biggest claim to fame *should* be the time his dad accidentally gave a squirrel a holy sacrament or maybe the alpaca disaster that went viral on YouTube. But the story the whole world wants to talk about Simon is the one he’d do anything to forget: the one starring Simon as a famous survivor of gun violence at school. The book is a testament to the lasting echoes of trauma, the redemptive power of humor, and the courage it takes to move forward without forgetting the past.

A Single Shard, by Linda Sue Park (5-8)

This award-winning book tells the story of an orphan boy with the dream of becoming a master potter and his adventure in ancient Korea

The Skin I’m In by Sharon G. Flake (7-12) (Winner of the 1999 Coretta Scott King John Steptoe Award for new authors)

“Maleeka Madison is a strong student who has had enough of being teased about her "too black" skin and handmade clothes. So, when she starts seventh grade, she decides to adopt a sassier attitude and a tougher circle of friends. The last thing she expects is to get "messed up" with another "freak," but that's exactly what happens. After a new teacher, whose face is disfigured from a skin disease, enters her life, will Maleeka be able to learn to love the skin she's in.”

Stealing Home by Barry Denenberg (5-7)

“*Stealing Home* is the account of a man who was determined to play baseball regardless of the color of his skin. This biography tells the story of Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play in baseball's major leagues in the United States. In his willingness to fight for his rights and the rights of others both on and off the baseball field, Jackie Robinson was not only a great ball player, but also a true American hero. He once said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." Robinson truly lived an important life, which still influences people today.

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate Di Camillo (6-7)

The beautifully written story of a brave mouse, a rat, a wishful servant girl, and a princess named Pea. Themes include love, grief, forgiveness, and hope.

These Unlucky Stars by Gillian Mc Dunn (The brightest friendships are unexpected.)

One of the many life lessons learned from this book is that real friendship can enrich life and bring happiness. Readers learn how important it is to open their hearts and minds.

This is Your Time by Ruby Bridges. Delacorte (Gr. 4–7)

In this short but moving book, Ruby Bridges, who integrated the New Orleans public schools in 1960 as a six-year-old, describes her pivotal role in civil rights history and encourages others to continue on the path toward social justice.

Travel Team & The Big Field by Mike Lupica

“Lupica writes great books about sports and sportsmanship, challenges, and perseverance. In this book, the reader gets two of the author’s bestselling titles in one volume. In one, the underdogs get a second chance and prove that real heart has no limits. In *The Big Field*, the baseball championship is on the line, when the second-baseman discovers how far he’ll go to be a good teammate.”

Ungifted, by Gordon Korman (6-7)

“This story is about a middle school boy, a bit of a troublemaker, who accidentally ends up in a gifted program.”

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom by Elspeth Leacock, Lynda Blackmon Lowery, Susan Washburn Buckley (6 -10)

“This book is a memoir of the Civil Rights Movement from one of its youngest heroes. 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 eleven times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African Americans. In this book, she shows what it means to fight nonviolently and to be a force for real change in America.”

The View from Saturday, by E.L. Konigsburg (6-8) (Newbery Medal)

“After a car accident leaves her a paraplegic, Mrs. Olinski returns to teaching and chooses four students from her 6th grade class to compete in an academic competition. Each student has a unique story and brings something important to the team.”

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech (6-8) (Newbery Medal Winner)

“This is the story of a 13-year-old girl who is dealing with the loss of her mother, moving to a new town and making new friends. It is a coming-of-age story that deals with grief, identity, and hope.”

We Are Not Yet Equal by Carol Anderson (7-10)

A history of racism and oppression in America

We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada Kelly

“The Nelson Thomas children exist in their own orbits, circling a tense and unpredictable household, with little in common except an enthusiastic science teacher named Ms. Salonga. As the launch of the *Challenger* approaches, Ms. Salonga gives her students a project—they are separated into spacecraft crews and must create and complete a mission. When the day finally arrives, it changes all of their lives and brings them together in unexpected ways. Told in three alternating points of view, *We Dream of Space* is an unforgettable and thematically rich novel for middle grade readers.”

Witness by Karen Hesse (6-12) (Christopher Award)

“The Ku Klux Klan had its beginning in the South immediately following the Civil War; its original purpose was to prevent freed slaves from gaining full rights of citizenship. Revived in the early years of the 20th century, the Klan expanded its campaign of hate and violence to include newer immigrants, particularly from Eastern Europe, and especially Jews and Catholics. Spreading into all parts of America, the Klan attempted to infiltrate small towns and enlist members by creating fear of those who are "different" and professing to embrace truly "American" values. *Witness* tells the story of the Klan's attempt to recruit members in a small town in Vermont in 1924. Leanora Sutter, a young Black girl, feels isolated by racial prejudice and her mother's recent death. She is befriended by Esther Hirsh, a younger Jewish girl, whose innocence and natural optimism provide a sharp contrast to the other characters. Readers hear the voices of 11 residents of the town and experience events from many different points of view, in the form of a poetic play in five acts. As the characters speak directly to the reader and relate the acts of hate and love, violence and peace, terror and kindness, they illuminate the full range of human strengths and weaknesses in one small town.”

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk (6-8) (Newbery Honor Book)

“Despite growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet life in her small Pennsylvania town. That is until a new student, Betty, walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and her bullying quickly escalates. Toby, a reclusive World War I veteran, soon becomes the target of Betty's attacks. While others see Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. Annabelle must find the courage to stand as a lone voice for justice. This is a tale of America at a crossroads at a time when one girl's resilience, strength, and compassion help to illuminate the darkest corners of history.”

Wonder, by R.J. Palacio (6-7) (Numerous Awards including Junior Young Reader's Choice Award)

“*Wonder* is the story of Auggie, a boy with severe facial deformities, who heads to public school in fifth grade after years of being homeschooled. It is a story of growth, acceptance, truth and courage.”

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli (6-7) (Newbery Honor Book, ALA Notable Children's Book)

“In Palmer LaRue's hometown, turning ten is the biggest event of a boy's life. But for Palmer, his tenth birthday is not something to look forward to but something to dread. One day, a visitor appears on his windowsill, and Palmer knows that this, more than anything else, is a sign that his time is up. Somehow, he must learn how to stop being afraid and stand up for what he believes in.”

Zora and Me by T. R. Simon (6-12) (John Steptoe/Coretta Scott King Award for New Talent)

“Racial violence threatens a peaceful African-American town in 1900's Florida in a novel inspired by the childhood of Zora Neale Hurston. The story involves a shape-shifting gator man who lurks in the marshes, waiting to steal human souls. Zora's best friend, Carrie, narrates this coming-of-age story set in the Eden-like town of Eatonville, Florida, where justice isn't merely an exercise in retribution but a testimony to the power of community, love, and pride.”

Students may also choose to read any of the Chronicles of Narnia series by C.S. Lewis, any of the Harry Potter Books by J.K. Rowling, and any J.R. R. Tolkien *Hobbit/Lord of the Rings* series.

I hope you find a book that you love. Enjoy every minute of summer!!! Mrs. M.