



ARMS SUMMER READING 2017



Dear families of rising 7th and 8th grade students,

The Amherst Regional Middle School English Department and Library are excited to share with you our summer reading expectations! During the school year Independent Reading is an important and much-loved part of the English Language Arts curriculum at ARMS. We believe that Independent Reading:

- Develops good, regular reading habits.
- Nurtures stamina. Staying with a book requires concentration, something increasingly lacking in our high-tech culture.
- Is a way to pull back from the (at times) social craziness of middle school.
- Escaping into the world of a book builds empathy when you see beyond yourself and beyond the present moment (so important for our preadolescents).
- Allows students to see that there is power in identifying and seeing oneself in literature—you are not alone.
- Builds community by sharing good reads and talking about books together.
- Helps students solve problems with exposure to characters and situations that are new and different.
- Builds vocabulary.
- Creates better readers. Better readers make better writers, speakers, thinkers and communicators.

***FOR SUMMER READING, PLEASE
READ 2 BOOKS OVER THE 2017 SUMMER.
ANY TWO BOOKS! YOUR CHOICE!***

In the fall, when we start school, your 7th or 8th grade English teacher will be asking you about the books you read this summer to kick off next year's Independent Reading.

If you need ideas and are looking for good books to read, our ARMS librarian, Peter Riedel, has compiled a list of excellent, current adolescent literature as well as some classic titles. **These are *only suggestions*** for those who aren't sure what to read and want ideas- these are *not required*! This letter and the book ideas can *also* be found on the ARMS website. Local libraries, too, are ready to help you discover great summer reads. Any questions?

Contact English Curriculum Leader Heather Sullivan-Flynn at Sullivan-FlynnH@arps.org

HERE IS A LIST OF SUGGESTIONS IF YOU NEED AN IDEA OF WHAT TO READ!

But really, read any two books - whether they are on this list or not - that you want to read!*

Award Winners for Middle School Readers from 2017

(John Newbery Medal, Michael L. Printz Award, Pura Belpre Award, Coretta Scott King Book Award, Stonewall Book Awards, Schneider Family Book Award, Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award, YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults)

- *As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds
- *Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life*, by Ashley Bryan
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
- *In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives* by Kenneth C. Davis
- *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*, by Adam Gidwitz
- *March: Book 3*, by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
- *The Only Road* by Alexandra Diaz
- *The Passion of Dolssa* by Julie Berry
- *Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story*, by Caren Stelson
- *Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune*, by Pamela S. Turner
- *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman
- *The Sun Is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon
- *This Land is Our Land: A History of American Immigration* by Linda Barrett Osborne
- *Uprooted: The Japanese American Experience During World War II*, by Albert Marrin
- *We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler*, by Russell Freedman
- *When We Collided* by Emery Lord
- *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk

Most-Read Titles at Amherst Regional Middle School

- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- *Cherub Series*, by Robert Muchamore
- *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series*, by Jeff Kinney
- *Divergent Series*, by Veronica Roth
- *Drama*, by Raina Telgemeier
- *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon
- *Ghosts*, by Raina Telgemeier
- *The Grisha Trilogy (Shadow and Bone)* by Leigh Bardugo

- *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* by Jack Thorne, based on a story by J.K. Rowling, John Tiffany & Jack Thorne
- *I'll Give You the Sun*, by Jandy Nelson
- *The Lorien Legacies (I Am Number Four)* by Pittacus Lore
- *Matched Series*, by Ally Condie
- *Maximum Ride : The Manga Series*, by James Patterson and NaRae Lee
- *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, by Ransom Riggs
- *The Ranger's Apprentice Series* by John Flanagan
- *The Savage Fortress* by Sarwat Chadda
- *The Selection Series* by Kiera Cass
- *This One Summer*, by Mariko Tamaki
- *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

New and Old "Classics" for Middle School Readers

- *2001: A Space Odyssey*, by Arthur C. Clarke
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, by Mark Twain
- *Call of the Wild*, by Jack London
- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, by Alexandre Dumas
- *Dune*, by Frank Herbert
- *Emma*, by Jane Austen
- *Great Expectations*, by Charles Dickens
- *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams
- *The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*, by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, by Jules Verne
- *White Fang*, by Jack London
- *The Red Pony*, by John Steinbeck

Poets and Poetry

- Maya Angelou (1928 -2014) *Maya Angelou: Poetry for Young People*, Carlson, Lori M. (editor)
- *Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States*
- Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) *Emily Dickinson: Poetry for Young People*
- Robert Frost (1874-1963) *You Come Too: Favorite Poems for Young Readers*
- Nikki Giovanni (1943-) *Vacation Time*
- J. Patrick Lewis (1942 -) *When Thunder Comes: Poems for Civil Rights Leaders*
- Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) *Edgar Allan Poe: Poetry for Young People*
- Joyce Sidman (1956 -) *What the Heart Knows: Chants, Charms & Blessings*

*For real- read any two books you want! They don't have to be from this list!