



ARMS Summer Reading 2018

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 for 2018. 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 from their lives.
- Builds vocabulary.
- Creates better readers. Better readers make better writers, speakers, thinkers, and communicators.

**ARMS Summer reading: please
read any 2 books.**

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 or 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. This letter and 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.

Not sure what to read?

If you are looking for ideas, here are some...

Award Winners for Middle School Readers from 2018

(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, William C. Morris Award, YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults)

- *As the Crow Flies* by Melanie Gillman
- *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone
- *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya
- *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *Hello Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly
- *Little & Lion* by Brandy Colbert
- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
- *Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar
- *Out of Wonder : Poems Celebrating Poets* by Kwame Alexander
- *Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson
- *The Stars Beneath Our Feet* by David Barclay Moore
- *Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961* by Larry Dane Brimner,
- *Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers* by Deborah Heiligman
- *We Are Okay* by Nina LaCour
- *The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found* by Martin W. Sandler
- *You're Welcome, Universe* by Whitney Gardner

Most-Read Titles at Amherst Regional Middle School

- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- *All's Faire in Middle School* by Victoria Jamieson
- *Amulet Series* by Kazu Kibuishi
- *Black Panther Series* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *Cardboard* by Doug TenNapel
- *Cherub Series*, by Robert Muchamore
- *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series*, by Jeff Kinney
- *Drama*, by Raina Telgemeier
- *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon
- *Genius : The Game* by Leopoldo Gout
- *Ghostopolis* by Doug TenNapel

- *Ghosts*, by Raina Telgemeier
- *The Grisha Trilogy (Shadow and Bone)* by Leigh Bardugo
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *I'll Give You the Sun*, by Jandy Nelson
- *The Lorien Legacies (I Am Number Four)* by Pittacus Lore
- *The Maze Runner Series* by James Dashner
- *Miles Morales : The Ultimate Spider Man* by Brian Michael Bendis
- *Real Friends* by Shannon Hale
- *The Sand Warrior* by Mark Siegel
- *The Sun Is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon
- *This One Summer*, by Mariko Tamaki
- *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*