

## **Cascades Academy: Middle School Summer Reading, 2018**

Over the summer, you are required to read two books and complete two projects: one reading and one writing project. One of the books is a free choice book, and you do not need to complete a project on it. Your free choice book can be any book you haven't read that is appropriate to your reading ability. Come prepared to talk about that free choice book with your classmates at the beginning of the school year.

For the other book, choose one of the books and projects from the list below. All of the following books are recent award-winning or notable books in middle school literature. They represent a diverse set of topics and writing styles intended for a diverse set of readers. The books have been chosen to expose readers to current and notable young adult literature. Many of these books will open up readers' minds to topics and conversations impacting young people today.

In parentheses, I have indicated my grade level recommendation for each book, based on the subject matter and reading level. This recommendation should not necessarily dissuade you from a particular book if you're interested in it and have done your own research to determine whether or not it's appropriate for you. In order to find a book that is challenging, appropriate for you, and something you'll enjoy, it is recommended that you find out more about each book on your own. Barnes and Noble and Amazon are great places to start; another great website is: [www.commonsemmedia.org](http://www.commonsemmedia.org).

**ALL READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS DUE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH. Please email Mrs. Schroeder at [schroeder@cascadesacademy.org](mailto:schroeder@cascadesacademy.org) if you have any questions about the books or assignments.**

**Complete ONE of the following projects on the book you read from the list.**

- Create an original mini-book of the book you read.
  - The book should include the following:
    - 6 pages long, which includes a front cover and 5 pages of plot summary
    - Name and author of the book on the front cover
    - Text and a picture on each page
    - Chronological plot summary, highlighting major turning points and events that happen in the book.
  - Your book may be handmade or made on the computer in a slideshow style presentation.
- Create a video plot summary. Choose 5 main events of the book, and recreate them on video in chronological order. Each event/scene should be between 30-60 seconds long. Accompany your video with a brief paragraph description of what is happening in each scene.
- Create an original musical soundtrack to the book. Choose 5 songs that you think relate to some aspect of the book (plot, character, setting, theme, etc.). Write one paragraph related to each of your song choices explaining why you chose that song and how it relates to the book. Burn your soundtrack onto a CD, or other digital format, so that it's easy to share.
- Review your book! The books on the list have all won an award or have been called a notable book by the American Library Association. Do you think this book deserved that award/accolade? Write a two page (double-spaced) review of the book. The review should include the following:
  - An original plot summary
  - An analysis of one main character (lessons the main character learns/how the main character changes, etc.)

- What you think your peers (students your age) should know about the book before reading it
- Overall thoughts on the book....was it deserving of an award/accolades in your opinion? Why or why not?

### **Recent American Library Association Notable Books and Award-Winning Books for 6th-8th Grade**

***Amina's Voice.*** By Hena Khan. (6)

A Pakistani American Muslim middle-school girl attempts to blend her family's traditions and her experience in school to be accepted.

***Armstrong and Charlie.*** By Steven B. Frank. (7,8)

A strong friendship develops between two boys from different economic and racial environments.

***Ashes to Asheville.*** By Sarah Dooley. (6,7,8)

Two sisters set off without adults on an impromptu road trip to scatter their mother's ashes in this moving, sensitive novel.

***Beyond the Bright Sea.*** By Lauren Wolk (**2018 Scott O'Dell Award**) (6,7,8)

In a stunningly beautiful novel, orphan Crow decides to investigate her own past and in doing so uncovers the complicated history of a nearby former leper colony.

***Clayton Byrd Goes Underground.*** By Rita Williams-Garcia (**2017 National Book Award for Young People's Literature Finalist**) (6)

Clayton feels most alive when he's with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen—he can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. But then the unthinkable happens. Cool Papa Byrd dies, and Clayton's mother forbids Clayton from playing the blues. And Clayton knows that's no way to live.

***The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora.*** By Pablo Cartaya (**2018 Pura Belpré Honor Book**) (6,7,8)

Arturo struggles to keep the family business, a Cuban restaurant, alive in the face of the gentrification of his Florida neighborhood in a fresh, often very funny novel.

***A Face Like Glass.*** By Frances Hardinge. (7,8)

Restless, impulsive Neverfell, with no memory of her past, finds herself in the underground city of Caverna, where faces are expressionless and her life is in incredible danger.

***Far From the Tree.*** By Robin Benway (**2017 National Book Award for Young People's Literature Winner**) (8)

Perfect for fans of NBC's "This Is Us," Robin Benway's beautiful interweaving story of three very different teenagers connected by blood explores the meaning of family in all its forms—how to find it, how to keep it, and how to love it.

***Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws that Affect Us Today.*** By Cynthia Levinson and Sanford Levinson. (6,7,8)

This thought-provoking examination of the history of the U.S. Constitution gives careful consideration to how it functions today.

***The First Rule of Punk.*** By Celia C. Pérez (2018 Pura Belpré Honor Book) (6)

Malu and her “SuperMexican” mother move across the country, leaving behind the father who gets her punk identity. Through new friends and zines, she connects to her roots in an authentic way.

***Forever, or a Long, Long Time.*** By Caela Carter. (2018 NCTE Charlotte Huck Honor Book) (6,7)

In a heartbreaking and lovely novel, foster-child Flora and her brother invent a past and struggle to trust their new family.

***Ghost (Track: Book 1).*** By Jason Reynolds (2016 National Book Award Finalist). (6,7)

Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down in this first electrifying novel of a four-book series. *Patina* (also on this list, is the second book in the series).

***The Hate U Give.*** by Angie Thomas. (2017 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature Longlist) (8)

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

***Hello, Universe.*** By Erin Entrada Kelly (2018 Newbery Medal Winner) (6,7)

In this story told from various viewpoints, including a bully, a deaf girl, a fortune-teller, and more, a rescue is performed, revealing bravery in the midst of fear.

***Isaac the Alchemist: Secrets of Isaac Newton, Reveal’d.*** By Mary Losure. (6,7,8)

Discover the life and times of Isaac Newton, an alchemist who brilliantly transformed and advanced scientific understanding of chemistry.

***The List.*** By Patricia Forde. (6,7,8)

In this compelling and terrifying science fiction novel, Letta, the wordsmith of the city of Ark, learns of a horrific plan to control and censor the language of her people.

***Long Way Down.*** By Jason Reynolds (2018 Newbery Honor Book) (7,8)

Will descends in an elevator carrying his murdered brother’s gun. This novel in verse explores Will’s struggle with avenging his brother’s death.

***Louis Undercover.*** By Fanny Britt. Illus. by Isabelle Arsenault. (6,7,8)

In this poignant graphic novel, Louis struggles to make sense of his father’s alcoholism and parents’ separation while secretly pining for a beautiful girl at school.

***Lucky Broken Girl.*** By Ruth Behar (2018 Pura Belpré Award Winner) (6,7)

In this emotionally charged tale, Ruthie is uprooted from Cuba to NYC. An unexpected accident traps her in a body cast, which leads her to find freedom through art.

***Midnight without a Moon.*** By Linda Williams Jackson. (6,7,8)

In the summer of 1955, Rose Lee Carter dreams of life beyond her Mississippi cotton fields. Emmett Till’s murder places her on a new trajectory.

***The Murderer's Ape.*** By Jakob Wegelius. Tr. by Peter Graves. (2018 Mildred Batchelder Award Winner) (6,7)

Determined to clear her friend, the Chief, of murder, remarkable ape Sally Jones sets off on an epic journey and meets a fascinating cast of characters.

***Orphan Island.*** By Laurel Snyder (2017 National Book Award for Young People's Literature Longlist) (7,8)

Jinny lives on an idyllic, secluded island with eight other children. The fundamental mystery of the island's rules is exposed amid distress and anxiety.

***Patina (Track: Book 2).*** By Jason Reynolds. (6,7)

Patty's triad of home, track, and school lives forces her to become reliant on others while altering her self-confidence and core values. It's recommended to read the first book in the series, *Ghost*, first.

***Piecing Me Together.*** By Renée Watson (2018 Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner and Portland-based author!) (7,8)

Shouldering her mother's expectations, Jade enters a mentor program with an inconsistent mentor. The unfulfillment she feels galvanizes her to follow her own artistic path.

***Posted.*** By John David Anderson. (6,7)

When their school bans cell phones, Frost and his friends communicate through Post-its instead. But when their idea catches on, a sticky-note war begins.

***Quicksand Pond.*** By Janet Taylor Lisle. (6)

In this thought-provoking, eerie story, two girls from disparate backgrounds build a raft where two murders occurred nearly 80 years prior.

***Sidetracked.*** By Diana Harmon Asher. (6,7)

Despite learning disabilities, Joseph joins his school's track team and discovers the value of achieving a personal best, both on and off the cross-country course.

***The Stars Beneath Our Feet.*** By David Barclay Moore. (7,8)

Lolly deals with the grief of losing his older brother by escaping into the world of LEGOs in this thought-provoking coming-of-age story set in Harlem.

***Thornhill.*** By Pam Smy. Illus. by the author. (6)

In this cinematic, heavily illustrated novel, two stories, decades apart, come together as Ella is drawn into the dark and tragic mystery of Thornhill Hall.

***Thunderhead.*** By Neal Shusterman. (7,8)

Rowan and Citra take opposite stances on the morality of the Scythedom, putting them at odds, in the chilling sequel to the Printz Honor Book *Scythe* from *New York Times* bestseller Neal Shusterman, author of the *Unwind* dystology. Read *Scythe* first!

***Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961.*** By Larry Dane Brimner. (2018 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award Winner) (6,7,8)

This riveting account of the 1961 Freedom Rides, when 13 civil rights activists rode buses to challenge Jim Crow practices, has visual and emotional impact.

***Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team.*** By Steve Sheinkin. (6,7,8)

This compelling account of Native American athlete Jim Thorpe focuses on his impact on football and how his team transformed the game despite tremendous racism.

***The War I Finally Won.*** By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. (6)

As WWII continues, Ada discovers that her disability doesn't define her and that family takes many shapes in this stunning sequel to ***The War that Saved My Life (2016 Newbery Honor Book)***. Recommended to read both books.

***The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid.*** By Colin Meloy. Illus. by Carson Ellis. (6,7,8)

Loner Charlie Fisher finds himself lured into the exciting underworld of Marseille pickpockets where he finds unlikely friendships in this rollicking tale.

***The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked & Found.*** By Martin W. Sandler. (2018 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Finalist) (6,7)

The story of an eighteenth-century slave ship, its capture by pirates, sinking, and eventual discovery off Cape Cod make for a fresh and thrilling adventure.

***You Bring the Distant Near.*** By Mitali Perkins (2017 National Book Award for Young People's Literature Longlist) (7,8)

Five girls. Three generations. One great American love story. *You Bring the Distant Near* explores sisterhood, first loves, friendship, and the inheritance of culture--for better or worse.

Below is the list of books for the 2018-2019 Oregon Battle of the Books. They are appropriate for all students in 6th-8th grades. You may choose to do your project on one of these books instead of the other list, if you'd prefer. It is our hope to be able to field a team for the 2018-2019 Oregon Battle of the Books Competition!

**Oregon Battle of the Books Titles for 2018-2019 for Grades 6-8**

***Absolutely Truly*** by Heather Vogel Frederick

***Avenging the Owl*** by Melissa Hart

***The Body in the Woods*** by April Henry

***Cryptid Hunters*** by Roland Smith

***Doll Bones*** by Holly Black

***The Gauntlet*** by Karuna Riazi

***Ghost*** by Jason Reynolds

***I Will Always Write Back*** by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda

***The Luck Uglies*** by Paul Durham

***My Seventh-Grade Life in Tights*** by Brooks Benjamin

***Restart*** by Gordon Korman

***Revenge of the Witch*** by Joseph Delaney

***Small as an Elephant*** by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

***The Sword of Summer*** by Rick Riordan

***The Wishing Spell*** by Chris Colfer

***Wolf Hollow*** by Lauren Wolk

### **Sixth Grade Summer Writing Project Choices, 2018**

**Choose one of the following assignments.** You may do more than one assignment if you wish; all assignments should be related to your summer!

- Write a short story about an adventure you had this summer. Pack the story with action and suspense. It does not need to be 100% true, but should be based on something that happened to you this summer. Your story should have a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- Write a poem about something you find in nature over the summer. The poem can be structured or free verse. Include an original, creative, and artistic illustration to accompany your poem.
- Create a photo album of things you did this summer (digital or hard copy). Caption some of your photos by explaining what is happening, who is in the photo, and where it takes place.

Please email Mrs. Schroeder at [schroeder@cascadesacademy.org](mailto:schroeder@cascadesacademy.org) if you have any questions about the books or assignments.

**ALL READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS DUE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH.**

**ALL ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SHARED OR EMAILED TO MRS. SCHROEDER, OR  
UPLOADED TO AN EXTERNAL DEVICE AND BROUGHT TO SCHOOL.**

### **Seventh/Eighth Grade Summer Writing Project Choices, 2018**

**Choose ONE of the following creative projects to reflect on your summer or to explore your writing talents.**

- 1) Create a blog or notebook journal about your summer. Write about major events that happen to you over the summer, reflections you have during the summer vacation, original poetry that reflects your thoughts over the summer, a clear description of the setting you're experiencing, etc. Minimum of 4 entries. You may include photos or illustrations. If you create a blog, make sure to invite me to read it!
- 2) Create a digital slideshow (2-4 minutes long) of a combination of photos and videos that represent your summer. You **must** include captions/words to help show what is going on in your pictures. Set your slideshow to music!
- 3) Now's your chance to write that longer story you've had ideas for! Write a story that has multiple "chapters" to it (or write a chapter or chapters of that story). Make sure your final product is well-edited and has a beginning, middle, and end to it. Also, make sure it contains well-developed elements of fiction: setting, character, plot, mood, and theme. Your story may include photos or illustrations.

Please email Mrs. Schroeder at [schroeder@cascadesacademy.org](mailto:schroeder@cascadesacademy.org) if you have any questions about the books or assignments.

**ALL READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS DUE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH.**

**ALL ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE UPLOADED TO CANVAS, WHICH YOU WILL BE  
ABLE TO DO AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**