



Middletown Township Public School
Summer Reading Program - Summer 2021
For Students Entering 11th Grade



Parents and Junior Students, Class of 2023:

We are pleased to continue with the district summer reading expectations for students entering grades nine through twelve which was introduced four years ago. The list of recommended reading selections accounts for a broad range of student choices that are representative of multiple genres and cover topics of current interest to high school students. Additionally, the related summer reading assignment will be for students to present a “**digital book talk**” to a group of their peers some time during the first several weeks of the school year. While all students must read at least two books, we are hopeful that the expanded lists will encourage students to read more and look forward to the *luxury of time* that summer will provide and allow them to experience the joy of reading books they will love.

Current research on summer reading largely exposes the extent to which a several month gap in literacy activities can hinder reading growth. Our efforts in this revision process were focused upon seeking out titles and activities that are motivating to current high school students and offer them a greater incentive to pick up a few good books to help pass the summer months. The intention of the summer reading expectation is to foster continued application of the valuable reading strategies and skills that students have learned during the school year. We invite students to fall in love with marvelous characters, open the door to new worlds, and embark on wild adventures.

We encourage parents and guardians of students entering 9th through 12th grade to be actively involved in the book selection process to approve the genre, topic and age-level appropriateness of selected books. Please take some time to review the grade level recommendations together with your child in an effort to support reading choices that best meet his/her interests and reading ability. Common Sense Media (commonsensemedia.org) is an excellent resource to review your child’s selections. Books can be borrowed digitally from Middletown Township Public Library or shared with a friend. In order to obtain a digital library card, please complete the [Student Digital Card Form](#) on the library website. Students can also purchase new or used books from Barnes & Noble, or online bookstores like amazon.com and alibris.com.

Students are required to read 2 books before the start of the next school year. Furthermore, when selecting a book, the list below is suggested. With parental guidance, **students may choose an alternate title** (or titles). In the parent letter, there is a permission slip that must be filled out for any book that is not a suggested title. This permission slip must be handed to the student’s teacher on the first day of school.

We understand that students have a variety of interests and strengths when it comes to reading, therefore, we support student choice. By signing below, you are granting permission for your child to read the selected book(s).

Student Name: _____

Title: _____ Author: _____

Title: _____ Author: _____

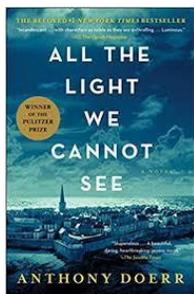
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Students entering 11th Grade may select from the following list of books:

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Genre: Historical Fiction

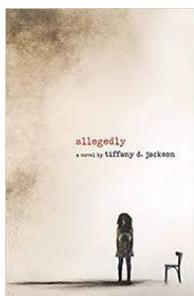


“Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure’s reclusive great-uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum’s most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure’s converge.”-Amazon

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)

Allegedly by Tiffany D. Jackson

Genre: Mystery/Thriller

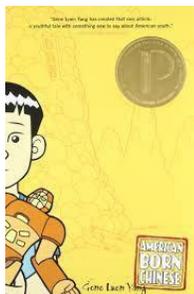


“Mary B. Addison killed a baby. Allegedly. She didn’t say much in that first interview with detectives, and the media filled in the only blanks that mattered: a white baby had died while under the care of a churchgoing black woman and her nine-year-old daughter. The public convicted Mary and the jury made it official. But did she do it? There wasn’t a point to setting the record straight before, but now she’s got Ted—and their unborn child—to think about. When the state threatens to take her baby, Mary’s fate now lies in the hands of the one person she distrusts the most: her Momma. No one knows the real Momma. But does anyone know the real Mary?”

Available at MTPL -(Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook and Hoopla ebook & Audiobook)

American Born Chinese by Gene Yang

Genre: Graphic Novel



Jin Wang starts at a new school where he’s the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn’t want to be associated with an FOB like him. Jin just wants to be an all-American boy, because he’s in love with an all-American girl. Danny is an all-American boy: great at basketball, popular with the girls. But his obnoxious Chinese cousin Chin-Kee’s annual visit is such a disaster that it ruins Danny’s reputation at school, leaving him with no choice but to transfer somewhere he can start all over again. The Monkey King has lived for thousands of years and mastered the arts of kung fu and the heavenly disciplines. He’s ready to join the ranks of the immortal gods in heaven. But there’s no place in heaven for a monkey. Each of these characters cannot help himself alone, but how can they possibly help each other? They’re going to have to find a way—if they want to fix the disasters their lives have become.

Available at MTPL - Print only

Caraval by Stephanie Garber

Genre: Fantasy



Scarlett Dragna has never left the tiny island where she and her sister, Tella, live with their powerful, and cruel, father. Now Scarlett’s father has arranged a marriage for her, and Scarlett thinks her dreams of seeing Caraval—the faraway, once-a-year performance where the audience participates in the show—are over. But this year, Scarlett’s long-dreamt-of invitation finally arrives. With the help of a mysterious sailor, Tella whisks Scarlett away to the show. Only, as soon as they arrive, Tella is kidnapped by Caraval’s mastermind organizer, Legend. It turns out that this season’s Caraval revolves around Tella, and whoever finds her first is the winner. Scarlett has been told that everything that happens during Caraval is only an elaborate performance. Nevertheless she becomes enmeshed in a game of love, heartbreak, and magic. And whether Caraval is real or not, Scarlett must find Tella before the five nights of the game are over or a dangerous domino effect of consequences will be set off, and her beloved sister will disappear forever.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)

***Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by Laini Taylor**

Genre: Fantasy

Around the world, black hand prints are appearing on doorways, scorched there by winged strangers who have crept through a slit in the sky. In a dark and dusty shop, a devil's supply of human teeth grows dangerously low. And in the tangled lanes of Prague, a young art student is about to be caught up in a brutal otherworldly war. Meet Karou. She fills her sketchbooks with monsters that may or may not be real, she's prone to disappearing on mysterious "errands", she speaks many languages - not all of them human - and her bright blue hair actually grows out of her head that color. Who is she? That is the question that haunts her, and she's about to find out. When beautiful, haunted Akiva fixes fiery eyes on her in an alley in Marrakesh, the result is blood and starlight, secrets unveiled, and a star-crossed love whose roots drink deep of a violent past. But will Karou live to regret learning the truth about herself?

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)

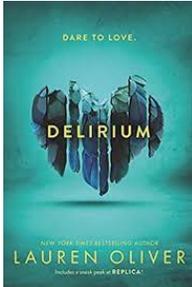


***Delirium* by Lauren Oliver**

Genre: Dystopian, Science Fiction

In an alternate United States, love has been declared a dangerous disease, and the government forces everyone who reaches eighteen to have a procedure called the Cure. Living with her aunt, uncle, and cousins in Portland, Maine, Lena Haloway is very much looking forward to being cured and living a safe, predictable life. She watched love destroy her mother and isn't about to make the same mistakes. But with ninety-five days left until her treatment, Lena meets enigmatic Alex, a boy from the Wilds who lives under the government's radar. What will happen if they do the unthinkable and fall in love?

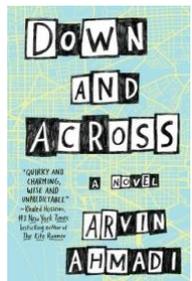
Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook and Hoopla ebook & Audiobook)



***Down and Across* by Arvin Ahmadi**

Genre: Young Adult Fiction

Scott Ferdowski has a track record of quitting. With college applications looming, Scott's parents pressure him to get serious and settle on a career path like engineering or medicine. Desperate for help, he sneaks off to Washington, DC, to seek guidance from a famous professor who specializes in grit, the psychology of success. He never expects an adventure to unfold out of what was supposed to be a one-day visit. But that's what Scott gets when he meets Fiora Buchanan, a ballsy college student whose life ambition is to write crossword puzzles. When the bicycle she lends him gets Scott into a high-speed chase, he knows he's in for the ride of his life. Soon, Scott finds himself sneaking into bars, attempting to pick up girls at the National Zoo, and even giving the crossword thing a try--all while opening his eyes to fundamental truths about who he is and who he wants to be. **Not Available at MTPL**

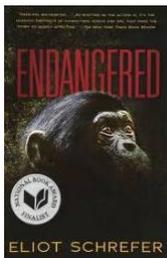


***Endangered* by Eliot Schrefer**

Genre: Realistic Fiction

The compelling tale of a girl who must save a group of bonobos--and herself--from a violent coup. The Congo is a dangerous place, even for people who are trying to do good. When one girl has to follow her mother to her sanctuary for bonobos, she's not thrilled to be there. It's her mother's passion, and she'd rather have nothing to do with it. But when revolution breaks out and their sanctuary is attacked, she must rescue the bonobos and hide in the jungle. Together, they will fight to keep safe, to eat, and to survive.

Available at MTPL - (Hoopla Audiobook)



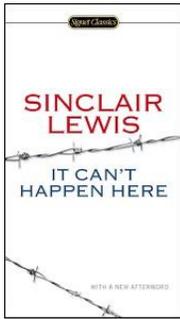
***Everlost* by Neal Shusterman**

Genre: Fantasy

Nick and Allie don't survive the car accident, but their souls don't exactly get where they're supposed to go either. Instead, they're caught halfway between life and death, in a sort of limbo known as Everlost: a shadow of the living world, filled with all the things and places that no longer exist. It's a magical, yet dangerous place where bands of lost kids run wild and anyone who stands in the same place too long sinks to the center of the Earth. When they find Mary, the self-proclaimed queen of lost souls, Nick feels like he's found a home, but Allie isn't satisfied spending eternity between worlds. Against all warnings, Allie begins learning the "Criminal Art" of haunting, and ventures into dangerous territory, where a monster called the McGill threatens all the souls of Everlost.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)



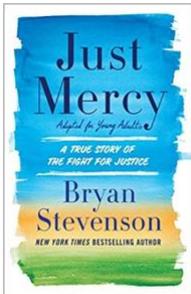


***It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis**

Genre: Dystopian, Classic

“A cautionary tale about the fragility of democracy, it is an alarming, eerily timeless look at how fascism could take hold in America. Written during the Great Depression, when the country was largely oblivious to Hitler’s aggression, it juxtaposes sharp political satire with the chillingly realistic rise of a president who becomes a dictator to save the nation from welfare cheats, sex, crime, and a liberal press. Called “a message to thinking Americans” by the *Springfield Republican* when it was published in 1935, *It Can't Happen Here* is a shockingly prescient novel that remains as fresh and contemporary as today’s news.” -Publisher

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook and Hoopla Audiobook)

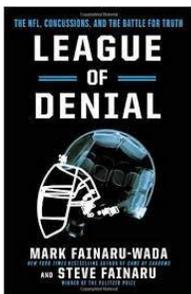


***Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice* by Bryan Stevenson**

Genre: Non-Fiction

Adapted from the original #1 bestseller, which the *New York Times* calls "as compelling as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in some ways more so"--acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom. Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook and Audiobook) NON ADAPTED VERSION

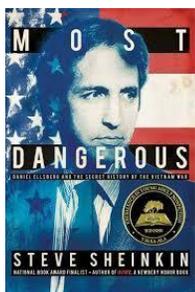


***League of Denial: the NFL, Concussions, and the Battle for the Truth* by Mark Fainaru-Wada and Steve Fainaru**

Genre: Nonfiction, Sports

So concluded the National Football League in a December 2005 scientific paper on concussions in America’s most popular sport. That judgment, implausible even to a casual fan, also contradicted the opinion of a growing cadre of neuroscientists who worked in vain to convince the NFL that it was facing a deadly new scourge: A chronic brain disease that was driving an alarming number of players -- including some of the all-time greats -- to madness. *League of Denial* reveals how the NFL, over a period of nearly two decades, sought to cover up and deny mounting evidence of the connection between football and brain damage.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)

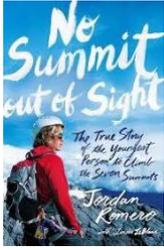


***Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* by Steve Sheinkin**

Genre: Nonfiction

“This captivating nonfiction investigation of the Pentagon Papers has captured widespread critical acclaim, including features in *The Washington Post* and on NPR, selection as a 2015 National Book Award finalist, and selection as a finalist for the 2016 YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award. From Steve Sheinkin, the award-winning author of *The Port Chicago 50* and *Newbery Honor Book Bomb* comes a tense, narrative nonfiction account of what the *Times* deemed "the greatest story of the century": how whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg transformed from obscure government analyst into "the most dangerous man in America," and risked everything to expose years of government lies during the Nixon / Cold War era. On June 13, 1971, the front page of the *New York Times* announced the existence of a 7,000-page collection of documents containing a secret history of the Vietnam War. Known as The Pentagon Papers, these files had been commissioned by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. Chronicling every action the government had taken in the Vietnam War, they revealed a pattern of deception spanning over twenty years and four presidencies, and forever changed the relationship between American citizens and the politicians claiming to represent their interests. The investigation that resulted--as well as the attempted government coverups and vilification of the whistleblower--has timely relevance to Edward Snowden's more recent conspiracy leaks. A provocative and political book that interrogates the meanings of patriotism, freedom, and integrity, *Most Dangerous* further establishes Steve Sheinkin as a leader in children's nonfiction.” -Amazon

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)

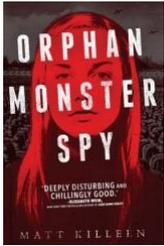


***No Summit Out of Sight* by Jordan Romero**

Genre: Nonfiction

“On May 22, 2010, at the age of thirteen, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. At fifteen, he became the youngest person to reach the summits of the tallest mountains on each of the seven continents. In this energizing memoir for young adults, Jordan, now seventeen, recounts his experience, which started as a spark of an idea at the age of nine and, many years of training and hard work later, turned into a dream come true. “

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook and Hoopla ebook)

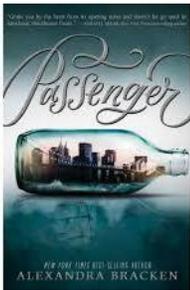


***Orphan Monster Spy* by Matt Killeen**

Genre: Historical Fiction

After her mother is shot at a checkpoint, fifteen-year-old Sarah--blonde, blue-eyed, and Jewish--finds herself on the run from a government that wants to see every person like her dead. Then Sarah meets a mysterious man with an ambiguous accent, a suspiciously bare apartment, and a lockbox full of weapons. He's a spy, and he needs Sarah to become one, too, to pull off a mission he can't attempt on his own: infiltrate a boarding school attended by the daughters of top Nazi brass, befriend the daughter of a key scientist, and steal the blueprints to a bomb that could destroy the cities of Western Europe. With years of training from her actress mother in the art of impersonation, Sarah thinks she's ready. But nothing prepares her for her cutthroat schoolmates, and soon she finds herself in a battle for survival unlike any she'd ever imagined.

Availability at MTPL - Print Only



***Passenger* by Alexandra Bracken**

Genre: Fantasy/Historical Fiction/Adventure

“In one devastating night, violin prodigy Etta Spencer loses everything she knows and loves. Thrust into an unfamiliar world by a stranger with a dangerous agenda, Etta is certain of only one thing: she has traveled not just miles, but years from home. And she's inherited a legacy she knows nothing about from a family whose existence she's never heard of. Until now. Nicholas Carter is content with his life at sea, free from the Ironwoods—a powerful family in the Colonies—and the servitude he's known at their hands. But with the arrival of an unusual passenger on his ship comes the insistent pull of the past that he can't escape and the family that won't let him go so easily. Now the Ironwoods are searching for a stolen object of untold value, one they believe only Etta, his passenger, can find. In order to protect her, Nick must ensure she brings it back to them—whether she wants to or not. Together, Etta and Nicholas embark on a perilous journey across centuries and continents, piecing together clues left behind by the traveler who will do anything to keep the object out of the Ironwoods' grasp. But as they get closer to the truth of their search, and the deadly game the Ironwoods are playing, treacherous forces threaten to separate Etta not only from Nicholas but from her path home forever. “-Amazon

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

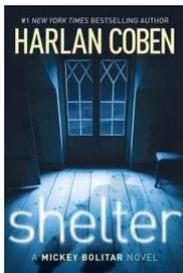


***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline**

Genre: Science Fiction, Dystopian

In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook and Hoopla ebook & Audiobook)



Shelter by Harlan Coben

Genre: Mystery

Mickey Bolitar's year can't get much worse. After witnessing his father's death and sending his mom to rehab, he's forced to live with his estranged uncle Myron and switch high schools. A new school comes with new friends and new enemies, and lucky for Mickey, it also comes with a great new girlfriend, Ashley. For a while, it seems like Mickey's train-wreck of a life is finally improving - until Ashley vanishes without a trace. Unwilling to let another person walk out of his life, Mickey follows Ashley's trail into a seedy underworld that reveals that this seemingly sweet, shy girl isn't who she claimed to be. And neither was Mickey's father. Soon, Mickey learns about a conspiracy so shocking that it makes high school drama seem like a luxury - and leaves him questioning everything about the life he thought he knew.

Available at MTPL (Overdrive e-book)



Side Effects May Vary by Julie Murphy

Genre: Realistic Fiction

When sixteen-year-old Alice is diagnosed with leukemia, she vows to spend her final months righting wrongs. So she convinces her best friend, Harvey, to help her with a crazy bucket list that's as much about revenge as it is about hope. But just when Alice's scores are settled, she goes into remission, and now she must face the consequences of all she's said and done.

Available at MTPL (Hoopla - e-book and audiobook)

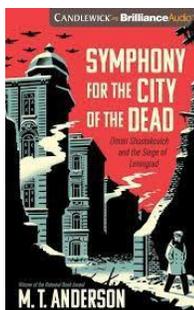


SuperMutant Magic Academy by Jillian Tamaki

Genre: Graphic Novel

Science experiments go awry, bake sales are upstaged, and the new kid at school is a cat who will determine the course of human destiny. In one strip, lizard-headed Trixie frets about her nonexistent modeling career; in another, the immortal Everlasting Boy tries to escape this mortal coil to no avail. Throughout it all, closeted Marsha obsesses about her unrequited crush, the cat-eared Wendy. Whether the magic is mundane or miraculous, Tamaki's jokes are precise and devastating.

Available at MTPL - Print only

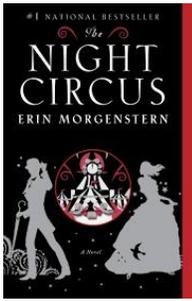


Symphony for the City of the Dead by M.T. Anderson

Genre: Nonfiction

“National Book Award Winner M. T. Anderson delivers a brilliant and riveting account of the Siege of Leningrad and the role played by Russian composer Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony. In September 1941, Adolf Hitler’s Wehrmacht surrounded Leningrad in what was to become one of the longest and most destructive sieges in Western history— almost three years of bombardment and starvation that culminated in the harsh winter of 1943– 1944. More than a million citizens perished. Survivors recall corpses littering the frozen streets, their relatives having neither the means nor the strength to bury them. Residents burned books, furniture, and floorboards to keep warm; they ate family pets and—eventually— one another to stay alive. Trapped between the Nazi invading force and the Soviet government itself was composer Dmitri Shostakovich, who would write a symphony that roused, rallied, eulogized, and commemorated his fellow citizens—the *Leningrad* Symphony, which came to occupy a surprising place of prominence in the eventual Allied victory. This is the true story of a city under siege: the triumph of bravery and defiance in the face of terrifying odds. It is also a look at the power—and layered meaning—of music in beleaguered lives. *Symphony for the City of the Dead* is a masterwork thrillingly told and impeccably researched by National Book Award–winning author M. T. Anderson.” -Amazon

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Hoopla ebook)



***The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern**

Genre: Fantasy/Magical Realism

“The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called Le Cirque des Rêves, and it is only open at night. But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them both, this is a game in which only one can be left standing. Despite the high stakes, Celia and Marco soon tumble headfirst into love, setting off a domino effect of dangerous consequences, and leaving the lives of everyone, from the performers to the patrons, hanging in the balance. “Amazon”

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)

***The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon**

Genre: Realistic Fiction

“It is Natasha's last day in New York City, where she has lived for 10 years. Her family, living as undocumented immigrants in a small Brooklyn apartment are being deported to Jamaica after her father's arrest for drunk driving. Natasha is scouring the city for a chance to stay in the United States legally. She wants the normal teen existence of her peers. Meanwhile, poetic Daniel is on his way to an interview as part of his application process to Yale. He is under great pressure to get in because his parents (who emigrated from South Korea) are adamant that he become a doctor. Events slowly conspire to bring the two leads together. When Daniel and Natasha finally meet, he falls in love immediately and convinces her to join him for the day...”—School Library Journal, Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH -- **2016 National Book Award Finalist**

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)



Books can be borrowed from Middletown Township Public Library or shared with a friend. Books can also be purchased, new or used, from Barnes & Noble or online bookstores like amazon.com and alibris.com.

In addition, MTPL is providing digital access to students. Please visit the [Middletown Township Public Library to request a digital library card.](#)

Summer Reading Assignment for Students Entering Grades 9-12

- Students will be **required** to read a minimum of 2 books from the above list, however, more are encouraged. Students may select a title from the list above or from their own choosing with parental permission.
- Students will complete a digital book talk on one of the books they have read when they return to school in September. When they return to school in September the student and teacher will collaborate to decide which book they will use for their digital book talk.
- Students are **required** to provide a written list of the books they read including the name of each author.

Students should follow the guidelines listed below as they prepare for their digital book talks.

Components of a Digital Book Talk

The digital book talk involves various options of technology based programs for students to select from. Options will be presented upon return to school. To prepare for the book talk, students may take notes on the following suggested components:

- Briefly summarize the plot of the book and identify the genre, but **do not** give away the ending. Think about what you would and would not have wanted to know before reading.
- Prepare what you are going to say about the book. You don't need to memorize, but you need to know the points you are going to make. Practice until you are comfortable with your material.

Optional topics to focus on are the following:

- The theme of the book
- The major conflict
- A brief description of the main characters and their relationships
- Setting and how it relates to the plot and characters
- Mention if the book reminds you of another book you have read or a movie you have seen
- Identify what you think the author would have wanted readers to take from the experience of reading the book
- Tell the audience if you recommend the book and why or why not.
 - Remember, even if the book was not one of your favorites, does not mean that someone else may not enjoy reading the book.
 - Point out a significant or powerful passage from your book. This should be short and leave the listener wanting more.