



**Middletown Township Public School**  
**Summer Reading Program - Summer 2021**  
**For Students Entering 12th Grade**



Parents and Senior Students, Class of 2022:

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 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://amazon.com) and [alibris.com](http://alibris.com).

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

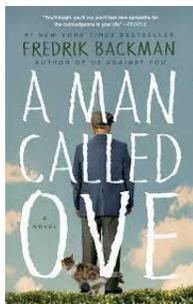
**Students entering 12<sup>th</sup> Grade may select from the following list of books:**

***A Man Called Ove* by Frederik Backman**

**Genre: Realistic Fiction**

“Meet Ove. He’s a curmudgeon, the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him the bitter neighbor from hell, but must Ove be bitter just because he doesn’t walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove’s mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents’ association to their very foundations.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)**



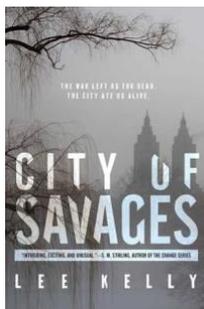
***City of Savages* by Lee Kelly**

**Genre: Dystopian**

It has been nearly two decades since the breakout of the Third World War, and Manhattan is now a prisoner-of-war camp ruled by island native Rolladin, who controls the city’s survivors with an iron fist. For Skyler Miller, Manhattan is a cage that keeps her from the world beyond the city’s borders. But for Sky’s younger sister, Phee, the Central Park POW camp is the only home she’d ever want. When strangers arrive in the park, carrying a shocking message, Sky and Phee discover there’s more to Manhattan—and their family—than either of them had imagined. As disturbing secrets about the island begin to surface, Sky and Phee have no choice but to break the rules to uncover the full truth of their long-shrouded history.

When their search for answers erupts into violence, the girls must flee into Manhattan’s depths, where their quest for a better future will force them to confront the island’s dark and shocking past. Lee Kelly’s gripping debut novel is a pulse-pounding journey through a city that’s as strange as it is familiar, where nothing is black-and-white and buried secrets can haunt.

**Available at MTPL (Hoopla audiobook)**

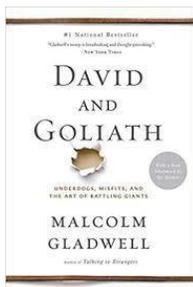


***David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell**

**Genre: Non-Fiction**

Three thousand years ago on a battlefield in ancient Palestine, a shepherd boy felled a mighty warrior with nothing more than a stone and a sling, and ever since then the names of David and Goliath have stood for battles between underdogs and giants. David’s victory was improbable and miraculous. He *shouldn’t* have won. Or should he have? In *David and Goliath*, Malcolm Gladwell challenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, offering a new interpretation of what it means to be discriminated against, or cope with a disability, or lose a parent, or attend a mediocre school, or suffer from any number of other apparent setbacks.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)**

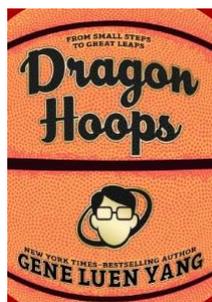


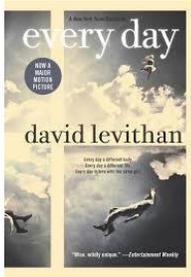
***Dragon Hoops* by Gene Yang**

**Genre: Graphic Novel**

Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn’t get sports. As a kid, his friends called him “Stick” and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it’s all anyone can talk about. The men’s varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that’s been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he’s seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn’t know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons’s lives, but his own life as well.

**Available at MTPL - Print Only**



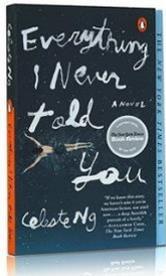


***Every Day* by David Levithan**

**Genre: Romance**

Every day a different body. Every day a different life. Every day in love with the same girl. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere. It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)**



***Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng**

**Genre: Fiction**

Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet. Set in the 1970s, Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia's body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)**

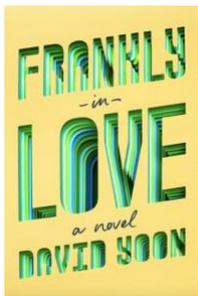


***Fake ID* by Lamar Giles**

**Genre: Mystery/Thriller**

“Nick Pearson is hiding in plain sight...My name isn't really Nick Pearson. I shouldn't tell you where I'm from or why my family moved to Stepton, Virginia. I shouldn't tell you who I really am, or my hair, eye, and skin color. And I definitely shouldn't tell you about my friend Eli Cruz and the major conspiracy he was about to uncover when he died—right after I moved to town. About how I had to choose between solving his murder with his hot sister, Reya, and “staying low-key” like the Program has taught me. About how moving to Stepton changed my life forever. But I'm going to.

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

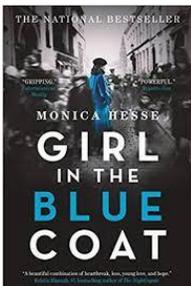


***Frankly in Love* by David Yoon**

**Genre: Coming of Age, Contemporary Fiction**

In Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl*, Cath is a Simon Snow fan. Okay, the whole world is a Simon Snow fan, but for Cath, being a fan is her life--and she's really good at it. She and her twin sister, Wren, ensconced themselves in the Simon Snow series when they were just kids; it's what got them through their mother leaving. Reading. Rereading. Hanging out in Simon Snow forums, writing Simon Snow fan fiction, dressing up like the characters for every movie premiere. Cath's sister has mostly grown away from fandom, but Cath can't let go. She doesn't want to. Now that they're going to college; Wren has told Cath she doesn't want to be roommates. Cath is on her own, completely outside of her comfort zone. She's got a surly roommate with a charming, always-around boyfriend, a fiction-writing professor who thinks fan fiction is the end of the civilized world, a handsome classmate who only wants to talk about words . . . And she can't stop worrying about her dad, who's loving and fragile and has never really been alone.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)**



***Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse**

**Genre: Historical Fiction**

“Amsterdam, 1943. Hanneke spends her days finding and delivering sought-after black market goods to paying customers, nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines when the German army invaded. Her illegal work keeps her family afloat, and Hanneke also likes to think of it as a small act of rebellion against the Nazis. On a routine delivery, a client asks Hanneke for help. Expecting to hear that Mrs. Janssen wants meat or kerosene, Hanneke is shocked by the older woman's frantic plea to find a person: a Jewish teenager Mrs. Janssen had been hiding, who has vanished without a trace from a secret room. Hanneke initially wants nothing to do with such a dangerous task but is ultimately drawn into a web of mysteries and stunning revelations—where the only way out is through.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)**



### ***Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen**

**Genre: Realistic Fiction**

Last year, Annabel was "the girl who has everything" — at least that's the part she played in the television commercial for Kopf's Department Store. This year, she's the girl who has nothing: no best friend because mean-but-exciting Sophie dropped her, no peace at home since her older sister became anorexic, and no one to sit with at lunch. Until she meets Owen Armstrong.

**Available at MTPL (Overdrive e-book)**

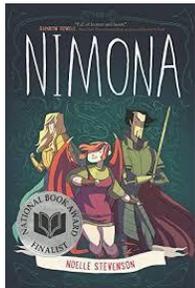


### ***Losers Take All* by David Klass**

**Genre: Sports Fiction/Comedy**

"In this table-turning novel about the thrill of defeat and the agony of victory, the new rule at Jack Logan's sports-crazy New Jersey high school is that all kids must play on a team. So Jack and a ragtag group of anti-athletic friends decide to get even. They are going to start a rebel JV soccer team whose mission is to avoid victory at any cost, setting out to secretly undermine the jock culture of the school. But as the team's losing formula becomes increasingly successful at attracting fans and attention, Jack and his teammates are winning in ways they never expected- and don't know how to handle." -Amazon

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)**



### ***Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson**

**Genre: Graphic Novel/Fantasy**

"Nemeses! Dragons! Science! Symbolism! All these and more await in this brilliantly subversive, sharply irreverent epic from Noelle Stevenson. Featuring an exclusive epilogue not seen in the web comic, along with bonus conceptual sketches and revised pages throughout, this gorgeous full-color graphic novel has been hailed by critics and fans alike as the arrival of a "superstar" talent (NPR.org). Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. As sidekick and supervillain, Nimona and Lord Blackheart are about to wreak some serious havoc. Their mission: prove to the kingdom that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his buddies at the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are. But as small acts of mischief escalate into a vicious battle, Lord Blackheart realizes that Nimona's powers are as murky and mysterious as her past. And her unpredictable wild side might be more dangerous than he is willing to admit."-Amazon

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

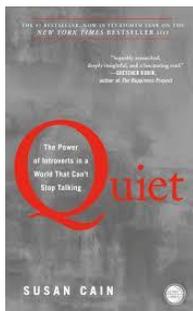


### ***Parkland: Birth of a Movement* by Dave Cullen**

**Genre: Non-Fiction**

Cullen explores the lives of some of the teenage survivors of the February 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, discussing how they became activists, started the #neveragain movement, took on the NRA and Congressional leaders, and tried to heal and deal with normal high school activities such as exams, athletics, prom, graduation, and college applications.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive e-book)**



### ***Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain**

**Genre: Non-Fiction**

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over working in teams. It is to introverts—Rosa Parks, Chopin, Dr. Seuss, Steve Wozniak—that we owe many of the great contributions to society. In *Quiet*, Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture. She also introduces us to successful introverts—from a witty, high-octane public speaker who recharges in solitude after his talks, to a record-breaking salesman who quietly taps into the power of questions. Passionately argued, superbly researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, *Quiet* has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and, equally important, how they see themselves.

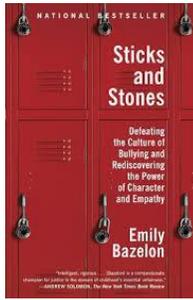
**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)**

***Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy* by Emily Bazelon**

**Genre: Non-Fiction**

Being a teenager has never been easy, but in recent years, with the rise of the Internet and social media, it has become exponentially more challenging. Bullying, once thought of as the province of queen bees and goons, has taken on new, complex, and insidious forms, as parents and educators know all too well. No writer is better poised to explore this territory than Emily Bazelon, who has established herself as a leading voice on the social and legal aspects of teenage drama. In *Sticks and Stones*, she brings readers on a deeply researched, clear-eyed journey into the ever-shifting landscape of teenage meanness and its sometimes-devastating consequences. The result is an indispensable book that takes us from school cafeterias to courtrooms to the offices of Facebook, the website where so much teenage life, good bad now unfolds.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)**

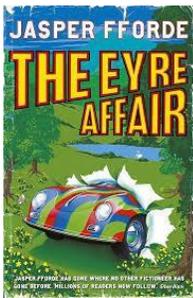


***The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde**

**Genre: Science Fiction, Mystery, Fantasy**

Fans of Douglas Adams and P. G. Wodehouse will love visiting Jasper Fforde's Great Britain, circa 1985, when time travel is routine, cloning is a reality (dodos are the resurrected pet of choice), and literature is taken very, very seriously: it's a bibliophile's dream. England is a virtual police state where an aunt can get lost (literally) in a Wordsworth poem and forging Byronic verse is a punishable offense. All this is business as usual for Thursday Next, renowned Special Operative in literary detection. But when someone begins kidnapping characters from works of literature and plucks Jane Eyre from the pages of Brontë's novel, Thursday is faced with the challenge of her career. Fforde's ingenious fantasy—enhanced by a Web site that re-creates the world of the novel—unites intrigue with English literature in a delightfully witty mix.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)**

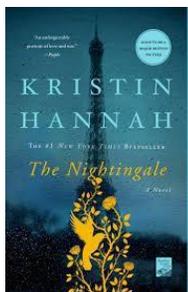


***The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah**

**Genre: Historical Fiction**

“Despite their differences, sisters Vianne and Isabelle have always been close. Younger, bolder Isabelle lives in Paris while Vianne is content with life in the French countryside with her husband Antoine and their daughter. But when the Second World War strikes, Antoine is sent off to fight and Vianne finds herself isolated so Isabelle is sent by their father to help her. As the war progresses, the sisters' relationship and strength are tested. With life changing in unbelievably horrific ways, Vianne and Isabelle will find themselves facing frightening situations and responding in ways they never thought possible as bravery and resistance take different forms in each of their actions.

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

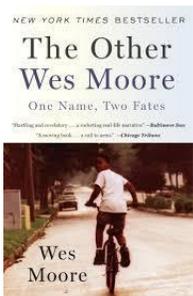


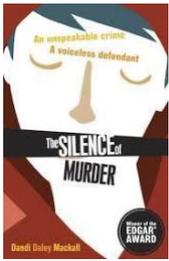
***The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore**

**Genre: Memoir**

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)**



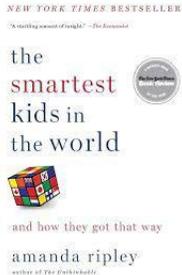


### ***The Silence of Murder* - Dandi Daley Mackall**

**Genre: Crime Fiction**

The story of a teen's struggle to prove her brother innocent of murder. The Crime: The murder of John Johnson, beloved baseball coach. The Accused: 18-year-old Jeremy Long, who hasn't spoken a single word in 12 years. Witness for the Defense: 16-year-old Hope Long, the only person who believes her brother is innocent. Other Suspects: The police have none. But Hope's list is growing.

**Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)**

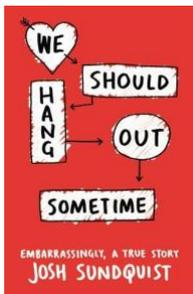


### ***The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way* by Amanda Ripley**

**Genre: Non-Fiction**

How Do Other Countries Create “Smarter” Kids? In a handful of nations, virtually all children are learning to make complex arguments and solve problems they’ve never seen before. They are learning to think, in other words, and to thrive in the modern economy. What is it like to be a child in the world’s new education superpowers? In a global quest to find answers for our own children, author and Time magazine journalist Amanda Ripley follows three Americans embedded in these countries for one year.

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



### ***We Should Hang Out Sometime: Embarrassingly, A True Story* by Josh Sundquist**

**Genre: Memoir/Non-Fiction**

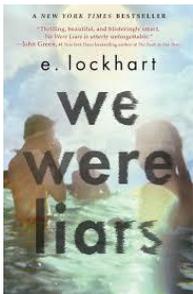
Josh Sundquist only ever had one girlfriend.

For twenty-three hours.

In eighth grade.

Why was Josh still single? To find out, he tracked down the girls he had tried to date and asked them straight up: What went wrong? The results of Josh's semi scientific, wholly hilarious investigation are captured here. From a disastrous Putt-Putt date involving a backward prosthetic foot, to his introduction to CFD (Close Fast Dancing), to a misguided "grand gesture" at a Miss America pageant, this story is about looking for love--or at least a girlfriend--in all the wrong places.

**Available at MTPL - (Hoopla Audiobook)**



### ***We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart**

**Genre: Mystery/Thriller**

“A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth.

*We Were Liars* is a modern, sophisticated suspense novel from *New York Times* bestselling author, National Book Award finalist, and Printz Award honoree E. Lockhart. Read it. And if anyone asks you how it ends, just LIE.”

**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 this summer, 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.