

Middletown Township Public School
Summer Reading Program
For Students Entering 9th Grade
Summer 2021

Parents and Freshman Students, Class of 2025:

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: _____

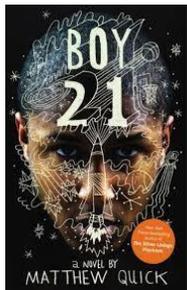
Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Students entering 9th Grade may select from the following list of books:

***Boy 21* by Matthew Quick**

Genre: Fiction

You can lose yourself in repetition--quiet your thoughts; I learned the value of this at a very young age. Basketball has always been an escape for Finley. He lives in broken-down Bellmont, a town ruled by the Irish mob, drugs, violence, and racially charged rivalries. At home, his dad works nights, and Finley is left to take care of his disabled grandfather alone. He's always dreamed of getting out someday, but until he can, putting on that number 21 jersey makes everything seem okay. Russ has just moved to the neighborhood, and the life of this teen basketball phenom has been turned upside down by tragedy. Cut off from everyone he knows, he won't pick up a basketball, but answers only to the name Boy21--taken from his former jersey number. As their final year of high school brings these two boys together, a unique friendship may turn out to be the answer they both need.



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

***Camp So-And-So* by Mary McCoy**

Genre: Mystery/Thriller

“Twenty-five campers. Five cabins. One very dangerous summer camp. Cabin 1 must face off against their ultimate rivals, the posh campers across the lake—who may be more dangerous than they seem. Cabin 2 is being stalked by a murderous former camper. Cabin 3 sets off on a quest to break an age-old curse. Cabin 4 will meet their soulmates—who also pose a deadly threat. And Cabin 5...well, it might already be too late for Cabin 5. This is no ordinary camp. Survival will require courage, cunning, and perhaps even magic. And the hot dogs are terrible.” (publisher)



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

***Dumplin'* by Julie Murphy**

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Self-proclaimed fat girl Willowdean Dickson has always been at home in her own skin. Her thoughts on having the ultimate bikini body? Put a bikini on your body. With her all-American beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked until Will takes a job at Harpy's.. There she meets Private School Bo, a hot former jock. Will isn't surprised to find herself attracted to Bo. But she is surprised when he seems to like her back. Instead of finding new heights of self-assurance in her relationship with Bo, Will starts to doubt herself. So she sets out to take back her confidence by doing the most horrifying thing she can imagine: entering the Miss Clover City beauty pageant to show the world that she deserves to be up there as much as any girl does. Along the way, she'll shock the hell out of Clover City—and maybe herself most of all.

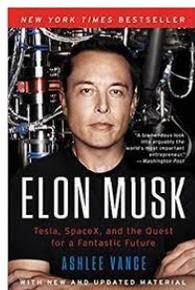


Available at MTPL - (Hoopla e-book & Audiobook)

***Elon Musk and the Quest for the Fantastic Future* by Ashlee Vance**

Genre: Biography

“There are few people in history who could match Elon Musk’s relentless drive and vision. A modern combination of famous inventors and industrialists like Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Steve Jobs, Elon is the man behind companies such as Space X, Tesla Motors, Solar City, and PayPal that are transforming the way we live. Written with exclusive access to Elon, his family, and his friends, this book traces Elon’s journey from a kid in South Africa to a young man in the United States, his dramatic technical inventions, and his world-changing companies. Elon has sparked new levels of innovation in the world, and this book gives young readers a detailed but fast-paced look at his story.



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



***Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines* by Paul Fleischman**

Genre: Nonfiction

“Paul Fleischman offers teens an environmental wake-up call and a tool kit for decoding the barrage of conflicting information confronting them. We’re living in an Ah-Ha moment. Take 250 years of human ingenuity. Add abundant fossil fuels. The result: a population and lifestyle never before seen. The downsides weren't visible for centuries, but now they are. Suddenly everything needs rethinking – suburbs, cars, fast food, cheap prices. It's a changed world. This book explains it. Not with isolated facts, but the principles driving attitudes and events, from vested interests to denial to big-country syndrome. Because money is as important as molecules in the environment, science is joined with politics, history, and psychology to provide the briefing needed to comprehend the 21st century. “ –Amazon

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

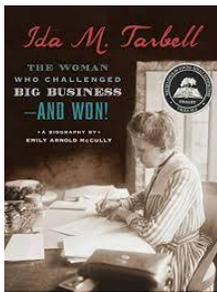


***I Am Princess X* by Cherie Priest**

Genre: Mystery/Thriller

Libby and May created their own comic, Princess X. Libby draws and May writes the stories. On a stormy night, Libby and her mother die in a car accident. Supposedly. But then May begins to see Princess X online, and receives clues to the mystery surrounding Libby’s death. And she begins to wonder...is Libby still alive?

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



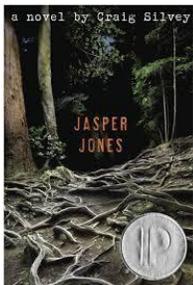
***Ida Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business—and Won!* By Emily A. McCully**

Genre: Biography

“Born in 1857 and raised in oil country, Ida M. Tarbell was one of the first investigative journalists and probably the most influential in her time. Her series of articles on the Standard Oil Trust, a complicated business empire run by John D. Rockefeller, revealed to readers the underhanded, even illegal practices that had led to Rockefeller's success. Rejecting the term "muckraker" to describe her profession, she went on to achieve remarkable prominence for a woman of her generation as a writer and shaper of public opinion.

This biography offers an engrossing portrait of a trailblazer in a man's world who left her mark on the American consciousness. “ -Amazon

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

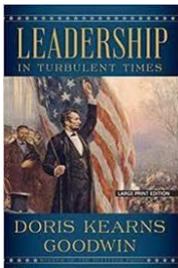


***Jasper Jones* by Craig Silvey**

Genre: Realistic Fiction, Mystery/Thriller

Charlie Bucktin, a bookish thirteen year old, is startled one summer night by an urgent knock on his bedroom window. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in their small mining town, and he has come to ask for Charlie's help. Terribly afraid but desperate to impress, Charlie follows him into the night. Jasper takes him to his secret glade, where Charlie witnesses Jasper's horrible discovery. With his secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself in fear and suspicion. He locks horns with his tempestuous mother, falls nervously in love, and battles to keep a lid on his zealous best friend. In the simmering summer where everything changes, Charlie learns why the truth of things is so hard to know, and even harder to hold in his heart.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)



***Leadership: In Turbulent Times* by Doris Kearns Goodwin**

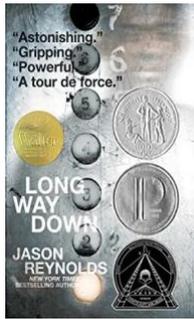
Genre: Nonfiction

Are leaders born or made? Where does ambition come from? How does adversity affect the growth of leadership? Does the leader make the times or do the times make the leader? In *Leadership*, Goodwin draws upon the four presidents she has studied most closely—Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson (in civil rights)—to show how they recognized leadership qualities within themselves and were recognized as leaders by others. By looking back to their first entries into public life, we encounter them at a time when their paths were filled with confusion, fear, and hope.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

***Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds**

Genre: Fiction



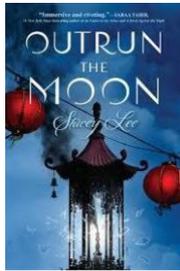
A cannon. A strap. A piece. A biscuit. A burner. A heater. A chopper. A gat. A hammer.

A tool for RULE Or, you can call it a gun. That’s what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. *Revenge*. That’s where Will’s now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother’s gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he’s after. Or does he? And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if Will gets *off* that elevator. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive - Audiobook)

***Outrun the Moon* by Stacy Lee**

Genre: Historical Fiction

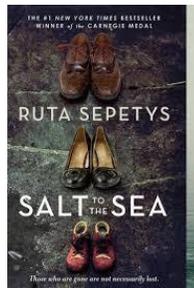


“San Francisco, 1906: On April 18, a historic earthquake rocks San Francisco, destroying Mercy’s home and school. Now she’s forced to wait with her classmates for their families in a temporary park encampment. Though fires might rage, and the city may be in shambles, Mercy can’t sit by while they wait for the army to bring help—she still has the “bossy” cheeks that mark her as someone who gets things done. But what can one teenage girl do to heal so many suffering in her broken city?” -Goodreads

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

***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys**

Genre: Historical Fiction

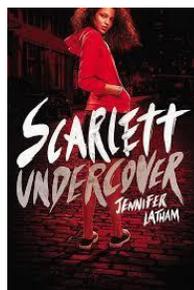


World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety. Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people—adults and children alike—aboard must fight for the same thing: survival. This masterful work of historical fiction is inspired by the real-life tragedy that was the sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*—the greatest maritime disaster in history.

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

***Scarlett Undercover* by Jennifer Latham**

Genre: Historical Fiction

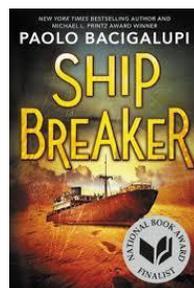


“Meet Scarlett, a smart, sarcastic, kick-butt, Muslim American heroine, ready to take on crime in her hometown of Las Almas. When a new case finds the private eye caught up in a centuries-old battle of evil genies and ancient curses, Scarlett discovers that her own family secrets may have more to do with the situation than she thinks -- and that cracking the case could lead to solving her father's murder. Jennifer Latham delivers a compelling story and a character to remember in this one-of-a-kind debut novel.”

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

***Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi**

Genre: Young Adult Fiction



In America's Gulf Coast region, grounded oil tankers are being broken down for parts by crews of young people. Nailer, a teenage boy, works the light crew, scavenging for copper wiring just to make quota-and hopefully live to see another day. But when, by luck or by chance, he discovers an exquisite clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, Nailer faces the most important decision of his life: Strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life. In this powerful novel, Paolo Bacigalupi delivers a thrilling, fast-paced adventure set in a vivid and raw, uncertain future.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)



Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

Genre: Fantasy

“Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price--and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone...A convict with a thirst for revenge. A sharpshooter who can't walk away from a wager. A runaway with a privileged past. A spy known as the Wraith. A Heartrender using her magic to survive the slums. A thief with a gift for unlikely escapes. Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first.”-Amazon

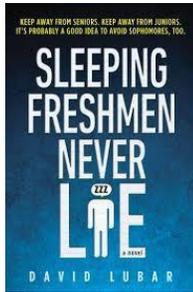
Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie by David Lubar

Genre: Comedy

“Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you’ve known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott’s mother to announce she’s pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Meanwhile, he’s trying his best to capture the attention of Julia, the freshman goddess. In the process, Scott manages to become involved in nearly everything the school has to offer. So while he tries to find his place in the confusing world of high school, win Julia’s heart, and keep his sanity, Scott will be recording all the details for his sibling’s—and your—enjoyment.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

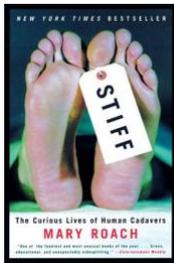


Stiff by Mary Roach

Genre: Non-Fiction

"One of the funniest and most unusual books of the year.... Gross, educational, and unexpectedly sidesplitting." —*Entertainment Weekly* *Stiff* is an oddly compelling, often hilarious exploration of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem. For two thousand years, cadavers—some willingly, some unwittingly—have been involved in science's boldest strides and weirdest undertakings. In this fascinating account, Mary Roach visits the good deeds of cadavers over the centuries and tells the engrossing story of our bodies when we are no longer with them.

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

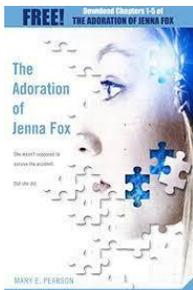


The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson

Genre: Science Fiction

Who is Jenna Fox? Seventeen-year-old Jenna has been told that is her name. She has just awoken from a coma, they tell her, and she is still recovering from a terrible accident in which she was involved a year ago. But what happened before that? Jenna doesn't remember her life. Or does she? And are the memories really hers? This fascinating novel represents a stunning new direction for acclaimed author Mary Pearson. Set in a near future America, it takes readers on an unforgettable journey through questions of bio-medical ethics and the nature of humanity. Mary Pearson's vividly drawn characters and masterful writing soar to a new level of sophistication.

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

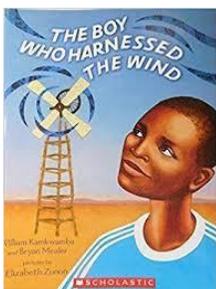


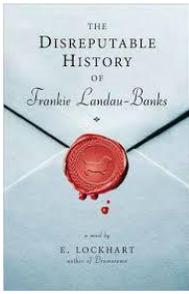
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba

Genre: Nonfiction

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an army of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

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



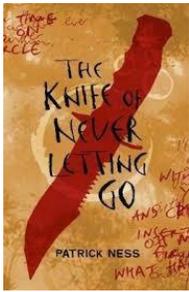


***The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau Banks* by E. Lockhart**

Genre: Young Adult Fiction

Over the course of one summer, Frankie Landau-Banks, a somewhat geeky girl with an unassuming nature, has developed into a 15-year-old with an attention-grabbing figure, a new attitude, and sights set on making changes at her elite boarding school in this novel. The teenager also has a new boyfriend, a gorgeous senior who belongs to a long-standing secret society on campus—The Loyal Order of the Basset Hounds, known mostly for silly pranks and a history of male-only membership. With a witty, sharp, and intelligently scheming mind, Frankie manipulates the Loyal Order to do her bidding with pranks meant to make a political statement about the male-dominated and classist nature of the school. Readers will feel that they are a part of the teen's disreputable and humorous history.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)



***The Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness**

Genre: Science Fiction

Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but in the midst of the cacophony, he knows that the town is hiding something from him -- something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog, whose simple, loyal voice he hears too. With hostile men from the town in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Who is she? Why wasn't she killed by the germ like all the females on New World? Propelled by Todd's gritty narration, readers are in for a white-knuckle journey in which a boy on the cusp of manhood must unlearn everything he knows in order to figure out who he truly is.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)

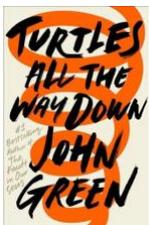


***The Shadow Hero* by Gene Luen Yang**

Genre: Graphic Novel

“An unlikely 19-year-old young man, Hank, is the son of Chinese immigrants who own a grocery store in 1940s America. When his mother is rescued by a superhero, (she) ...decides that it's Hank's fate to become a hero himself...Though Hank initially shies away from assuming the role of caped crusader, when tragedy strikes, he's eventually inspired to call himself the Green Turtle, and fight back against gangsters who have been intimidating his family and many others in Chinatown”-Mahnaz Dar, School Library Journal

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

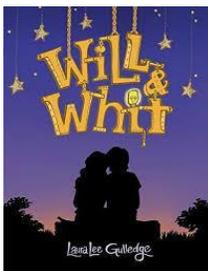


***Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green**

Genre: Young Adult Fiction

It all begins with a fugitive billionaire and the promise of a cash reward. *Turtles All the Way Down* is about lifelong friendship, the intimacy of an unexpected reunion, Star Wars fan fiction, and tuatara. But at its heart is Aza Holmes, a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. In his long-awaited return, John Green shares Aza's story with shattering, unflinching clarity.

Available at MTPL (Overdrive e-book, Overdrive audiobook)



***Will & Whit* by Laura Lee Gullledge**

Genre: Graphic Novel

“Wilhelmina “Will” Huxstep is a creative soul struggling to come to terms with a family tragedy. She crafts whimsical lamps, in part to deal with her fear of the dark. As she wraps up another summer in her mountain town, she longs for unplugged adventures with her fellow creative friends, Autumn, Noel, and Reese. Little does she know that she will get her wish in the form of an arts carnival and a blackout, courtesy of a hurricane named Whitney, which forces Will to face her fear of darkness.”

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

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.