



Middletown Township Public School
Summer Reading Program - Summer 2021
For Students Entering 10th Grade



Parents and Sophomore Students, Class of 2024:

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: _____

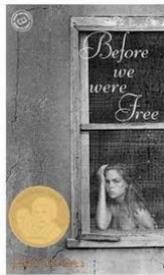
Title: _____ Author: _____

Title: _____ Author: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Students entering 10th Grade may select from the following list of books:



***Before We Were Free* by Julia Alvarez**

Genre: Historical Fiction

“I wonder what it would be like to be free? Not to need wings because you don’t have to fly away from your country? Anita de la Torre is a twelve-year-old girl living in the Dominican Republic in 1960. Most of her relatives have emigrated to the United States, her Tío Toni has disappeared, Papi has been getting mysterious phone calls about butterflies and someone named Mr. Smith, and the secret police have started terrorizing her family for their suspected opposition to the country’s dictator. While Anita deals with a frightening series of events, she also struggles with her adolescence and her own personal fight to be free.”

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)

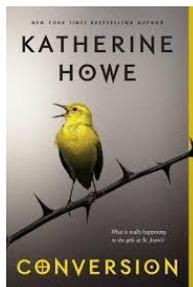


***Come August, Come Freedom* by Gigi Amateau**

Genre: Historical Fiction

“In a time of post-Revolutionary fervor in Richmond, Virginia, an imposing twenty-four-year-old slave named Gabriel, known for his courage and intellect, plotted a rebellion involving thousands of African-American freedom seekers armed with refashioned pitchforks and other implements of Gabriel’s blacksmith trade. The revolt would be thwarted by a confluence of fierce weather and human betrayal, but Gabriel retained his dignity to the end. History knows little of Gabriel’s early life. But here, author Gigi Amateau imagines a childhood shaped by a mother’s devotion, a father’s passion for liberation, and a friendship with a white master’s son who later proved cowardly and cruel. She gives vibrant life to Gabriel’s love for his wife-to-be, Nanny, a slave woman whose freedom he worked tirelessly, and futilely, to buy. Interwoven with original documents, this poignant, illuminating novel gives a personal face to a remarkable moment in history.” -Amazon

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

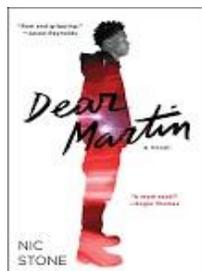


***Conversion* by Katherine Howe**

Genre: Mystery

“It’s senior year at St. Joan’s Academy, and school is a pressure cooker. College applications, the battle for valedictorian, deciphering boys’ texts: Through it all, Colleen Rowley and her friends are expected to keep it together. Until they can’t. First, it’s the school’s queen bee, Clara Rutherford, who suddenly falls into uncontrollable tics in the middle of class. Her mystery illness quickly spreads to her closest clique of friends, then more students and symptoms follow: seizures, hair loss, violent coughing fits. St. Joan’s buzzes with rumor; rumor blossoms into full-blown panic. Soon the media descends on Danvers, Massachusetts, as everyone scrambles to find something, or someone, to blame. Pollution? Stress? Or are the girls faking? Only Colleen—who’s been reading *The Crucible* for extra credit—comes to realize what nobody else has: Danvers was once Salem Village, where another group of girls suffered from a similarly bizarre epidemic three centuries ago. Inspired by true events—from seventeenth-century colonial life to the halls of a modern-day high school— *Conversion* casts a spell. With her signature wit and passion, New York Times bestselling author Katherine Howe delivers an exciting and suspenseful novel, a chilling mystery that raises the question, what’s really happening to the girls at St. Joan’s?” - Amazon

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

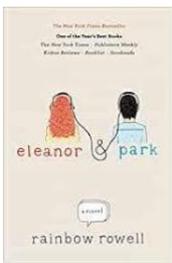


***Dear Martin* by Nic Stone**

Genre: Fiction

Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters. One day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive Audiobook)

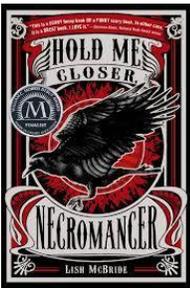


***Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell**

Genre: Coming of Age Fiction

Bono met his wife in high school, Park says. So did Jerry Lee Lewis, Eleanor answers. I'm not kidding, he says. You should be, she says, we're 16. What about Romeo and Juliet? Shallow, confused, then dead. I love you, Park says. Wherefore art thou, Eleanor answers. I'm not kidding, he says. You should be. Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. When Eleanor meets Park, you'll remember your own first love—and just how hard it pulls you under.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & audio)

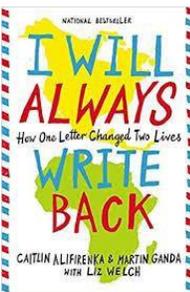


***Me Closer, Necromancer* by Lish McBride**

Genre: Young Adult Fiction; Horror

Sam leads a pretty normal life. He may not have the most exciting job in the world, but he's doing all right—until a fast food prank brings him to the attention of Douglas, a creepy guy with an intense violent streak. Turns out Douglas is a necromancer who raises the dead for cash and sees potential in Sam. Then Sam discovers he's a necromancer too, but with strangely latent powers. And his worst nightmare wants to join forces . . . or else. With only a week to figure things out, Sam needs all the help he can get. Luckily, he lives in Seattle, which has nearly as many paranormal types as it does coffee places. But even with newfound friends, will Sam be able to save his skin?

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)



***I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka, Martin Ganda, and Liz Welch**

Genre: Nonfiction

“It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. (Caitlin chose Zimbabwe.) Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends --and better people--through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

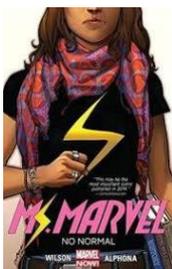


***March Book One* by John Lewis**

Genre: Graphic Novel

“Congressman John Lewis (GA-5) is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president.” **Coretta Scott King Honor Book**

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

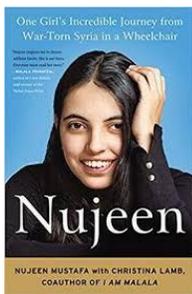


***Ms. Marvel* by G. Willow Wilson**

Genre: Graphic Novel

“Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City — until she's suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm! When Kamala discovers the dangers of her newfound powers, she unlocks a secret behind them, as well. Is Kamala ready to wield these immense new gifts? Or will the weight of the legacy before her be too much to bear? Kamala has no idea, either. But she's comin' for you, Jersey! “**2015 Hugo Award Winner**

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

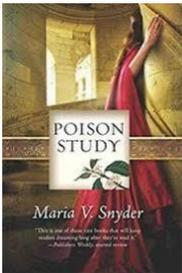


***Nujeen: One Girl's Incredible Journey from War-torn Syria in a Wheelchair* by Nujeen Mustafa and Christina Lamb**

Genre: Nonfiction

“Confined to a wheelchair because of her cerebral palsy and denied formal schooling in Syria because of her illness, Nujeen taught herself English by watching American soap operas. When her small town became the epicenter of the brutal fight between ISIS militants and US-backed Kurdish troops in 2014, she and her family were forced to flee. Despite her physical limitations, Nujeen embarked on the arduous trek to safety and a new life. The grueling sixteen-month odyssey by foot, boat, and bus took her across Turkey and the Mediterranean to Greece, through Macedonia to Serbia and Hungary, and finally, to Germany. Yet, in spite of the tremendous physical hardship she endured, Nujeen's extraordinary optimism never wavered.

Available at MTPL - (Hoopla Audiobook)

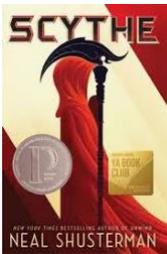


***Poison Study* by Maria V. Snyder**

Genre: Science Fiction/Fantasy

“About to be executed for murder, Yelena is offered an extraordinary reprieve. She'll eat the best meals, have rooms in the palace—and risk assassination by anyone trying to kill the Commander of Ixia. And so Yelena chooses to become a food taster. But the chief of security, leaving nothing to chance, deliberately feeds her Butterfly's Dust—and only by appearing for her daily antidote will she delay an agonizing death from the poison. As Yelena tries to escape her new dilemma, disasters keep mounting. Rebels plot to seize Ixia and Yelena develops magical powers she can't control. Her life is threatened again and choices must be made. But this time the outcomes aren't so clear... “ - Goodreads.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive ebook & Hoopla ebook)



***Scythe* by Neal Shusterman**

Genre: Science Fiction/Fantasy

Printz Award Honor Book 2017 “Thou shalt kill. A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery. Humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

“-Goodreads

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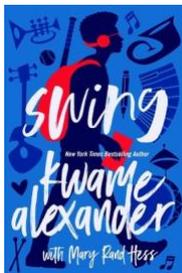


***Somebody, Please Tell Me Who I Am* by Harry Mazer & Peter Lerangis**

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Ben lives a charmed life—effortlessly landing the lead in the high school musical, dating the prettiest girl in school. When he decides to enlist in the army after 9/11, no one thinks he'll be in real danger. But his decision has devastating consequences: His convoy gets caught in an explosion, and Ben ends up in a coma for two months. When he wakes up, he doesn't know where he is—or remember anything about his old life. His family and friends mourn what they see as a loss, but Ben perseveres. And as he triumphs, readers will relate to this timely novel that pairs the action and adventure of the best war stories with the emotional elements of struggle and transformation.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

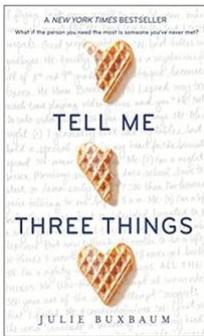


***Swing* by Kwame Alexander and Mary Rand Hess**

Genre: Young Adult Fiction

Things usually do not go as planned for seventeen-year-old Noah. He and his best friend Walt (aka Swing) have been cut from the high school baseball team for the third year in a row, and it looks like Noah's love interest since third grade, Sam, will never take it past the “best friend” zone. Noah would love to retire his bat and accept the status quo, but Walt has big plans for them both, which include making the best baseball comeback ever, getting the girl, and finally finding cool. In *Swing*, bestselling authors Kwame Alexander and Mary Rand Hess (Solo) present a free-verse poetic story that will speak to anyone who's struggled to find their voice and take a swing at life.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive e-book)

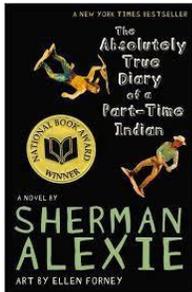


***Tell Me Three Things* by Julie Buxbaum**

Genre: Fiction

Everything about Jessie is wrong. At least, that's what it feels like during her first week of junior year at her new ultra-intimidating prep school in Los Angeles. It's been barely two years since her mother's death, and because her father eloped with a woman he met online, Jessie has been forced to move across the country to live with her stepmonster and her pretentious teenage son, and to start at a new school where she knows no one. Just when she's thinking about hightailing it back to Chicago, she gets an email from a person calling themselves Somebody/Nobody (SN for short), offering to help her navigate the wilds of Wood Valley High School. Is it an elaborate hoax? Or can she rely on SN for some much-needed help? In a leap of faith—or an act of complete desperation—Jessie begins to rely on SN, and SN quickly becomes her lifeline and closest ally. Jessie can't help wanting to meet SN in person. But are some mysteries better left unsolved?

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive e-book)

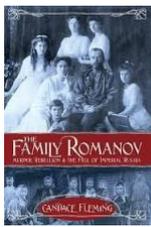


***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

Genre: Young Adult Fiction

Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he thought he was destined to live.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook)

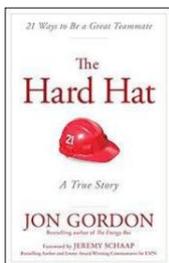


***The Family Romanov* by Candace Fleming**

Genre: Biography

"Here is the tumultuous, heartrending, true story of the Romanovs—at once an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and a gripping account of its undoing. Using captivating photos and compelling first person accounts, award-winning author Candace Fleming (*Amelia Lost*; *The Lincolns*) deftly maneuvers between the imperial family's extravagant lives and the plight of Russia's poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read as well as a perfect resource for meeting Common Core standards." -Amazon

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)



***The Hard Hat: 21 Ways to be a Great Teammate* by Jon Gordon**

Genre: Nonfiction

"From the moment Jon Gordon heard about George Boiardi and the Hard Hat he was intrigued and captivated. Over the years he visited George's coaches, attended several "21 Dinners" held in his honor, met his family, talked to his teammates and observed how he inspired all who knew him. *The Hard Hat* is an unforgettable true story about a selfless, loyal, joyful, hard-working, competitive, and compassionate leader and teammate, the impact he had on his team and program and the lessons we can learn from him."

- Goodreads

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive Audiobook & Hoopla Audiobook)



***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas**

Genre: Fiction

Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds -- the poor, mostly black neighborhood where she lives and the wealthy, mostly white prep school that she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is soon shattered when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of a police officer. Facing pressure from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and decide to stand up for what's right.

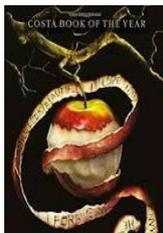
Available at MTPL - (Overdrive ebook & Audiobook)

***The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge**

Genre: Mystery/Thriller

“Faith has a thirst for science and secrets that the rigid confines of her class could not suppress. And so it is that she discovers her disgraced father's journals, filled with scribbled notes and theories of a man driven close to madness. Tales of a strange tree which, when told a lie, will uncover a truth: the greater the lie, the greater the truth revealed to the liar. Faith's search for the tree leads her into great danger - for where lies seduce, truths shatter . . .” - Goodreads. **Nebula Book Award for YA and Costa Book of the Year**

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



***Tomboy* by Liz Prince**

Genre: Graphic Novel/Memoir

“Tomboy is a graphic novel about refusing gender boundaries, yet unwittingly embracing gender stereotypes at the same time, and realizing later in life that you can be just as much of a girl in jeans and a T-shirt as you can in a pink tutu. A memoir told anecdotally, Tomboy follows author and zine artist Liz Prince through her early childhood into adulthood and explores her ever-evolving struggles and wishes regarding what it means to "be a girl." From staunchly refuting anything she perceived as being "girly" to the point of misogyny, to discovering through the punk community that your identity is whatever you make of it, regardless of your gender, Tomboy is as much humorous and honest as it is at points uncomfortable and heartbreaking.” -Amazon

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

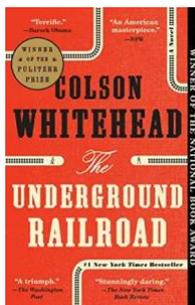


***Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead**

Genre: Historical Fiction

“Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia... When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned and, though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor - engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora and Caesar's first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven - but the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. Even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels. Forced to flee again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom.

Available at MTPL - (Overdrive-ebook & Audiobook)



***Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland* by Sally M. Walker**

Genre: Nonfiction

How did the colonists of Jamestown and Maryland live and die? Forensic anthropology provides an incredible array of answers. Scientists can look into a grave and determine the skeleton's gender, age at the time of death, nationality, and sometimes even economic standing within minutes. Laboratory studies can provide cause of death information. Once these details are known, some skeletons can even be matched with a name via the historical record. Sibert-winning author Sally M. Walker worked side by side with archaeologists and forensic anthropologists in her research for this uniquely appealing book.

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



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.