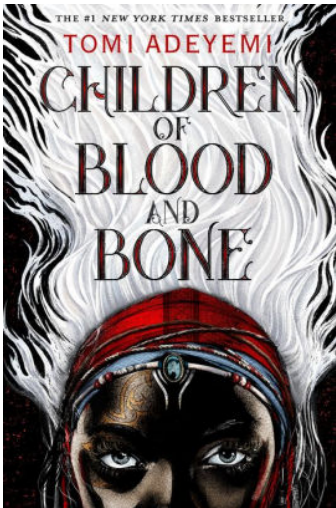


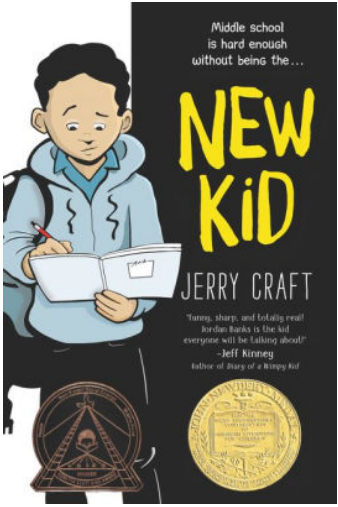

Dear families of incoming seventh graders,

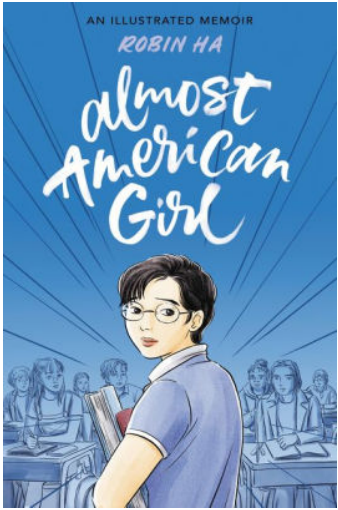
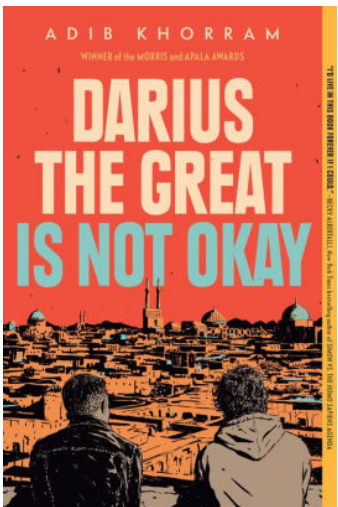
We are so excited for next year! Earlier this month, students were given an option to choose their required summer reading book from this list. Each of these novels is a way to build students' understanding of our first essential question: *How does society both support and limit the development of identity?*

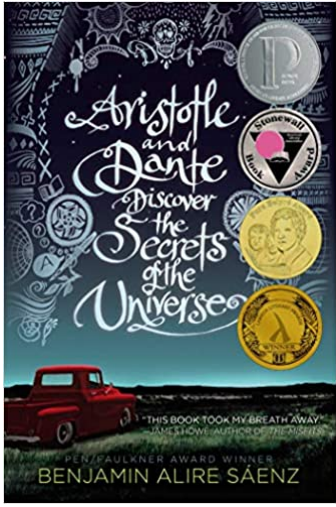

In addition to this book you choose, the best way to continue preparing for middle school is to continue with your independent reading.


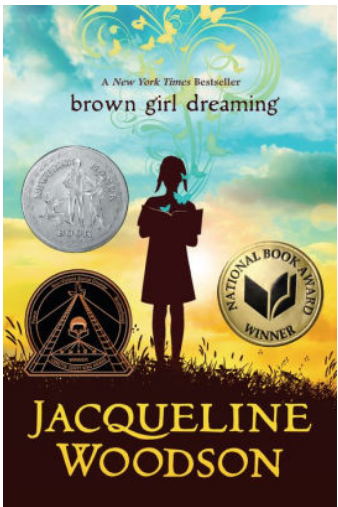
Students are welcome to read more than one of the options. Enjoy!

Book	Author	Image	Genre	Description
<i>Children of Blood and Bone</i>	Toni Adeyemi		Fantasy	<p><i>They killed my mother.</i></p> <p><i>They took our magic.</i></p> <p><i>They tried to bury us.</i></p> <p><i>Now we rise.</i></p> <p>Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orïsha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls.</p> <p>But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope.</p> <p>Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good.</p> <p>Danger lurks in Orïsha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers—and her growing feelings for an enemy.</p>

<p><i>New Kid</i></p>	<p>Jerry Craft</p>		<p>Graphic Novel</p>	<p>Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang, <i>New Kid</i> is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft.</p> <p>Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.</p> <p>As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?</p>
<p><i>George</i></p>	<p>Alex Gino</p>		<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>The unforgettable debut from Stonewall Award Winner Alex Gino. <i>George</i> joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content! When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be <i>Charlotte's Web</i>. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.</p>

<p><i>Almost American Girl: An Illustrated Memoir</i></p>	<p>Robin Ha</p>		<p>Illustrated Memoir</p>	<p>A powerful and moving teen graphic novel memoir about immigration, belonging, and how arts can save a life—perfect for fans of <i>American Born Chinese</i> and <i>Hey, Kiddo</i>.</p> <p>For as long as she can remember, it’s been Robin and her mom against the world. Growing up as the only child of a single mother in Seoul, Korea, wasn’t always easy, but it has bonded them fiercely together.</p> <p>So when a vacation to visit friends in Huntsville, Alabama, unexpectedly becomes a permanent relocation—following her mother’s announcement that she’s getting married—Robin is devastated.</p> <p>Overnight, her life changes. She is dropped into a new school where she doesn’t understand the language and struggles to keep up. She is completely cut off from her friends in Seoul and has no access to her beloved comics. At home, she doesn’t fit in with her new stepfamily, and worst of all, she is furious with the one person she is closest to—her mother.</p> <p>Then one day Robin’s mother enrolls her in a local comic drawing class, which opens the window to a future Robin could never have imagined.</p> <p>This nonfiction graphic novel with four starred reviews is an excellent choice for teens and also accelerated tween readers, both for independent reading and units on immigration, memoirs, and the search for identity.</p>
<p><i>Darius the Great is not Okay</i></p>	<p>Adib Khorram</p>		<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He’s a Fractional Persian—half, his mom’s side—and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life.</p> <p>Darius has never really fit in at home, and he’s sure things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn’t exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and everything changes. Soon, they’re spending their days together, playing soccer, eating faludeh, and talking for hours on a secret rooftop overlooking the city’s skyline. Sohrab calls him Darioush—the original Persian version of his name—and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he’s Darioush to Sohrab.</p> <p>Adib Khorram’s brilliant debut is for anyone who’s ever felt not good enough—then met a friend who makes them feel so much better than okay.</p>

<p><i>Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</i></p>	<p>Benjamin Alire Saenz</p>		<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.</p>
<p><i>The Hate U Give</i></p>	<p>Angie Thomas</p>		<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.</p> <p>Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.</p> <p>But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.</p>

<p><i>Other Words for Home</i></p>	<p>Jasmine Warga</p>		<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>A gorgeously written, hopeful middle grade novel in verse about a young girl who must leave Syria to move to the United States, perfect for fans of Jason Reynolds and Aisha Saeed.</p> <p>Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives.</p> <p>At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of “Middle Eastern,” an identity she's never known before.</p> <p>But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.</p> <p>This lyrical, life-affirming story is about losing and finding home and, most importantly, finding yourself.</p>
<p><i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i></p>	<p>Jacqueline Woodson</p>		<p>Narrative Poetry</p>	<p>Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.</p>

