

2018-19 NPSD Middle School Summer Reading

~Birchwood Middle & Dr. Edward A. Ricci Middle ~

This year's summer reading honors and celebrates student voice and choice.

For all grades, 6-8, choose one book below. Although there are recommended grade levels after each text, students may choose any text.

Book suggestions containing mature content are marked with *MC.



1. *In the Shadow of the Sun* by Anne Sibley O'Brien

North Korea is known as the most repressive country on Earth, with a dictatorial leader, a starving population, and harsh punishment for rebellion. Not the best place for a family vacation. Yet that's exactly where Mia Andrews finds herself, on a tour with her aid-worker father and fractious older brother, Simon. Mia was adopted from South Korea as a baby, and the trip raises tough questions about where she really belongs. Then her dad is arrested for spying, just as forbidden photographs of North Korean slave-labor camps fall into Mia's hands. The only way to save Dad: get the pictures out of the country. Thus Mia and Simon set off on a harrowing journey to the border, without food, money, or shelter, in a land where anyone who sees them might turn them in, and getting caught could mean prison -- or worse. An exciting adventure that offers a rare glimpse into a compelling, complicated nation, *In the Shadow of the Sun* is an unforgettable novel of courage and survival. Thriller!

Grade 6 (current world topic)



2. *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

Ghost has been chosen for an middle school track team that could qualify him for the Junior Olympics. Struggling to deal with his past and present, *Ghost* receives help from his coach. Realistic Fiction **Grade 6**

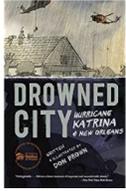
(RI Middle School Book Award 2018 nominee; many students will relate to subject matter)



3. *Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart

This is the story of a transgender girl named Lily, a bipolar boy named Dunkin, and a tree named Bob. It's about finding out who you're meant to be and finding the people who will encourage you to reach for the sky, not chop you down. Realistic Fiction

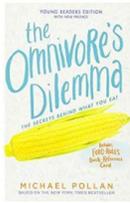
Grades 7 / 8 (RI Middle School Book Award 2018 nominee; current topic)*MC



4. Drowned City by Don Brown

The sadness of avoidable tragedy and the triumph of the human spirit come to life in this graphic novel about Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. Graphic Non-Fiction

Grades 7/8 (RI Middle School Book Award 2018 nominee; graphic non-fiction is very popular)



5. The Omnivore's Dilemma for Kids by Michael Pollan

Journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes... from fast food and big organic to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, this young readers' adaptation of Pollan's famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices. Non-fiction

Grades 7/8 (Health, wellness)

If you prefer to read a book that is not on the suggested list, please have your parent approve your text choice by completing the section below and submitting it to your 2018/19 English teacher on the first day of school.

In lieu of the suggestions provided, I, _____,
(parent/guardian)

give permission to _____ to have read _____
(Student Name) (Book Title)

by _____ for his/her 2018-19 Summer Reading requirement.
(Author)

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Summer Reading Assignment:

The assignment is due Friday, 9-7-2018 and will count for a 20% Assessment grade.

Choose one of the below prompts to respond to using the below tool options.

1. Choose a character that you related to and explain how and/or why. Be sure to include evidence from the text.
2. Sell your book: What are the most engaging parts of the book? What did you like or enjoy the most? Think of creative ways to get other students to read the book.
3. What do you think the author's message was? What was the author trying to convey to the reader? Explain and use evidence to show how you know.
4. What was the biggest conflict in the text? Explain and use evidence to show how you know.

After choosing the prompt that you would like to respond to, choose one of the below tools to answer the question/ prompt.

Be creative and use evidence from the text to support your statements and claims when answering the prompt.

- Create a Slide-Deck or [Powtoons](#) and/or [Screencastify](#); [Using Screencastify w/Slides tutorial](#) to narrate your Slides or Powtoon.
- Create a [Public Service Announcement](#) using Adobe Spark to answer one of the above-questions.
- Use [iMovie to make a Movie Trailer](#) to answer one of the above questions. Here's [how to make an effective Movie Trailer](#).
- Complete this [Summer Reading Scavenger Hunt](#) to address different aspects of your book

See the next page for the rubric that will be used to assess the summer reading assignment.

Here is [the rubric](#) that will be used to score your 2018-19 NP Middle School Summer Reading assignment.

Note: This rubric aligns with RICAS Writing Rubric for grades 6-8.

4	<p>Insightful response that addresses the chosen prompt Ample and appropriate evidence Ample and complex explanation and analysis of evidence Skillful and/or subtle organization Rich expression of ideas</p>
3	<p>Clear response that addresses the chosen prompt Appropriate evidence Clearly explains and analyzes evidence Clear organization Clear expression of ideas</p>
2	<p>Response addresses the prompt in a limited or somewhat unclear way Limited evidence Limited explanation and analysis of evidence Some organization, but not throughout the response Attempts clarity of ideas</p>
1	<p>Response to chose prompt is confusing and unclear Insufficient evidence Insufficient explanation and analysis Minimal Organization Poor expression of ideas</p>
0	<p>Response shows evidence of knowledge of the text, but does not respond directly to any of the given prompts; or no attempt at the assignment was made.</p>