Summer Reading List (2014 - 2015)

Choose one novel from your grade level to read and annotate over the summer. Please review the descriptions for each title to help determine the best selection.

ANNOTATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS!

See bookmark for annotation key.

**Incoming 6th Graders**

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper - Melody, age 11, faces life as an adolescent with cerebral palsy, which includes the heartbreak and drama faced by all adolescents.

*The Other Side of the Island* by Allegra Goodman - Set in a future world, ten year old Honor and her friend must uncover the secret that will save the island and their families.

*Ungifted* by Gordon Korman - Donovan is a prankster, which lands him in trouble frequently, but this time he is accidentally sent to a school for the gifted and talented where he really shakes things up.

*The Raft* by S.A. Bodeen - Fifteen-year-old Robie ends up stranded in the Pacific Ocean on a life raft with not much hope of survival. This survival story has one dark note after the other, and ends with some surprising twists.

**Incoming 7th Graders**

*House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros - A young girl coming of age in a Hispanic part of Chicago uses poems and stories to tell her tale. Includes sensitive topics typical for coming-of-age stories.

*I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai - Describes the life and assassination attempt of the youngest nominee for Nobel Peace prize as she advocates for women’s rights and education in Taliban-controlled society. Includes some violence.

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio - Told from multiple perspectives, this is the story of August who was born with facial defects so severe his parents have always sheltered him from the mainstream. Attending regular school for the first time, he now has to deal with bullying and the morbid curiosity of some of his fellow students.

*Sixty-Eight Rooms* by Marianne Malone - In this fantasy, set in the Art Institute of Chicago, Jack and Ruthie use a magic key that shrinks them down to just the right size for the 68 miniature Throne Rooms where they must solve a mystery to help the family of a previous visitor.

*Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings - In this suspenseful tale, 13-year-old Brady and his friends become involved in a tragedy on Chesapeake Bay that tests their friendship and their views of right and wrong. Includes some violence.

*7th Grade Novels for upcoming classroom reading: DO NOT read over the summer, but purchase both*

*The Outsiders* by S.E.Hinton

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor
Incoming 8th Graders

*Navigating Early* by Clare Vanderpool - Set in the 1940s, 13-year-old Jack is sent to boarding school where he befriends Early, an autistic boy obsessed with the number Pi. Early convinces Jack to take off for the woods, which turns into a life-changing quest for both boys.

*Green Angel* by Alice Hoffman - This intricately woven novel has the feel of a dark fairy tale as Hoffman uses allegory to tell the tale of how Green, a 15-year-old girl, deals with the loss of her family and rebuilds her life. Includes some violence.

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell - Still fresh today, this allegory tells the tale of oppressed, overworked, and mistreated farm animals, and the oppressors they ultimately overthrow. Includes some violence.

*Paper Towns* by John Green - Quentin, 17, has loved his next-door neighbor Margo most of his life, so when she takes him on a middle of the night adventure he is happy to go. He wasn’t prepared for how the night ends, however, when Margo disappears with only a few clues directed to him. Includes sensitive issues and language often found in coming-of-age stories.