



Plainfield Public Schools

2021 Summer Reading Recommendations

Middle School: Rising 6th, 7th, & 8th Grades

May 2021

Students and Parents,

Traditionally, the summer is a time when we encourage our students to keep reading and learning, and this year is no different. In fact, it may be even more important this year due to the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the transition to online learning. Nevertheless, we are also aware of the constraints many families face regarding health, time, and resources. For this reason, our summer reading this year is strongly suggested, but not required, for middle school students.

Students, please see the suggestions on the next page to help you get the most out of your reading experiences. You should also review the resources you will find at the end of the book list for accessing books and e-books.

Happy reading!

Joan Cansdale
Supervisor, Secondary ELA



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GET THE MOST FROM YOUR READING EXPERIENCES

Before you read:

- Choose a book that you think you will enjoy. Read the synopsis and a page or two. Recommendations from friends are also helpful or you can do a little research to find out more about the author.
- Reach out to the Plainfield Public Library to access e-books and other resources (<http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info/> or call 908-757-1111).

While you read:

- Read at your own pace. Ideally, you should read for at least 20 minutes every day, but check-in with yourself to be sure you are truly understanding what you are reading and that you are not just skimming the page. No need to rush!
- Read Aloud. Think about sharing your reading with your family and friends. If possible, set up a time everyday to read aloud a section of the book. This is a great way to share your reading expertise and interests with younger siblings.
- Write down any unfamiliar words or phrases and look up their meanings. This will help to build your vocabulary and improve your understanding.
- Keep some paper, a notebook or post-its handy while you read. As you get to important parts of the book or major changes or challenges for your character, make note of the page and what is important to the story. You can also make a guess as to what will happen because of it.

After you read:

- Think about what you have read. Did you learn something? Has the way you think about an issue or topic changed? Can you make a connection between this book and another book you read, a personal experience, or something else you know about?
- Tell your family and friends about what you read. Share your opinions, reactions, and connections. Make recommendations to others that you think would enjoy the book.



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RECOMMENDED READING LIST



Brubaker Bradley, Kimberly. ***Fighting Words***. Dial Books, 2020. A story of two sisters, linked by love and trauma, who must find their own voices before they can find their way back to each other. (School Library Journal Best book of the Year, Newbery Honor Book)

Diaz, Alexandra. ***The Only Road***. Simon and Schuster, 2016. The story of two teen cousins fleeing a violent gang in their Guatemalan village and making the perilous journey through Mexico to the U.S. They are sustained by courage, their own talents, the kindness of strangers, and above all, the love of friends.

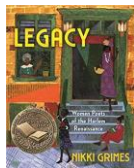
** Spanish language edition: ***El único destino***. Simon and Schuster, 2016.



Fipps, Lisa. ***Starfish***. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2021. Ellie is tired of being fat-shamed and decides to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and unapologetically become her own fabulous self.

Forna, Namina. ***The Gilded Ones***. Delacorte Press, 2021. Knowing the dangers that lie ahead, sixteen-year-old Deka leaves her village to train for the biggest battle of her life.

** Spanish language edition: ***Las que estamos muertas***. Molino, 2021.



Grimes, Nikki. ***Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance***. Bloomsbury, 2021. This collection of poems uses the original works of female poets of the Harlem Renaissance coupled with new poems written by Grimes.

Hilton, Marilyn. ***Full Cicada Moon***. Puffin Books, 2017. Set in 1969 as the Apollo 11 mission prepares to go to the moon, Mimi struggles to fit in with her classmates but holds onto her dream of becoming an astronaut.

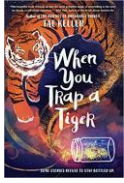




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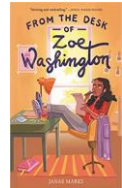
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Keller, Tae. ***When You Trap a Tiger***. Random House, 2020. Would you make a deal with a magical tiger? This uplifting story brings Korean folklore to life as a girl goes on a quest to unlock the power of stories and save her grandmother.

Kamkwamba, William. ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Young Reader's Edition***. Puffin Books, 2016. A passionate memoir of survival and perseverance about the young heroic inventor who brought electricity to his village in Malawi. ** Spanish language edition: ***El niño que domó el viento***. B DE BLOCK, 2020. Una apasionante memoria de supervivencia y perseverancia sobre el heroico joven inventor que trajo electricidad a su pueblo de Malawi.

Marks, Janae. ***From the Desk of Zoe Washington***. K. Tegen Books, 2020. Zoe is determined to uncover the truth about her father's innocence while hiding her investigation from the rest of her family.



Ortega, Claribel A. ***Ghost Squad***. Scholastic, 2020. Shortly before Halloween, Lucely and Syd cast a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits. Together they must fight the haunting and reverse the curse to save the town.

Royce, Eden. ***Root Magic***. Walden Pond Press, 2021. It's 1963 and Jez and Jay have always been fascinated by the African American folk magic that has been the legacy of their South Carolina family for generations. They will discover their family's true power when faced with the natural and supernatural evil in their town.



Torres, Jennifer. ***Stef Soto, Taco Queen***. Little, Brown Books, 2017. This story about family, friends, and finding your voice follows Estefania "Stef" Soto as she struggles to embrace her identity and discovers what matters most.



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GREAT GRAPHIC NOVELS



Beautiful (series)
by Marie D'Abreo

Ghosts
by Raina Telgemeier

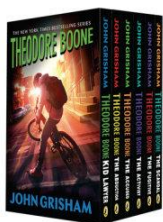


The Strange Case of Origami Yoda
by Tom Angleberger

Go with the Flow
by Lily Williams & Karen Schneemann



SUPER SERIES



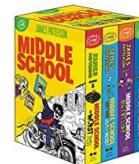
Theodore Boone
by John Grisham

The Track Series
by Jason Reynolds



Tristan Strong Series
by Kwame Mbalia

Middle School
by James Patterson





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Looking for something to read?

Look here:

The Plainfield Public Library

- The library has many free electronic resources available, including:
 - eLibraryNJ (e-books & audiobooks)
 - Hoopla (e-books, audiobooks, comics, movies, music)
 - Overdrive/Libby (digital magazines)
 - Kanopy (documentaries and more)
 - Other resources available here: [Online Databases - By Age Group](#)
- If you have a library fine, you will still be able to access online resources.
- If you don't have a card or don't know your card number, contact the library by phone at 908-757-1111 X111 or X129.
- If you have a card, but don't remember your PIN, update your PIN on this website: [LMXAC login](#)

The Internet Archive Open Library

- Audiobooks and e-books that can be downloaded or read online
- Create a free account with your email address.
- Search by author, title, date or subject by using this link: [Grades 6, 7 & 8.](#)