As Millburn Township concentrates on becoming *Future Ready* we have many goals in the district Curriculum and Instruction Office. As you may know, we have a guiding document, Millburn Instructional Mindset, (*The MIM*) that we work from. This is to ensure that we are choosing resources that are diverse, global, and empathetic.

The Middle School English/ Language Arts teachers have come up with a vibrant new collection of choices for Summer Reading. Families should work together to review the following list of titles and decide which readings are appropriate for their particular student. We wish you a relaxing summer of enlightenment, learning, and safe fun.

Sincerely,
Greg Jablonski (Supervisor grades 8-12)
Holly Foley (Supervisor grades 5-8)
Please enjoy your choice of one of these titles in preparation for a class discussion/unit in September. Be sure to look under the appropriate grade level. Students entering Grade 6 and 7 are required to complete an assignment (see link).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entering Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 6 assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass</strong></td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass" /></td>
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<td>Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound (synesthesia), keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Becoming Naomi León by Pam Muñoz Ryan</strong></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Becoming Naomi León by Pam Muñoz Ryan" /></td>
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<td>Naomi Soledad León Outlaw and her brother, Owen, have lived with their great grandmother, Gram, in California for the last seven years. When the mother who abandoned her suddenly shows up at Gram’s trailer, Naomi is caught up in a whirlwind of challenges and changes. Gram, Naomi, and Owen set off on a journey to Mexico to discover the children’s long-lost father, Santiago León. Finding her father and participating in a radish-carving festival help Naomi understand her León heritage.</td>
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**Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson**

Six kids have to meet for a weekly chat - by themselves, with no adults. In the room they soon call the ARTT Room (“A Room to Talk”), they discover it’s safe to talk about what’s bothering them including Esteban’s father’s deportation, Haley’s father’s incarceration, Amari’s fears of racial profiling, and Ashton’s adjustment to his changing family fortunes.

**The Giver by Lois Lowry**

The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. Lois Lowry has written three companion novels to The Giver, including Gathering Blue, Messenger, and Son.

**The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he’s got mad beats, too, that tell his family’s story in verse.
### The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

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### Entering Grade 8

#### American Panda by Gloria Chao

Four-starred reviews for this incisive, laugh-out-loud contemporary debut about a Taiwanese-American teen whose parents want her to be a doctor and marry a Taiwanese Ivy Leaguer despite her squeamishness with germs and crush on a Japanese classmate.

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### Beyond Courage by Doreen Rappaport

Through twenty-one meticulously researched accounts — some chronicled in book form for the first time — Doreen Rappaport illuminates the defiance of tens of thousands of Jews across eleven Nazi-occupied countries during World War II. In answer to the genocidal madness that was Hitler’s Holocaust, the only response they could abide was resistance, and their greatest weapons were courage, ingenuity, the will to survive, and the resolve to save others or to die trying.
Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson

Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some opportunities she doesn't really welcome, like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from. She's tired of being singled out as someone who needs help, someone people want to fix. Jade wants to speak, to create, to express her joys and sorrows, her pain and her hope. Maybe there are some things she could show other women about understanding the world and finding ways to be real, to make a difference.

Vincent and Theo by Deborah Heiligman

The deep and enduring friendship between Vincent and Theo Van Gogh shaped both brothers' lives. Confidant, champion, sympathizer, friend—Theo supported Vincent as he struggled to find his path in life. They shared everything, swapping stories of lovers and friends, successes and disappointments, dreams and ambitions. Meticulously researched, drawing on the 658 letters Vincent wrote to Theo during his lifetime, Deborah Heiligman weaves a tale of two lives intertwined and the extraordinary love of the Van Gogh brothers.

The Uninterrupted View of The Sky by Melanie Crowder

It's 1999 in Bolivia and Francisco's life consists of school, soccer, and trying to find space for himself in his family's cramped yet boisterous home. But when his father is arrested on false charges and sent to prison by a corrupt system that targets the uneducated, the poor, and the indigenous majority, Francisco and his sister are left with no choice: They must move into prison with their father.
### Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman

Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. *Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior.*

Caden Bosch is designated the ship's artist in residence to document the journey with images. *Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head.*

Caden Bosch is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny. **Caden Bosch is torn.**

### Stuck in Neutral by Terry Trueman

Shawn McDaniel's life is not what it may seem to anyone looking at him. He is glued to his wheelchair, unable to voluntarily move a muscle—he can't even move his eyes. For all Shawn's father knows, his son may be suffering. Shawn may want a release. And as long as he is unable to communicate his true feelings to his father, Shawn's life is in danger. To the world, Shawn's senses seem dead. Within these pages, however, we meet a side of him that no one else has seen—a spirit that is rich beyond imagining, breathing life.