

Millburn Middle School Summer Reading



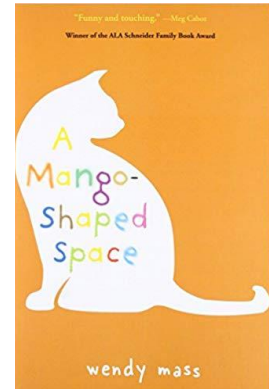
Please enjoy your choice of one of these titles in preparation for a class discussion/unit in September. Be sure to look under the appropriate grade level for your book selection and the corresponding assignment.

Your teacher will let you know at the beginning of the school year how to submit your work.

Entering 6th Grade
6th Grade Assignment

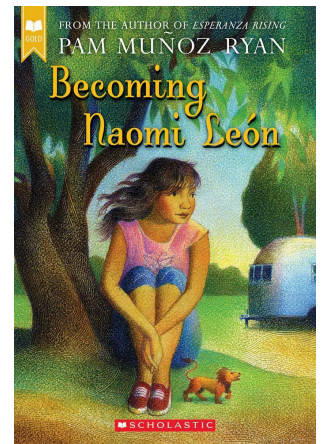
***A Mango-Shaped Space* by Wendy Mass**

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.



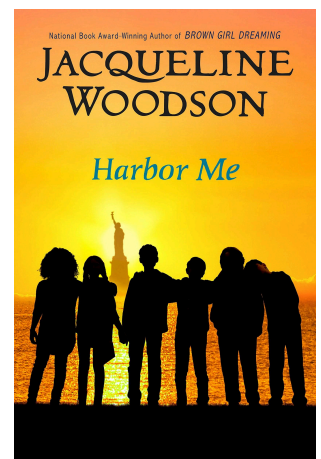
***Becoming Naomi León* by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

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 helps Naomi understand her León heritage.



***Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson**

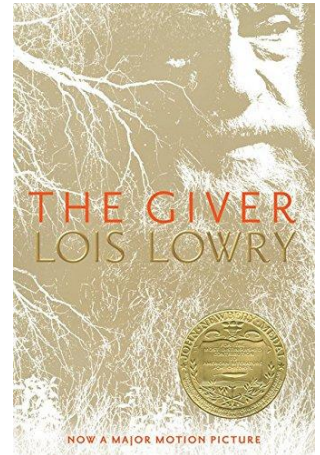
Six kids have to meet for a weekly chat - by themselves, with no adults. In the room they soon call the ARTT Room ("A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them including Esteban's father's deportation, Haley's father's incarceration, Amari's fears of racial profiling,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



Entering 7th Grade
7th Grade Assignment

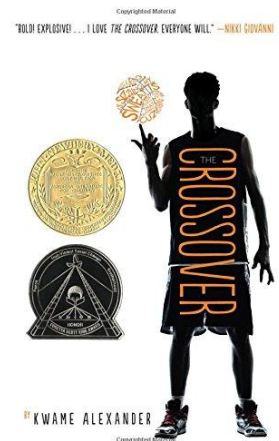
***The Giver* by Lois Lowry**

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**

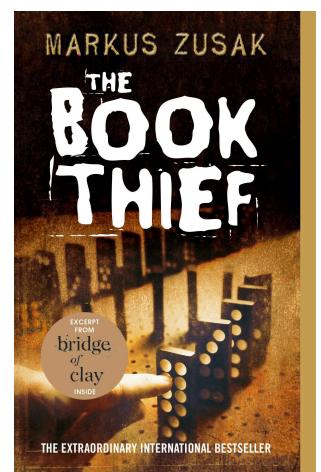
"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year-old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother, Jordan, are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood. He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



***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

It is 1939 in Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and it 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 cannot 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.



Entering 8th Grade
8th Grade Assignment

Millburn Middle School
Grade 8 ELA
Summer Reading

Choose at least one of the following books to read over the summer:

- *The Graveyard Book*, by Neil Gaiman (fiction)
- *Piecing Me Together*, by Renee Watson (fiction)
- *Refugee*, by Alan Gratz (fiction)
- *Challenger Deep*, by Neal Shusterman (fiction)

Assignment: Read and annotate your chosen book in preparation for our first few days of school together. (It is suggested that you either use Post-It notes OR write any ideas/notes directly in your book, on a piece of looseleaf paper, or in a document on your computer. You should bring these notes to class for the first week of school.)

- Aim to have at least one annotation per every 25 pages of your book.
- Use the 8th Grade ELA Annotation Guide (see pages 2-4 of this document) to give you tips on how to make the most of your book! Each time you annotate, try to choose a different category to focus on. In other words, avoid limiting yourself to annotations about something like characterization only.
- Keep in mind that, first and foremost, this assignment is intended to prepare you for conversations and activities that will take place in your ELA class during the first few weeks of school. You shouldn't agonize over your annotations — this is actually intended to make your life a little easier!

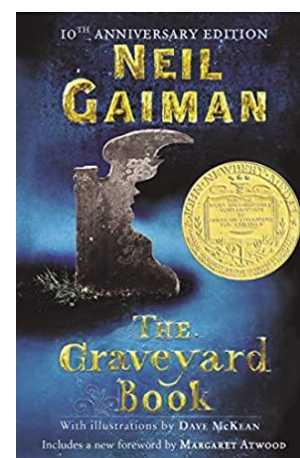
We hope you have a relaxing summer full of sunshine, fun, and at least one good read! We're looking forward to seeing you in the fall.

- The Grade 8 ELA team

Descriptions of each text can be found on the next three pages.

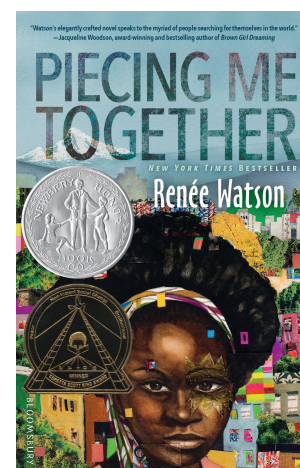
***The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman**

Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be *completely* normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy—an ancient Indigo Man, a gateway to the abandoned city of ghouls, and the strange and terrible Sleer. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, he will be in danger from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family.



***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.



***Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman**

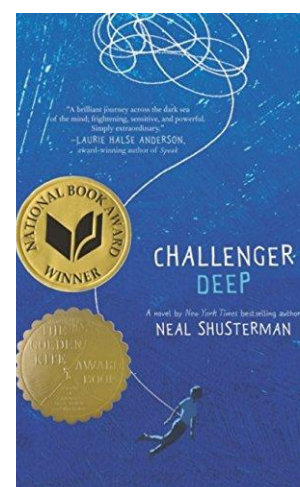
Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench.

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.



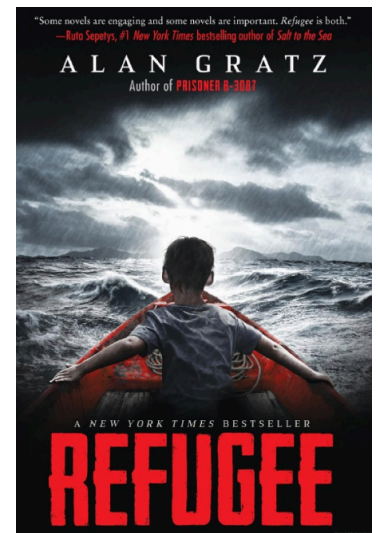
***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world.

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America.

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe.

All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.



Attention Fellow Beach Readers!!

If you are looking for some books to read simply for pleasure, check out some great books by some great authors!

[Anything Goes Summer Reading](#)