

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2020

As human beings we all have the right to see ourselves and our own cultures depicted in the books we read. At the same time, we have a great need to read books that connect us with people who are different than we are. We must have the opportunity to fall in love with protagonists with different ethnicities, religious backgrounds, cultural experiences and family stories. Each of these books introduces us to a protagonist who finds their voice and learns to speak their truth. One of the most powerful things about reading is its ability to help us widen our own circles of connection and empathy. Reading helps us realize we are not alone while at the same time reminding us that ours is not the only story that matters.

Each incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade student should read at least five books over the summer. **Pick at least two titles from the following list** about voice, race, culture and identity and then at least three others of your own choice.

*Absolutely Normal*: Nora Carpenter  
*Amal Unbound*: Aisha Saeed  
*American Born Chinese*: Gene Luen  
*Apple Skin to the Core*: Levine Querido  
*Audacity*: Melanie Crowder  
*Brown Girl Dreaming*: Jacqueline Woodson  
*Fish in a Tree*: Linda Mulaly Hunt  
*King and the Dragonflies*: Kacen Calendar  
*Inside out and Back Again*: Thanna Lai  
*Interpreter of Maladies*: Jhumpa Lahiri  
*Me Moth*: Amber McBride  
*New Kid*: Jerry Craft  
*Other Words for Home*: Jasmine Warga  
*Persepolis*: Mariane Satrapi  
*Punching the Air*: Ibbi Zobois  
*Sing, Unburied, Sing*: Jessamyn Ward  
*Starfish*: Lisa Fipps  
*The Boy with the Butterfly Mind*: Victoria Williamson  
*They Called us Enemy*: George Takei  
*The Nickel Boys*: Colson Whitehead  
*The Poet X*: Elizabeth Acevedo  
*There, There*: Tommy Orange  
*Trowbridge Road*: Marcella Pixley  
*We are not Free*: Tracy Chee  
*When the Emperor Was Divine*: Julie Otsuka  
*Where the Crawdads Sing*: Delia Owens  
*Rural Voices*: Nora Carpenter

Please make a numbered list of all the books you read along with author names and page numbers.