



Hello, Future Sixth Graders!

We're so excited to meet you! We're not just your new ELA teachers, we are also avid readers. We see summer as a time to read *a lot* of books. We hope that you will find inspiration and models of moral courage in the books we're recommending for your summer reading. We are also interested in hearing about any books you love or have recently discovered because we're always looking to add books to our classroom libraries.

This year, we would like you to read at least one of the books on our list. You can read one, two, or all of the books on the list. We especially recommend that you read either *I Am Malala* or *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, as they are both great books with a powerful message. We are also including a few other books (including two graphic novels) about people who have shown bravery, overcome obstacles, or changed the world in some small way.

To accompany your reading, choose **one** of the following two options:

Write a letter to one of the main characters. Be sure to ask questions and share your reactions to the main character's experiences and share some information about yourself. Remember to be polite, and feel free to add pictures to your letter.

Keep a journal while reading one of the books below. Especially look for ways that young people can make a difference in the world or grow and change as a person. Please do at least three entries...and more if you want! Feel free to draw some pictures, too.

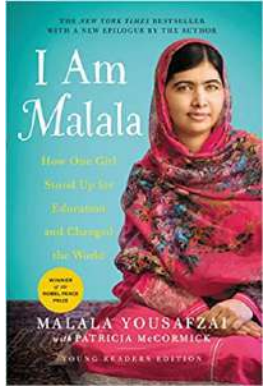
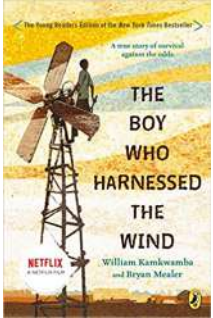
We look forward to discussing this summer reading with you as the new school year begins. Please feel free to email us with any questions.

Thank you, and have a great summer!

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Please read one of the following books this summer.

Book Title	Genre & Cover
<p><u><i>I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai</i></u></p> <p>I Am Malala. This is my story.</p> <p>Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school.</p> <p>Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school.</p> <p>No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. In this Young Readers Edition of her bestselling memoir, which has been reimagined specifically for a younger audience and includes exclusive photos and material, we hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world -- and did.</p>	 <p>(Memoir)</p>
<p><u><i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Readers Edition) by William Kamkwamba and Brian Mealer</i></u></p> <p>When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out</p>	



of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

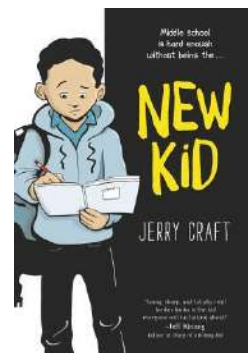
Retold for a younger audience, this exciting memoir shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world. Complete with photographs, illustrations, and an epilogue that will bring readers up to date on William's story, this is the perfect edition to read and share with the whole family

(Memoir)

[New Kid by Jerry Craft](#)

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

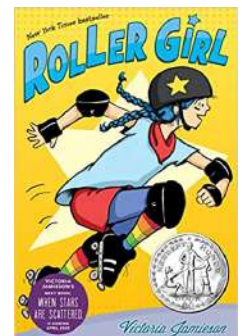
As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?



(Realistic Fiction
Graphic Novel)

[Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson](#)

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she is





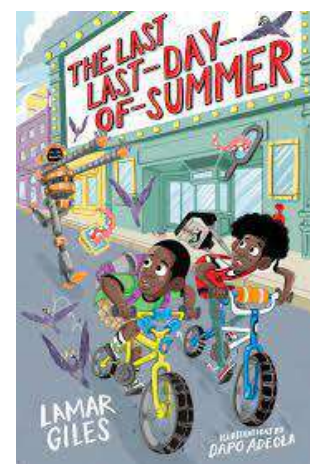
strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school... in short, strong enough to be a roller girl.

In this graphic novel debut that earned a Newbery Honor and five starred reviews, real-life derby girl Victoria Jamieson has created an inspiring coming-of-age story about friendship, perseverance, and girl power!

(Realistic Fiction
Graphic Novel)

[The Last Last-Day-of-Summer](#) by Lamar Giles

Otto and Sheed are the local sleuths in their zany Virginia town, masters of unraveling mischief using their unmatched powers of deduction. And as the summer winds down and the first day of school looms, the boys are craving just a little bit more time for fun, even as they bicker over what kind of fun they want to have. That is, until a mysterious man appears with a camera that literally freezes time. Now, with the help of some very strange people and even stranger creatures, Otto and Sheed will have to put aside their differences to save their town—and each other—before time stops for good.



(Mystery, science
fiction)

[The Lion of Mars](#) by Jennifer L. Holm

Bell has spent his whole life – all eleven years of it – on Mars. But he's still just a regular kid – he loves cats, any kind of cake, and is curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. Like, why don't have contact with anyone on the other Mars colonies? Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It's up to Bell – a regular kid in a very different world – to uncover the truth and save his family ... and possibly unite an entire planet.

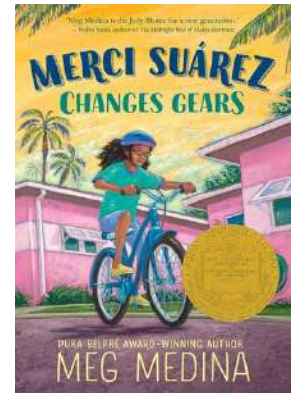


(Science Fiction)



[Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina](#)

Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately — forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school. In a coming-of-age tale full of humor and wisdom, award-winning author Meg Medina gets to the heart of the confusion and constant change that defines middle school — and the steadfast connection that defines family.



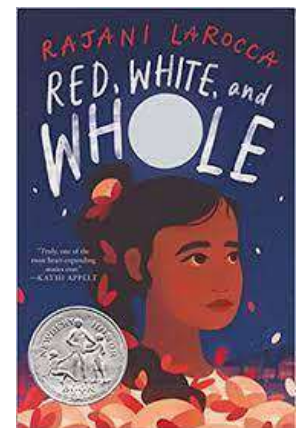
(Realistic Fiction)

[Red, White, and Whole by Rajani LaRocca](#)

Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted — they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their strict expectations. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma. Although their names are linked — Reha means "star" and Punam means "moon" — they are a universe apart.

Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick.

Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can't stomach the sight of blood, is determined to make her Amma well again. She'll be the perfect daughter, if it means saving her Amma's life.



(fiction in verse)



Copies of books are also available at Ashland Public Library.