

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Our primary goal for students is to develop the habit of lifelong reading. We are asking that your students continue reading during the upcoming summer vacation. All students entering 7th grade should read **ONE** of the novels listed below. When the students return in August, they will be given the opportunity to share their summer reading experiences through an authentic and meaningful task.

Students may purchase a paper copy or borrow one from the library. If a student is in need of a copy, it is recommended that they see Mrs. Moles or Mrs. Ward. If they borrow a copy, it must be returned the first day of school in the same condition in which it was given to them.

Thank you for your help in supporting our efforts to promote a culture that values independent reading.

Before We Were Free – Julia Alvarez Twelve-year-old Anita de la Torre is too involved with her own life to be more than dimly aware of the growing menace all around her. Gradually, she comes to understand that her father and uncles are involved in a plot to kill El Jefe, the dictator, and that they are all in deadly peril.

Chains – Laurie Halse Anderson Set in NYC at the beginning of the American Revolution, Chains addresses the price of freedom both for the nation and for individuals through the story of Isabel, a slave sold at the age of five to a cruel family.

Fever 1793 – Laurie Halse Anderson Based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that wiped out 10% of the city's population in just three months, this book focuses on sixteen-year-old Mattie Cook whose life is shattered when her mother falls prey to the disease. Mattie's sufferings change her in ways she could not have predicted.

Milkweed – Jerry Spinelli Here is Nazi-occupied Warsaw during WWII, as seen through the eyes of a curious, kind, heartbreakingly naïve orphan trying to survive.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle – Avi As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.