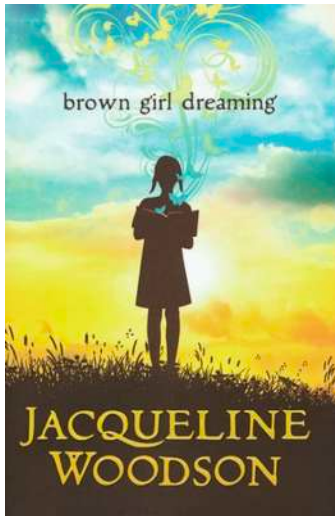


Summer Reading List for Middle School 2017

There are required books and assignments per grade level, plus additional titles. See the following pages. The following book is required for English grades 7 and 8:



Brown Girl Dreaming

by Jacqueline Woodson

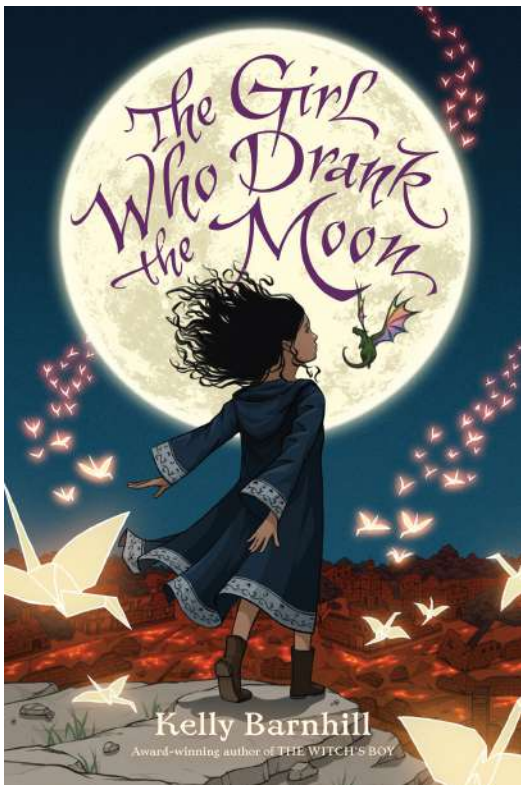
Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt half-way home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

Students are encouraged to take notes either in a notebook, a document, or on sticky-notes as they read, as well as underline key passages that they find important or interesting. There will be class discussion and assignments based on the book in September.

Grade 6

The Girl Who Drank the Moon

by Kelly Barnhill



Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the forest, Xan, is kind and gentle. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster named Glerk and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, Fyrian. Xan rescues the abandoned children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this enmagicked girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. To keep young Luna safe from her own unwieldy power, Xan locks her magic deep inside her. When Luna approaches her thirteenth birthday, her magic begins to emerge on schedule-- but Xan is far away. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Soon, it is up to Luna to protect those who have protected her-- even if it means the end of the loving, safe world she's always known. (Goodreads)

As you read, keep a reading log about the following:

- Take notes on what happens in the plot.
- Who are the main characters?
- What is the major conflict?
- What happens at the end of the story?
- Is the conflict resolved or is the problem solved?
- Draw a scene that shows the major conflict. Below your drawing, explain the action portrayed in your picture.
- If you could give advice to one of the major characters, what would it be?
- Copy a passage that you feel is very descriptive – a passage where you feel that you are actually a part of the scene. Underneath your quoted passage, explain why you chose it.
- What would be one question that you could ask Kelly Barnhill about her novel?
- Is this a fairy tale? Why or why not?
-

Grade 7

Required Reading in addition to Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson:



STARGIRL

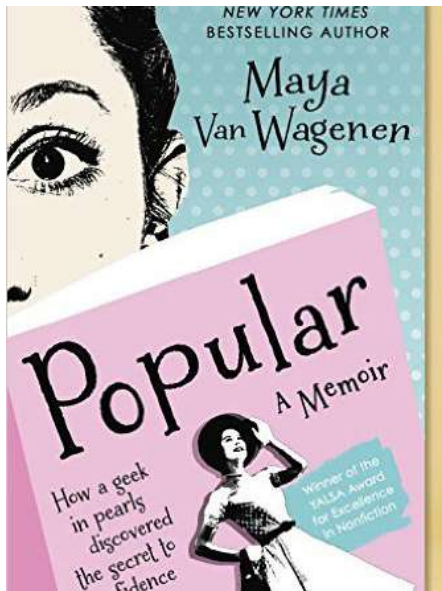
By Jerry Spinelli

Stargirl. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of “Stargirl, Stargirl”. She captures Leo Borlock’s heart with just one smile. She sparks at a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students at Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and desperation of first love.

Students are encouraged to take notes either in a notebook, a document, or on sticky-notes as they read, as well as underline key passages that they find important or interesting. There will be class discussion and assignments based on the book in September.

Grade 8

Required Reading in addition to Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson:



Popular: How a Geek in Pearls Discovered the Secret to Confidence, by Maya Van Wagenen

Stuck near the bottom of the social ladder at “pretty much the lowest level of people at school who aren’t paid to be here,” Maya has never been popular. But before starting eighth grade, she decides to begin a unique social experiment: spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell.

The real-life results are hilarious, painful, and filled with unexpected surprises. Told with humor and grace, Maya’s journey offers readers of all ages a thoroughly contemporary example of kindness and self-confidence, along with a better understanding of what it means to be popular.

Students are encouraged to take notes either in a notebook, a document, or on sticky-notes as they read, as well as underline key passages that they find important or interesting. There will be class discussion and assignments based on the book in September.

Recommended optional reading for 6th, 7th & 8th grades

After reading the required book(s) for your grade level, choose one of the following optional books to read.

And Then There Were None,
Agatha Christie

Anne of Green Gables,
L.M. Montgomery

Big Mouth and Ugly Girl,
Joyce Carol Oates

Deenie,
Judy Blume

Garden of Angels,
Lurlene McDaniels

Hero,
S.L. Rottman

Island of the Blue Dolphins,
Scott O'Dell

Little Women,
Louisa May Alcott

Lockdown,
Walter Dean Myers

Millicent Min, Girl Genius,
Lisa Yee

Mind's Eye,
Paul Fleischman

October Sky,
Homer H. Hickam, Jr.

Radiance,
Alyson Noel

Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry,
M. Taylor

Running Out of Time,
Margaret Peterson Haddix

Shadow Spinner,
Susan Fletcher

Silent to the Bone,
E.L. Konigsburg

The Devil's Arithmetic,
Jane Yolen

The Face on the Milk Carton,
Caroline Cooney

The Five People You Meet in Heaven,
Mitch Albom

The Girls Get Even,
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

The Lemonade War,
Jacqueline Davies

The Messenger,
Lois Lowry

Ties That Bind, Ties That Break,
Lensey Namioka

Whispers from the Dead,
Joan Lowery Nixon

Year of Impossible Goodbyes,
Sook Nyo Choi