

## CLARENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING

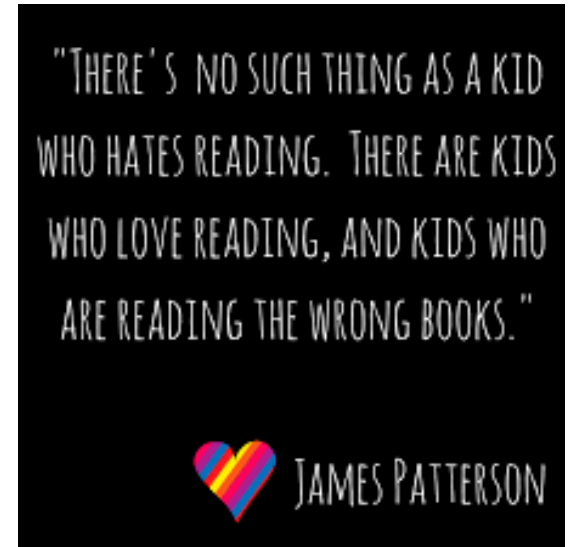
The summer is upon us, and finally the weather is warm. After a rigorous (and highly unusual!) academic year, it's time for us to rest and relax, and what better way to do that than with the help of a good book? Like other muscles in the body, it's crucial to keep the brain active as well. Reading is a great way to strengthen your mental muscles during these summer months.

Research tells us that you need to read during the summer to maintain your independent reading levels. More importantly, reading a great book is F.U.N. To that end, the ELA team at Clarence Middle School has created a list of *Highly Recommended Books* and a list of *Other Books We Love*... and middle schoolers love. These are the tried and true favorites, and there might even be one or two *WE* read when we were in middle school! You're welcome to go rogue and choose books you don't see on the list, too. We're good with that! All we ask is one thing: This summer, relax and unwind with a great book - or two!!! (No notes required!)

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you this fall. Can't wait to talk about all the great books you've read!

The ELA Team at Clarence Middle School

### Highly Recommended Books by Grade (Summaries Follow)



Incoming GRADE 6	Incoming GRADE 7	Incoming GRADE 8
<i>Fish in a Tree</i> (Lynda Mullaly Hunt)	<i>Found</i> (Margaret Peterson Haddix)	<i>The Crossover</i> (Kwame Alexander)
<i>Lawn Boy</i> (Gary Paulsen)	<i>Hoot</i> (Carl Hiaasen)	<i>Girl, Stolen</i> (April Henry)
<i>So B. It</i> (Sarah Weeks)	<i>Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark</i> (Ridley Pearson)	<i>Prisoner B-3087</i> (Alan Gratz)
<i>Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer</i> (John Grisham)	<i>Ungifted</i> (Gordon Korman)	<i>Red Queen</i> (Victoria Aveyard)




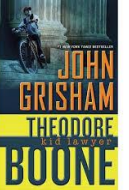
## Other Books We LOVE...and so do our students! (Summaries Follow)




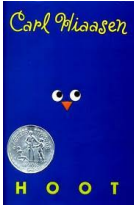
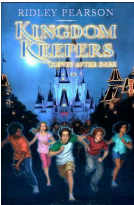

\*To determine if a book is appropriate for you, consult [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org) or read reviews on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com).

<p><b>Mrs. Chriswell:</b>            ~<i>Eight Keys</i> (Suzanne LaFleur)            ~<i>Restart</i> (Gordon Korman)            ~<i>Class Dismissed</i> (Allan Woodrow)</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Matteson:</b>            ~<i>Freak the Mighty</i> (Rodman Philbrick)            ~<i>Save Me a Seat</i> (Sarah Weeks)            ~<i>Schooled</i> (Gordon Korman)</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Mohr:</b>            ~<i>The Giver</i> (Lois Lowry)</p>
<p><b>Mr. Herbold:</b>            ~<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> (Jacqueline Woodson)            ~<i>Chains</i> (Laurie Halse Anderson)            ~<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> (Wilson Rawls)</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Kolek:</b>            ~<i>Because of Mr. Terupt</i> (Rob Buyea)</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Zwolinski:</b>            ~<i>Walk Two Moons</i> (Sharon Creech)</p>
<p><b>Mrs. Elibol:</b>            ~<i>Out of My Mind</i> (Sharon Draper)            ~<i>Projekt 1065</i> (Alan Gatz)            ~<i>The Testing</i> (Joelle Charbonneau)</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Heim:</b>            ~<i>The Candymakers</i> (Wendy Mass)</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Rook:</b>            ~<i>Every Soul a Star</i> (Wendy Mass)            ~<i>Shouting at the Rain</i> (Lynda Mullaly Hunt)            ~<i>Wonder</i> (R.J. Palacio)</p>
<p><b>Mrs. Dietz:</b>            ~<i>Flipped</i> (Wendelin Van Draanen)</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Lilac:</b>            ~<i>Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie</i> (David Lubar)            ~<i>Notes From the Midnight Driver</i> (Jordan Sonnenblick)</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Pukalo:</b>            ~<i>Counting by 7s</i> (Holly Goldberg Sloan)            ~<i>The Book Thief</i> (Markus Zusak)            ~<i>Red Thread Sisters</i> (Carol Antoinette Peacock)</p>
<p><b>Mrs. Bork:</b>            ~<i>Ghost</i> (Jason Reynolds)            ~<i>The War that Saved My Life</i> (Kimberly Brubaker Bradley)</p>	<p>GREAT SPORTS AUTHORS: Mike Lupica and Tim Green            GREAT DYSTOPIAN AUTHORS: Suzanne Collins, Veronica Roth, Ally Condie, and Jeanne DuPrau            GREAT SCI FI/FANTASY AUTHORS: J.R.R. Tolkien, Rick Riordan, and J.K. Rowling, of course!            Prefer TRUE stories or NONFICTION? Read about a person or subject you're interested in!</p>	

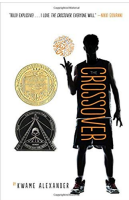

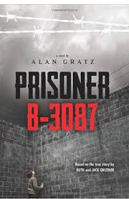

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR INCOMING SIXTH GRADERS:

	<p><b><i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt</b></p> <p>Ally has always been good at drawing, but she has a secret: She never quite learned how to read. Instead, she came up with a series of clever stalls and distractions to get out of it. But now, she has a new teacher, Mr. Daniels, more attentive than most, who seems determined to meet her where she is and find an alternate path to learning. But with other kids such as Shay always bullying and the lifelong shame Ally has felt about what she sees as her shortcomings, she's not sure if it's possible to ever "cure dumb." (Schneider Family Book Award 2016; some name-calling and schoolyard-variety violence)</p>
	<p><b><i>Lawn Boy</i> by Gary Paulsen</b></p> <p>Things get out of hand when a neighbor convinces a boy (no name) to expand his summer lawn mowing business. One of his customers, an aging hippie day trader named Arnold, gives the boy advice on running his business, and invests his money for him. Soon the boy has more than a dozen employees, a wad of money, an interest in a prize fighter, and a problem with a protection racket. (2009 Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award)</p>
	<p><b><i>So B. It</i> by Sarah Weeks</b></p> <p>Although she lives an unconventional lifestyle with her mentally disabled mother and their dotting neighbor, Bernadette, Heidi has a lucky streak that has a way of pointing her in the right direction. When a mysterious word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi's thirst for the truth leads her on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past. (Best Book for Young Adults 2005)</p>
	<p><b><i>Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer</i> by John Grisham</b></p> <p>In the small city of Strattenburg, there are many lawyers, and though he's only thirteen years old, Theo Boone thinks he's one of them. Theo knows every judge, policeman, court clerk—and a lot about the law. He dreams of being a great trial lawyer, of a life in the courtroom. But Theo finds himself in court much sooner than expected. Because he knows so much—maybe too much—he is suddenly dragged into the middle of a sensational murder trial. A cold-blooded killer is about to go free, and only Theo knows the truth. The stakes are high, but Theo won't stop until justice is served. (Young Reader's Choice Award 2013; mild references to violence)</p>

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR INCOMING SEVENTH GRADERS:

	<p><b><i>Found</i> by Margaret Peterson Haddix</b></p> <p>Thirteen-year-old Jonah has always known he's adopted; Chip learns of his adoption when both friends start receiving threatening letters labeling them "the missing". They realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.</p> <p>(first novel in a series of four; Top 10–ALA Best Books for Young Adults; Young Adult Awards in various states)</p>
	<p><b><i>Hoot</i> by Carl Hiaasen</b></p> <p>Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. These young environmental conservationists lead their readers through a hilarious tale and set a great example as they develop friendships and save the world. (Newbery Honor Book 2003; mild violence and swearing)</p>
	<p><b><i>Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark</i> by Ridley Pearson</b></p> <p>Five teens are selected to be Holographic Hosts at Florida's Disney World. Holograms of these teens lead visitors through the Magic Kingdom, giving visitors information. Life is fine until they discover that at night while they sleep, they become both hologram and human. Their holograms are lured back into the Magic Kingdom at night by a retired park Imagineer who convinces them to fight against the evil Overtakers, who are trying to take control of the Magic Kingdom and eventually the world. Cameos from some of Disney's famous characters include Maleficent from Disney's <i>Sleeping Beauty</i>, pirates from <i>Pirates of the Caribbean</i>, and the cute dolls from <i>It's a Small World</i>. (Family Choice Award 2013)</p>
	<p><b><i>Ungifted</i> by Gordon Korman</b></p> <p>Middle-school troublemaker Donovan Curtis figures he's doomed when one of his pranks goes spectacularly bad. But instead, there's an administrative mix-up, and he's sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, the district's school for the gifted. Donovan knows quite well he's "ungifted," but genius school is a good place to hide from the superintendent's wrath. Donovan, the brainiacs, and Donovan's delinquent pals ensure that things are never the same at the academy again. (Young Readers' Awards from multiple states; some mild crude language)</p>


## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR INCOMING EIGHTH GRADERS:

	<p><b><i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander</b></p> <p>12-year-old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood - he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious tale of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize that breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family. (2015 John Newbery Medal and 2015 Coretta Scott King Award Honor)</p>
	<p><b><i>Girl, Stolen</i> by April Henry</b></p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Cheyenne, blinded in an accident that killed her mother three years earlier, has pneumonia. As she sleeps in the back of her stepmother's car, Griffin steals it, inadvertently kidnapping her. Once Griffin's car-thief father learns that Cheyenne's father is a wealthy executive at Nike, he decides to demand ransom. Griffin is torn between loyalty to his father and the desire to protect Cheyenne. (Black-Eyed Susan Award, among others; some references to adult situations)</p>
	<p><b><i>Prisoner B-3087</i> by Alan Gratz</b></p> <p>Survive. At any cost. Yanek Gruener is a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland when the Nazis invade. Everything he has and everyone he loves is brutally taken from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner, his arm tattooed with the number B-3087. Forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another as World War II rages around him, Yanek encounters evil he could never have imagined - and yet finds surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror. Based on the astonishing true story of one extraordinary boy. (YALSA 2014 Best Fiction for Young Adults Award; Holocaust and WWII-related violence and topics)</p>
	<p><b><i>Red Queen</i> by Victoria Aveyard</b></p> <p>This is a world divided by blood - red or silver. The Reds are commoners, ruled by a Silver elite in possession of superhuman powers. And to Mare Barrow, a seventeen-year-old Red girl from the poverty-stricken Stilts, it seems like nothing will ever change. That is, until she finds herself working in the Silver Palace. Here, surrounded by the people she hates the most, Mare discovers that, despite her red blood, she possesses a deadly power of her own, one that threatens to destroy the balance of power. This is a world of betrayal and lies, and Mare has entered a dangerous dance - Reds against Silvers, prince against prince, and Mare against her own heart. (2015 Amazon.com Best Books of the Year, among others; some battle violence)</p>



**...AND ALL THE REST OF OUR FAVORITES!**

<b><i>Because of Mr. Terupt</i></b> Rob Buyea	It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn't let them get away with much...until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything - and everyone.
<b><i>The Book Thief</i></b> Markus Zusak	In 1939 Nazi Germany, Liesel finds <i>The Gravedigger's Handbook</i> - her first act of book thievery. Soon she is stealing more books from Nazi book burnings - and things become even more dangerous when her foster family takes in a Jew and hides him in their basement.
<b><i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i></b> Jacqueline Woodson	This beautiful book tells the childhood story of the author in verse. Raised in both South Carolina and New York, she never felt quite at home. It shares her joy at finding her voice through writing, despite the fact she struggled as a reader in school.
<b><i>The Candymakers</i></b> Wendy Mass	Logan, Miles, Daisy, and Philip are chosen to compete in a competition to see who can make the tastiest candy in the country. Logan is the Candymaker's son with a taste for chocolate. Miles is the boy who is allergic to everything. Daisy is a cheerful girl with a dark secret. Finally, Philip is the arrogant boy who scribbles everything in his notebook. Narrated by all four characters, <i>Candymakers</i> is an endearing story of friendship, acceptance and forgiveness.
<b><i>Chains</i></b> Laurie Halse Anderson	As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, are bought by a malicious NYC couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution.
<b><i>Class Dismissed</i></b> Allan Woodrow	Class 507 is the worst class Ms. Bryce has ever taught. And she would know - she's been teaching forever. They are so terrible that when a science experiment goes disastrously wrong (again), Ms. Bryce has had it and quits in the middle of the lesson. But through a mix-up, the school office never finds out, which means ...Class 507 is teacher-free!
<b><i>Counting by 7s</i></b> Holly Goldberg Sloan	Willow Chance is a 12-year-old genius who finds it comforting to count by 7s. Her world is tragically changed when both her parents are killed in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world, but this book is not a tragedy. Find out what happens on her fascinating journey.

<p><b><i>Eight Keys</i></b> Suzanne LaFleur</p>	<p>Elise Bertrand has always lived with her loving aunt and uncle because her parents died when she was very young. Behind the house is a barn with eight mysteriously locked doors on the second floor that have always puzzled her. Soon after she turns twelve, Elise receives a key, which was left to her by her father. The key unlocks one of the eight doors, sending her on a journey of discovery about her family and herself.</p>
<p><b><i>Every Soul a Star</i></b> Wendy Mass</p>	<p>The lives of three kids come together in preparation for a solar eclipse. Ally has always been homeschooled and has grown up at the Moon Shadow Campground, the best place to view the eclipse. Enter Bree, an aspiring model and popular teenage girl, and Jack, a socially awkward artist and lover of science fiction. Told through the voices of each of these characters, we learn that sometimes we have to accept things we can't control, and in our efforts to make the best of situations, we can actually find true happiness.</p>
	
<p><b><i>Flipped</i></b> Wendelin Van Draanen</p>	<p>If you like Rom-coms, this is the book for you! This unique story has two alternating narrators and follows Juli and her long time crush, Bryce. She is head over heels for him until things change in 8th grade.</p>
<p><b><i>Freak the Mighty</i></b> Rodman Philbrick</p>	<p>Two very different boys come together to become unstoppable. Freak has a big brain trapped in a tiny frail body. Max's body has always seemed to grow faster than his mind. He feels dumb, and it doesn't help that people are afraid of him. As the two join forces to become "Freak the Mighty" they encounter both lifelong lessons as well as epic and suspenseful adventures.</p>
<p><b><i>Ghost</i></b> Jason Reynolds</p>	<p>Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with explosive personalities clash when they are chosen for an elite middle school track team - a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together.</p>
<p><b><i>The Giver</i></b> Lois Lowry</p>	<p>This science-fiction story is about twelve-year old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal world. That is, until he's given the assignment as the Receiver, and he realizes how dark his world really is.</p>
<p><b><i>Notes from the Midnight Driver</i></b> Jordan Sonnenblick</p>	<p>Alex ends up in trouble with the law and is ordered to do community service at a senior center where he is assigned to Solomon Lewis, a "difficult" senior with plenty of attitude. As if life weren't complicated enough already! These two learn to deal with their past and each other in ways that are entertaining and will have you laughing out loud.</p>

***Out of My Mind***  
Sharon Draper



Imagine having so much to say and no way to communicate it. That's the problem for Melody, who can't talk, walk, or write, but she has an ability no one knows about until a new device changes her life forever. I cheered for her, cried for her, and LOVED the characters in this book!

***Projekt 1065***  
Alan Gratz

What could be scarier than being an Irish boy living in Nazi Germany and finding out your parents are part of a spy network? The answer is becoming a part of that spy network, too. Michael puts his life in danger by joining the Hitler Youth...and then working against it in this action-packed story.

***Red Thread Sisters***  
Carol Antoinette Peacock

Eleven-year-old Wen has just been adopted by an American family. Life should be perfect, but all she can think about is her best friend, Shu Ling, left behind in the Chinese orphanage. Wen must find a family for her, and time is running out.

***Restart***  
Gordon Korman

*Restart* is the story of a kid with a messy past who has to figure out what it means to get a clean start. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again...starting with his own name. It ends up not only a question of who Chase is - it's a question of who he was...and who he's going to be.

***Save Me a Seat***  
Sarah Weeks

Joe and Ravi are very different, but are suffering very similar fates at school. Joe has lived here all this life but is struggling to find friends since his best friend moved away, and Ravi just moved here from India. Both are trying to figure out where they fit in. Can their common enemy draw them together? This story is told through the course of a week, through multiple characters' perspectives.

***Schooled***  
Gordon Korman

Cap was raised alone and homeschooled by his grandmother until tragic events led him to land in eighth grade and wind up as the most clueless Class President of all time. Each chapter, told from the perspective of one of multiple characters, is both humorous and heartfelt, showing how one person can influence a community, and how each person needs community.

***Shouting at the Rain***  
Linda Mullaly Hunt



"There are two kinds of people. Those who like surprises, and those who don't. I don't." This is how Delsie begins her story set on Cape Cod. Through their escapades, Delsie, Brandy and Ronan learn how to tell the difference between anger and sadness, what it means to be broken and made whole, and how even in the face of abandonment, we can still find acceptance and love. Together, they realize how true friends treat each other, and they find the strength to weather all kinds of storms life throws at them.



<p><b><i>Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie</i></b> David Lubar</p>	<p>Scott is a freshman in high school learning to navigate his new surroundings, social status, and crush. He gets the news that his mother is pregnant while he tries to keep his sanity throughout all of this. Scott records all of the entertaining details of this journey for his sibling's -and your- enjoyment.</p>
<p><b><i>The Testing</i></b> Joelle Charbonneau</p>	<p>This is an exciting dystopian novel for kids who love The Hunger Games and Divergent series. The main character, Cia, undergoes a series of competitions to see if she has what it takes to make it to the next level in a story that kept me on the edge of my seat!</p>
<p><b><i>Walk Two Moons</i></b> Sharon Creech</p>	<p>Salamanca Tree Hiddle is taking a trip with her grandparents from Euclid, Ohio, to Lewiston, Idaho, to visit her mother. Along the way, Salamanca, or Sal, tells her grandparents the story of her best friend, Phoebe Winterbottom, whose mother, like Sal's, unexpectedly decides to leave home.</p>
<p><b><i>The War That Saved My Life</i></b> Kimberly Brubaker Bradley</p>	<p>In London just before World War II, Ada doesn't know how old she is, her last name, or much about anything in life outside the room where her mother has kept her in terrible conditions. As a possible German invasion looms, the kids are evacuated to the countryside.</p>
<p><b><i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i></b> Wilson Rawls</p>	<p>An exciting tale of love and adventure in the Ozark Mountains. Billy and his coon hounds - Old Dan &amp; Little Ann - range the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country, trying to be the best hunting team in the valley.</p>
<p><b><i>Wonder</i></b> R. J. Palacio</p>	<p>Told from multiple voices, Wonder is the story of fifth grade Auggie Pullman, a boy with a severe facial deformity, who changes his own life and the lives of the people around him. We follow his journey to a new school through his eyes, and the eyes of new kids he meets, his sister, and his sister's boyfriend. Through these characters, we learn we all have our own set of issues, and that's what makes us human. Auggie's courage, honesty, and sincerity teach us all to look beyond the surface to find what's truly important - what's in our hearts.</p>

Many (but not all) of the books are available for **FREE** on the CMS Library's **OVERDRIVE ACCOUNT**. Here's how to get there!



**OPTION 1:**

1. Go to [clarenceschools.org](http://clarenceschools.org).
2. Under the **SCHOOLS** tab, choose Clarence Middle School.
3. Under the **ACADEMICS** tab, choose Library Media Center.
4. Select **OverDrive** (left side) and then open the **OverDrive Catalogue**.
5. Use your Clarence login info (first name.lastname@students.clarenceschools.org plus your usual password).

**OPTION 2:**

1. Type in [clarence.lib.overdrive.com](http://clarence.lib.overdrive.com) or click on this link: [CMS OverDrive Direct Link](#)
2. Use your Clarence login info (first name.lastname@students.clarenceschools.org plus your usual password).

**THEN...** search and **BORROW** a book. To read, go to your Checkouts page (under Account). From there, click the Read or Listen button to open the book in your browser. Here is a link to directions for how to get started with OverDrive in your browser or using the OverDrive App: [How to Start Using OverDrive](#)

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Monkey See, Monkey Do...

Children's Bookstore

...the little bookstore with big ideas

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Monkey See, Monkey Do...Children's Bookstore is a locally-owned bookstore at 9060 Main Street, Clarence, NY. We have been in business for the past 11 years, providing books and literacy-based programming to our WNY community.

We are thrilled to work with local schools to provide summer reading books to school children. To order books, simply call the bookstore, 204-8417 or email: [books@monkeysread.com](mailto:books@monkeysread.com) with your book list. We will provide families 20% off their summer reading book orders. Families are welcome to pick-up their book order curbside at our bookstore.

Thank you for supporting a locally-owned bookstore.

Warmly –  
Kim

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Co-Founder of the WNY Children's Book Expo – DREAM. INSPIRE. EXPLORE. IMAGINE. CELEBRATE.

