



June 2019

Dear Amani Family,

Reading can be one of the many fun activities children choose to fill their summer time. At Amani, we expect our scholars to create good habits now to become life-long readers. Please see below for the summer reading assignment.

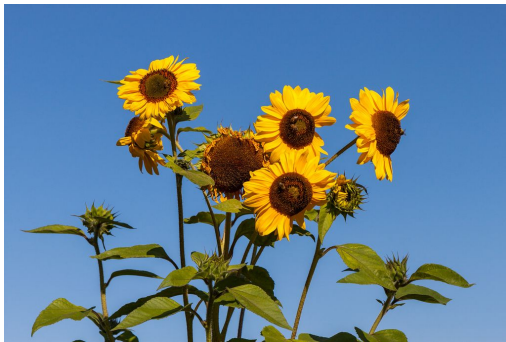
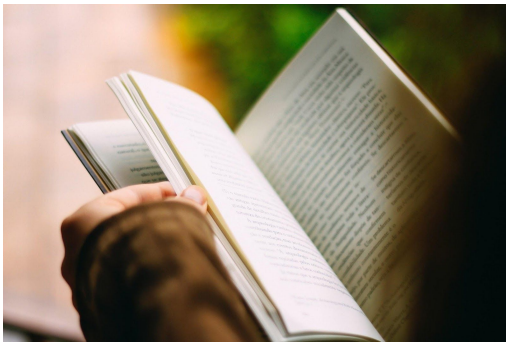
All titles can be found at the **Mount Vernon Public Library** at 28 South First Avenue - Mount Vernon, New York 10550. You can also purchase new or used copies through Amazon.

The summer assignment is due Monday, September 9th and will be counted as a homework grade for their ELA class.

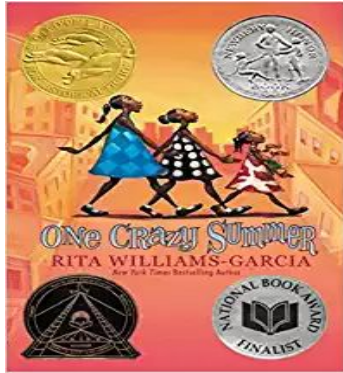
Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a fun, safe summer and happy reading!

Mrs. Jane Tulley  
Humanities Instructional Coach  
JTulley@amanicharter.org

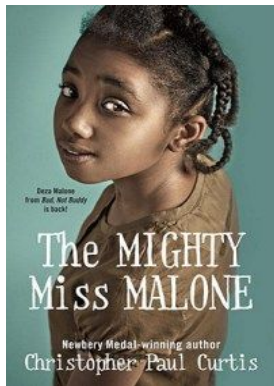


**Entering 5th Grade Reading Assignment**  
**Please choose ONE from the following titles:**



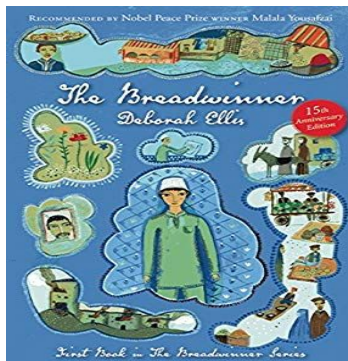
**1. One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia**

Through the eyes of eleven-year-old Delphine, readers experience life in Oakland, California, in 1968, during the height of the Black Panther movement. Delphine and her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, spend a summer in Oakland visiting their estranged mother who sends them to spend their days at a camp run by the Black Panthers. Through it all, they build confidence in themselves and their relationships with others as they learn to challenge and respond to social issues in the community.



**2. The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis**

Deza is the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, singled out by teachers for a special path in life. But the Great Depression hit Gary hard, and there are no jobs for black men. When her beloved father leaves to find work, Deza, Mother, and her older brother Jimmie go in search of him, and end up in a Hooverville outside Flint, Michigan. The twists and turns of their story reveal the devastation of the Depression and prove that Deza truly is the Mighty Miss Malone.



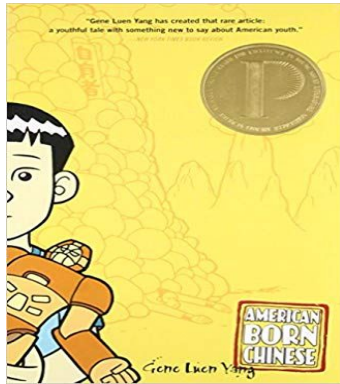
**3. The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis**

Readers will explore the Taliban influence on the Middle East through the eyes of multiple young women, specifically how the Taliban presence in Afghanistan violated the human rights of many Afghanistan citizens. Students will also be challenged to think about women's rights, especially in regard to education and freedom, and how both were constantly at risk under Taliban rule.

**Writing Assignment:**

**Prompt:** The narrator's point of view often affects the way stories are told. How does the author use point of view to show the main character's internal conflict? Be sure to use TWO details from the story to support your response.

Entering 6th Grade Reading Assignment  
Please choose ONE from the following titles:



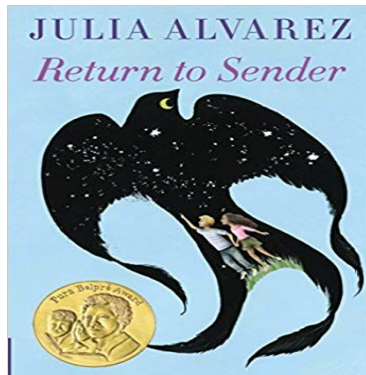
**1. American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang**

This graphic novel weaves together the challenges presented by racial stereotypes and the desire to fit in. Jin Wang starts at a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn't want to be associated with him. Jin just wants to be an all-American boy, because he's in love with an all-American girl. American Born Chinese is a 2006 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature.



**2. Keeping Score by Linda Sue Park**

Both Maggie and her brother, Joey-Mick, were named after baseball great Joe D'Maggio. But they aren't Yankee fans. Their team is the Brooklyn Dodgers. And although Maggie doesn't play baseball, she knows the game. She can recite stats, understands complicated plays, cheers when the Dodgers win and suffers when they lose. But even with Maggie's support, the Dodgers fail to win the Series, season after season. Nothing Maggie does helps. Maybe it does not make any difference at all. Or maybe it does.



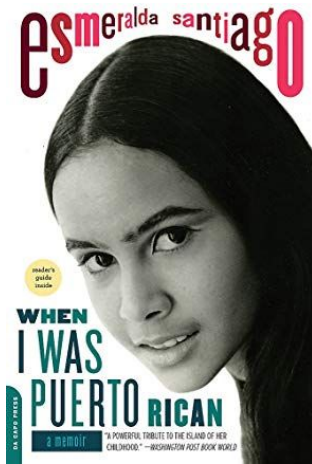
**3. Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez**

After Tyler's father is injured in a tractor accident, his family is forced to hire migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure. Tyler isn't sure what to make of these workers. Are they undocumented? And what about the three daughters, particularly Mari, the oldest, who is proud of her Mexican heritage but also increasingly connected to her American life. Her family lives in constant fear of being discovered by the authorities and sent back to the poverty they left behind in Mexico. Can Tyler and Mari find a way to be friends despite their differences?

**Writing Assignment:**

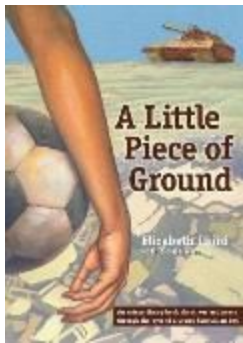
**Prompt:** What was a major decision or action that the main character made and what was the result or consequence? Write an extended response of three paragraphs on the result or consequence of a major decision or action that the main character made as presented in the novel. Be sure to use details from the story to support your response.

Entering 7th Grade Reading Assignment  
Please choose ONE from the following titles:



**1. When I was Puerto Rican by Esmeralda Santiago**

Santiago's childhood in Puerto Rico was filled with tenderness and contention, Caribbean beauty as well as poverty. Santiago's story offers an insight into the identity conflict that Puerto Rican Americans find themselves in. Is Negi (Santiago's nickname for "negrita") black or white? Is she rural or urban? Is she Puerto Rican or American? When her mother, Mami, leaves for New York with her seven (soon to be eleven) children, Esmeralda, the oldest, learns to overcome new social rules, a new language, and eventually a new identity. In this coming of age memoir, Santiago captures her journey from the barrio to Brooklyn, from helping her mother at the welfare office to high honors at Harvard University.



**2. A Little Piece of Ground by Elizabeth Laird**

Twelve-year-old Karim Aboudi and his family are trapped in their Ramallah home by a strict curfew. In response to a Palestinian suicide bombing, the Israeli military subjects the West Bank town to a virtual siege. Meanwhile, Karim, trapped at home with his teenage brother and fearful parents, longs to play football (soccer) with his friends. But in this city there's constant danger, even for schoolboys. And when Israeli soldiers find Karim outside during the next curfew, it seems impossible that he will survive.



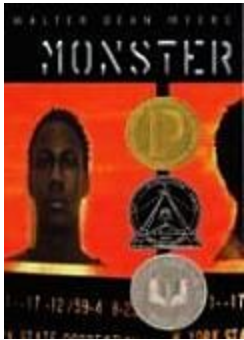
**3. The Skin I'm In by Sharon G. Flake**

Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher, whose face is blotchy with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?

**Writing Assignment:**

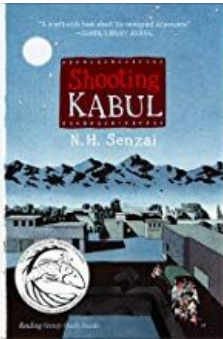
**Prompt:** How does a major decision or action that the main character made help construct his or her identity? Write an extended response of four to five paragraphs on how this decision or action help construct the main character's identity. Be sure to use details from the story to support your response.

**Entering 8th Grade Reading Assignment**  
**Please choose ONE from the following titles:**



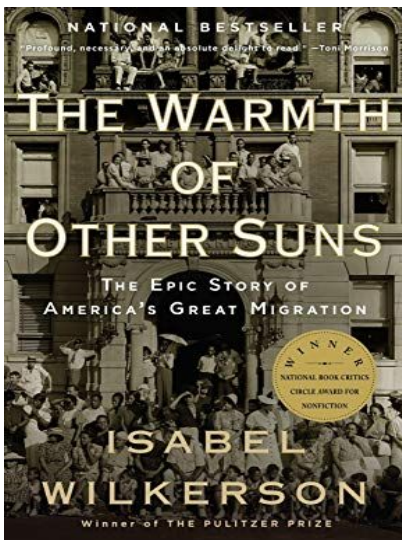
**1. Monster by Walter Dean Myers**

Steve Harmon is a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.



**2. Shooting Kabul by N. H. Senzai**

In the summer of 2001, twelve year old Fadi's parents make the difficult decision to illegally leave Afghanistan and move the family to the United States. When their underground transport arrives at the rendezvous point, chaos ensues, and Fadi is left dragging his younger sister Mariam through the crush of people. But Mariam accidentally lets go of his hand and becomes lost in the crowd, just as Fadi is snatched up into the truck. With Taliban soldiers closing in, the truck speeds away, leaving Mariam behind.



**3. The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson**

Between 1915 and 1970 more than six million African-Americans moved out of the South to cities across the Northeast, Midwest, and West. This relocation—called the Great Migration—resulted in major demographic shifts across the United States. With stunning historical detail, Wilkerson tells this story through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago, where she achieved quiet blue-collar success and, in old age, voted for Barack Obama when he ran for an Illinois Senate seat; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem, where he endangered his job fighting for civil rights, saw his family fall, and finally found peace in God; and Robert Foster, who left Louisiana in 1953 to pursue a medical career.

**Writing Assignment:**

**Prompt:** The main character in the story makes sacrifices. Discuss one of these sacrifices and the most important results of this sacrifice. Write an extended response of four to five paragraphs on how the results of this sacrifice. Use details from the story to support your response.