



60 South Third Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10550  
914-668-2553  
914-699-0839 fax



Summer 2020

Dear Amani Family,

Research shows students need to read during the summer to maintain their independent reading levels. In addition, we are asking students to practice important English Language Arts skills at their own pace during the summer break in order to sharpen their critical thinking.

1. **Nearpod (grades 5-8)**--student-paced lessons. *See the table below for a list of assignments.* All Summer Assignments are due on Monday, September 7th, and will count towards the first Homework grade for the 1st Quarter in ELA.
2. **Summer Reading (grades 5-8)**--Hoopla. *See the table below for a list of book choices.* In order to ensure that all scholars have safe access to summer reading during the Covid-19 pandemic, we recommend the site **Hoopla** for unlimited downloads and no waiting list. All you need is a valid library card. <http://mountvernonpubliclibrary.org/teens>.
  - Register for an account by visiting **hoopladigital.com** or using the hoopla app on your iOS or Android mobile device and click on Sign Up. You will need to provide your Amani email address, create a password, and have your library card number. The free mobile app can be found in the Apple App Store or on the Google Play Store.
  - Easily browse titles on your computer or mobile device by clicking Browse and choosing the Music, Movies, Audiobooks, Comics, eBooks, or Television tab.
  - You can also search for a specific title by clicking on the Search box and typing in your title or keyword.
3. **Reading Assignment (grades 5-8)**--Reading Log. *Complete the reading log worksheet below.*

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Wishing you a wonderful summer!

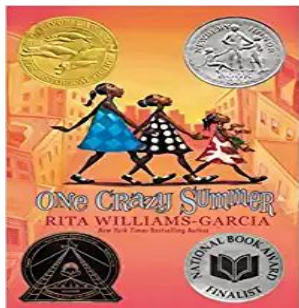
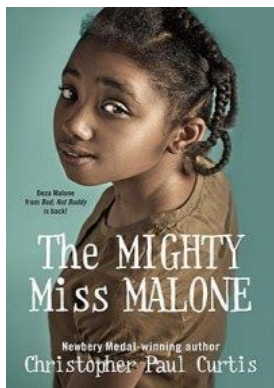
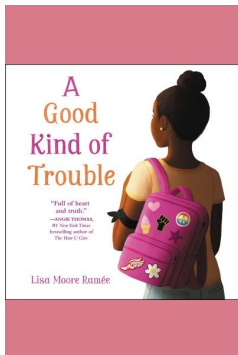
Sincerely,

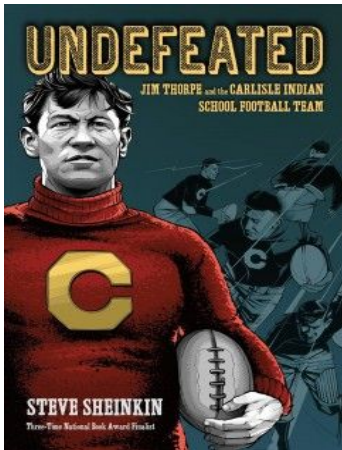
Mrs. Jane Tulley  
Humanities Instructional Coach  
JTulley@amanicharter.org

## 1. Nearpod (grades 5-8)-student-paced lessons.

Week of Focus	Incoming 5th Google Classroom	Incoming 6th Google Classroom	Incoming 7th Google Classroom	Incoming 8th Google Classroom
July 6th- Vocabulary	1. Big Word: <i>Energy</i> 2. Big Word: <i>Perseverance</i>	1. Big Word: <i>Synthetic</i> 2. Big Word: <i>Organic</i>	1. Figures of Speech 2. Context Clues	1. SAT Vocabulary C words Review and Quiz 2. SAT Vocabulary S words Review and Quiz
July 13th-Writing	3. Your, You're	3. Correlative Conjugatives	3. Editing: <i>Hip Hop in New York</i>	3. Combining Sentences
July 20th- Nonfiction	4. Newsela: <i>Pyramids of Giza</i>	4. Newsela: <i>Freedom Rides of 1961</i>	4. Newsela: <i>What is Biodiversity?</i>	4. Newsela: <i>Fossil Fuels &amp; Pollution</i>
July 27th- Vocabulary	5. Big Word: <i>Calorie</i> 6. Skill Practice: <i>Identifying Sentences</i>	5. Big Word: <i>Slither</i> 6. Skill Builder: <i>Onomatopoeia</i>	5. Nature Vocabulary in Poems 6. Skill Builder: Adverbs and Adjectives	5. SAT Vocabulary E words Review and Quiz 6. SAT Vocabulary Q words Review and Quiz
August 3rd-Writing	7. But, So	7. Irregular past tense verbs	7. Advanced Sentence Combinations	7. Since versus Because
August 10th-Literature	8. "California Lee and Me"	8. "The Most Wonderful Thing in the Kingdom"	8. "Local Mailman"	8. Poetry: Tone and Mood
August 17th- Language Skills	9. Skill Practice: <i>Commonly Confused Words</i>	9. Skill Builder: <i>Homophones</i>	9. Skill Builder: <i>Better &amp; Best, Worse &amp; Worst</i>	9. Skill Builder: <i>Passive Voice</i>
August 24th-Writing	10. Synonyms and Antonyms	10. Colons and Commas	10. Sentence Structure and Complexity	10. Participial Phrases

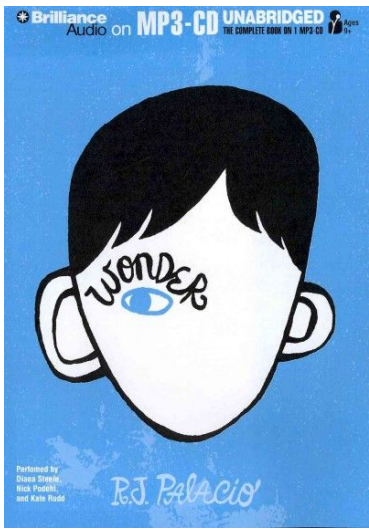
## 2.Summer Reading (grades 5-8)--Hoopla.

<b>Entering 5th Grade Reading Assignment</b> <b>Please choose <u>ONE</u> from the following titles:</b>	
	<p><b>1. One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia</b></p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><b>2. The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis</b></p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><b>3. A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee</b></p> <p>After attending a powerful protest, Shayla starts wearing an armband to school to support the Black Lives Matter movement, but when the school gives her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose between her education and her identity.</p>



#### 4. Undeclared by Steve Sheinkin

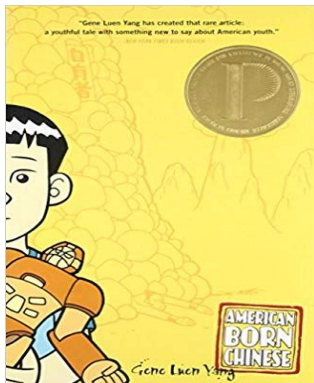
Native American Jim Thorpe became a super athlete and Olympic gold medalist. Indomitable coach Pop Warner was a football mastermind. In 1907 at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, they forged one of the winningest teams in American football history. Called "the team that invented football," they took on the best opponents of their day, defeating much more privileged schools in a series of breathtakingly close calls, genius plays, and bone-crushing hard work



#### 5. Wonder by R.j. Palacio

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

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



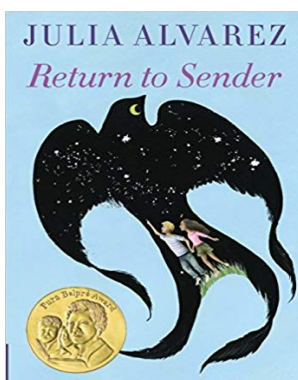
### 1. American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

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.



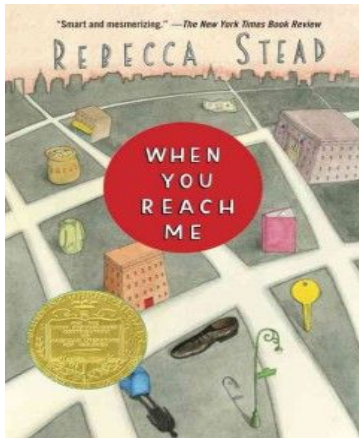
### 2. Keeping Score by Linda Sue Park

Both Maggie and her brother, Joey-Mick, were named after baseball great Joe DMaggio. 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 Maggies 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.



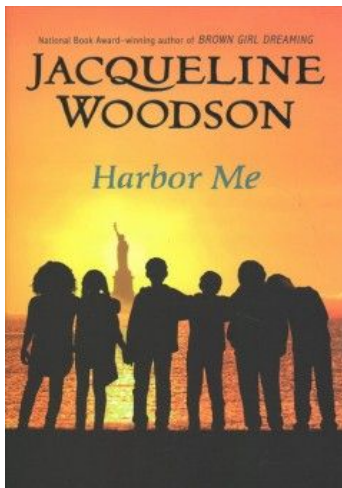
### 3. Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez

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?



#### 4. **When You Reach Me** by Rebecca Stead

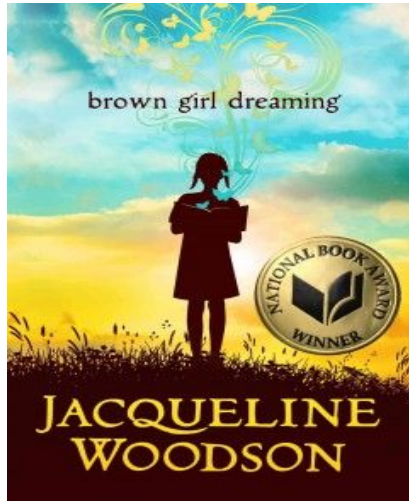
In the 1980s, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on a television game show, Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.



#### 5. **Harbor Me** by Jacqueline Woodson

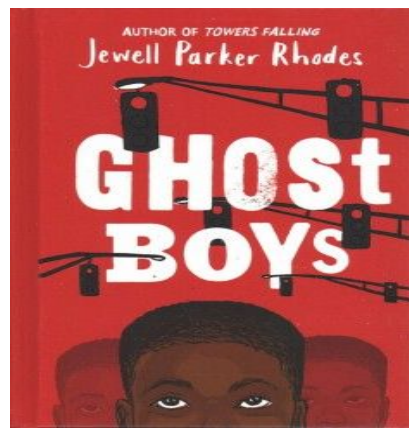
When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world

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



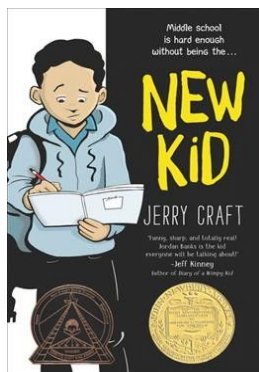
**1. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson**

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway 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.



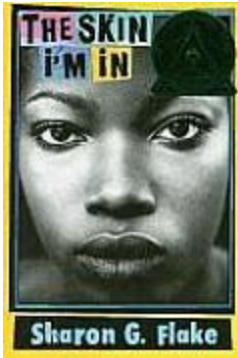
**2. Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes**

After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.



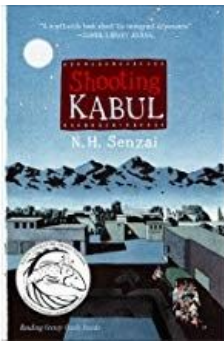
**3. New Kid by Jerry Craft**

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?



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

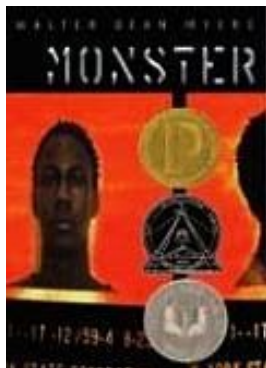
Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher, whose face is blotchy with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there 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?



#### 5. **Shooting Kabul** by N. H. Senzai

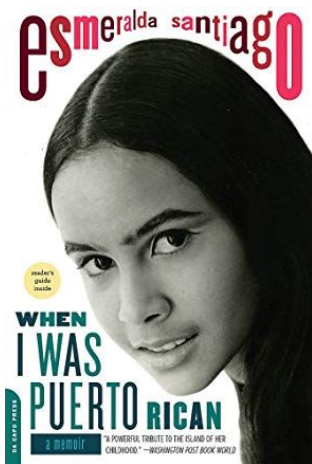
In the summer of 2001, twelve-year-old Fadi's parents make the difficult decision to illegally leave Afghanistan and move the family to the United States. When their underground transport arrives at the rendezvous point, chaos ensues, and Fadi is left dragging his younger sister Mariam through the crush 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.

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



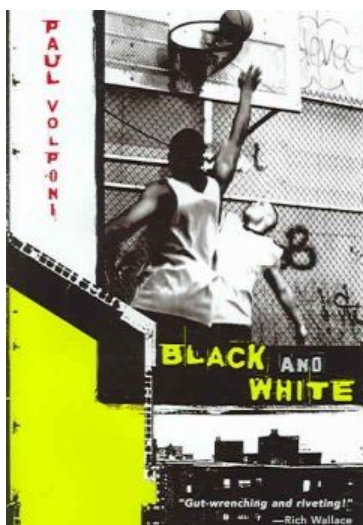
**1. Monster by Walter Dean Myers**

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.



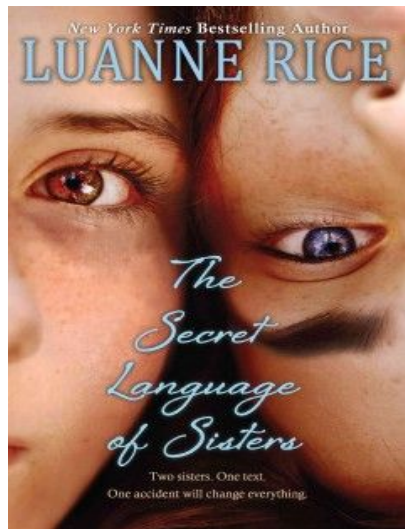
**2. When I Was Puerto Rican by Esmeralda Santiago**

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.



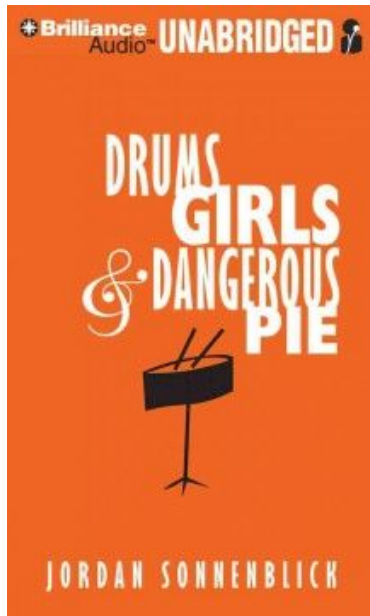
**3. Black And White by Paul Volponi**

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.



#### 4. The Secret Language of Sisters by Luanne Rice

Mathilda (Tilly), fourteen, and Ruth Anne (Roo), sixteen, are sisters and best friends in Connecticut, but when Roo crashes her car while texting she is confined to a hospital bed with "locked-in syndrome," aware of her surroundings, but apparently comatose--and Tilly must find a way to communicate with her sister, while dealing with her own sense of guilt.



#### 5. Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick

The life of eighth-grader Steven Alper, already complicated by his friendship with two girls and a prodigious talent for drumming, is turned upside down when his five-year-old brother Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia.

## 3. Reading Assignment--Reading Log

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Choose one title from the recommended summer reading list. As you read FIND 3 passages that made you think. Write the page number and quote the whole interesting passage (It Says). Write a response to the passage (I say) using ONE of the habits of proficient readers. You are to write a **minimum of SIX sentences**.

<b><u>Make a Prediction</u></b>	<b><u>Ask a Question</u></b>	<b><u>Clarify Something</u></b>	<b><u>Make a Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Make a Connection</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I predict that....</li> <li>• Reading this part makes me think that this (fill in the detail) is about to happen...</li> <li>• I think that....</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did...</li> <li>• What's this part about...</li> <li>• What would happen if...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now I understand...</li> <li>• This makes sense now..</li> <li>• At first I thought (fill in detail), but now I think...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is good because...</li> <li>• This is confusing because...</li> <li>• My favorite part so far is...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This reminds me of...</li> <li>• This is similar to...</li> <li>• This character makes me think of...</li> <li>• This setting reminds me of....</li> </ul>

It Says: (where in text did you find your answer?)	I say: (what are your thoughts/ideas about the answer?)
<b>Book Title:</b> _____ <b>Author:</b> _____	
Page No.: _____ Quote from text:	
Page No.: _____ Quote from text:	
Page No.: _____ Quote from text:	