



AMANI SUMMER CHALLENGE 2023: *Explore NY*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This challenge aims to keep students engaged in learning during the summer, and parents are strongly encouraged to participate. Studies show that engaged parents lead to better academic performance and confidence in facing challenges. Without opportunities for learning outside of the classroom, a child's progress may be hindered. Take advantage of the outlined tasks to have fun, grow, and bond while learning together.

Get Ready! Grab your camera, fill your water bottle, and put on your walking shoes!

Mission:

Visit at least 4 places on the list below, Ideally, 2 local and 2 outside of Westchester.

Feel free to visit more places and share your experience.

What's the benefit?

Parents: Amani has a strong commitment to transforming the mindset of students, families, and the community regarding the significance of education, exposure, and opportunities. Our mission is centered around equipping Mount Vernon students with the essential academic skills and critical thinking abilities needed for success. Critical thinking is nurtured through real-life experiences and exposure. It is in these moments that children learn problem-solving skills and encounter situations that challenge their existing knowledge.

Students: Once you have completed all four adventures and submitted them to your humanities teacher, you will receive your first grade for Humanities and STEM! What an incredible way to

start the 2023-2024 academic year by achieving a perfect 100% as your initial grade in your Humanities and STEM classes! All you have to do is maintain the same level of dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year to keep the momentum going!

- **Adventure 1: One Humanities local* adventure**
- **Adventure 2: One STEM local* adventure**
- **Adventure 3: One Humanities non-local** adventure**
- **Adventure 4: One STEM non-local** adventure**

*local: within Westchester County

**non-local: outside of Westchester County

Humanities: ELA, Social Studies, etc. are subjects that explore human culture, experiences, and how we understand the world around us. They focus on studying various aspects of human life, such as art, literature, history, and philosophy. By studying the humanities, we delve into the essence of human culture and gain insights into the human condition.

STEM: subjects such as Math and the Sciences, it is education that emphasizes hands-on, problem-based learning. It encourages students to actively engage in practical activities and solve real-world problems as a way to learn and apply their knowledge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Destinations

Note to user: Insert relevant photos, videos, or links so your teachers can visualize them. Be creative as possible.

Local STEM	Local Humanities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Young Naturalists Environmental Day Camp● Mount Vernon Public Library● Marine Education Center● Greenburgh Nature Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mount Vernon Public Library Events● Hudson River Museum● American Revolutionary Trail● Hudson Valley MOCA
Non-local STEM	Non-local Humanities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Intrepid, Sea, Air, & Space Museum Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● American Museum of Natural History● Wave Hill● Central Park

- [MoMath, National Museum of Mathematics](#)
- [Girls Who Code](#)
- [New York Hall of Science](#)
- [Skyscraper Museum](#)
- [Museum of the Moving Image](#)

- [Broadway Plays](#)
- [Morris-Jumel Mansion](#)
- [Bear Mountain State Park](#)

Best Practices

These are the finer details of our brand's core elements. Be guided by the easy-to-follow do's and don'ts when designing.

	Do's	Don'ts
Local & non-local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring a camera/document your trip • research the place you are visiting • have a plan, know what you want to do • Know the bus/train schedules • If walking, look at the weather the night before and prepare. • Make sure all your devices are charged • pack light • allow yourself to be present and enjoy the experience • have fun! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forget to do your research • overextend yourself • travel too far without a plan or preparation to stay overnight • overpack (especially trips that include lots of walking) • scroll on social media or spend time on your phone •

How to present your data and experience!

Document your experiences! Write your report

	Suggestions	Don'ts
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write a report on your experience and what you learned. Remember to include pictures of what you saw with yourself in some of them.• Create a slideshow showcasing what you learned (be detailed) and your pictures• Get REALLY creative and make a video/reel showing what you learned and saw!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't just take pictures• Don't forget to include your written report about what you learned. (It doesn't have to be a long essay, but a few paragraphs are expected)

Who to turn your project in to:

- **Within the 1st week of school (08/28/23 - 09/05/23)**

- Ms. Parande, MTSS Coordinator

It can be handed in or shared digitally to sparande@amanicharter.org

Name _____

Date _____

PODCAST PROJECT

POCAST TUTORIAL

Follow the directions below to start creating your podcast.

Step 1

- Once you are ready to record your episode go to: <https://online-voice-recorder.com/> and click the start recording button
- After you record your audio, save the file. It will download onto your computer

Step 2

- Go to: anchor.fm press the log in button on the upper right corner
- Login using the following information-
Username: _____ Password: _____

Step 3

- Press the "New Episode" button in the upper right-hand corner
- Beneath the "Save Episode" button, select the "click to upload or drag files" button. Upload your audio

Step 4

- Use the options on the left-hand side to add transitions and background music
- Once complete, press the "Save Episode" button

Step 5

- Give your episode a title and description
- Press "Next" to publish your podcast episode

Rising 5th Graders Summer Math Packets

Dear Parents,

Amani Public Charter School is committed to providing the best math education possible for your child. Due to the cumulative nature of mathematics, in order for your child to be successful in the coming school year, he/she must possess mastery of many concepts. For this reason, we have created a summer math packet to ensure your child is up to date on his/her prerequisite math skills. We encourage you to have fun with your child as they complete the activities in the choice board below.

The use of [Khan Academy](#) can be helpful for students to use. Here, your son/daughter will find tutorials and extra practice problems. Have him/her watch the tutorials and do the extra practice problems. This website will let your child know if he/she is doing the work correctly.

Rising 5th Graders Summer Mathematics Board

- Your goal is to earn at least 10 points each week. .
- Activities can be completed more than once.
- Keep five examples of what you do via pictures, videos, or artifacts to share with your 5th grade teacher once school starts.

Activities in this row are worth 1 point.	Think of 2 numbers between 20 and 50. Find all of the factor pairs for those numbers.	Practice adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing	Play math games on First In Math (access through ClassLink) for 15 minutes.	Ask someone to call out 4 numbers between 1 and 100. Tell them whether the number is prime or composite and explain how you know.
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Activities in this row are worth 2 points.	Write and illustrate a math story using fractions.	Create 5 fraction word problems. Draw a picture that shows the math.	Write about the math that you learned throughout the year. Which part was your favorite? Why?	Draw 5 shapes. Decide which types of angles you see.
Activities in this row are worth 3 points.	Write as many coin combinations as you can that equal \$1.00 using nickels, dimes, quarters, and pennies.	Write as many 2 by 2 division problems that you can. Check your work by using the area model .	Create a math game of your choice.	Play outside for 15 minutes. Count the number of vehicles that ride by. Multiply that number by 2, 5, and 10.

Summer is a perfect time to continue building and deepening math skills. [Zearn Math](#) is designed for use in a classroom, but students can continue to learn with Independent Digital Lessons over the summer. Zearn's Independent Digital Lessons can be used at home, and only require a computer or iPad, and internet connection.

You will be prompted to create "your class" and add students - simply add your child to your classroom, and you can start Zearning. Students can work in Zearn for 20 minutes (three times a week) to earn their goal of 10 points!

Parents check out this site to work with place value strategies used in the classroom:

<https://www.k-5mathteachingresources.com/Place-Value-Strategies.html>

Please complete your work packet and submit it digitally using the email information below - it is due August 25, 2023 and will count toward your first quarter grade.

Fifth Grade (Class of 2027)	Email summer@amanicharter.org
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If you cannot submit it digitally then you can bring a hard copy of your work to the school's main office.

Additionally, there will be a quiz on this material after students have had a chance to ask questions about anything they are still confused about. The quiz will happen after the first day of school. Please do your **best** work.

We hope you have a relaxing and safe summer and we look forward to meeting all of you in the fall! ☺

Sincerely,
Amani 5th Grade Math Teachers

SUMMER LITERACY PACKET 2023

LIST OF OUTCOMES:

- 1) Video (or Movie Trailer) of you and your friends/family playing Vocabulary Taboo for Tik Tok and our Amani media sites or
- 2) Video (or Movie Trailer) of you and your friends/family playing Vocabulary Pictionary Tik Tok and our Amani media sites
- 3) Remember i-Ready Wars and complete at least 1 Personalized Instruction i-Ready Lesson
- 4) Choose an i-Ready Summer Reading Novel at your level and complete a “Culminating Assignment” of your choice to show what you have read/learned, either a
 - a) Podcast or
 - b) Comic Strip/Graphic Novel

Your packet is due August 25, 2023

Amani Public Charter School Improving Vocabulary - 2023 ***Making Vocabulary Lists Come to Life - Amani Summer Packet***

The Summer Break is a great time for scholars to improve their reading comprehension by improving their vocabulary. Many people are used to the traditional way of studying vocabulary - memorizing the words and vocabulary tests. ***Research finds that writing out vocabulary words, looking them up, drawing pictures of them, putting the definition in your own words, and playing games with the vocabulary words/meanings are the best ways to remember the words.*** We have attached the vocabulary word lists for each grade level to this document. We suggest that you have your scholar do all of the above methods to learn the vocabulary words - writing them, looking them up, putting the meanings in their own words - and then we want your scholars to play games with their vocabulary words. Please play those games with them.

One game that you all can play with the vocabulary words is ***"Vocabulary Word Taboo."*** Taboo is a game where you have a target word (in this case it would be the vocabulary word) that you are trying to get people to guess. The target word appears at the top of the card and there are 4 to 5 words listed underneath it - the "taboo" words - that you cannot say when you are trying to get people to guess the target word (the vocabulary word). Oftentimes, these words can be synonyms or descriptive words (words used to describe the target word - please see the picture below). Have Marquis create some of the Vocabulary Taboo Cards because this will help him remember the vocabulary word. Also, as the parent, you should create some of the vocabulary taboo cards so Marquis can be surprised and not know all the answers when the family plays the game. The more people that play the game and the more cards you have then the better. Here is a YouTube video that describes the rules of the Taboo game: [How to Play Taboo](#).



Another vocabulary game that you can play which will get the whole family involved is ***Vocabulary Pictionary!*** Just like the game Pictionary - you will have to have big chart paper so

that everyone can see the pictures that are drawn. Have someone (who isn't playing) write the vocabulary words or choose vocabulary words already written on index cards. Split up into teams. Each team has a player come up and draw a card while a player from the other team watches. People have to guess the vocabulary word from the drawing. Remember - no gestures. Here are some YouTube videos to describe the game: [How to Play Pictionary in Class - Quick Tutorial!](#) and [How to Play Pictionary](#)



If you already own either of these board games then feel free to just create additional cards with the vocabulary words and add them to your Taboo and Pictionary games.

Fun Challenge - Video/Tik Tok

- 1) Make a video of yourself and your friends or family playing Vocabulary Taboo
- 2) Make a video of yourself and your friends or family playing Vocabulary Pictionary

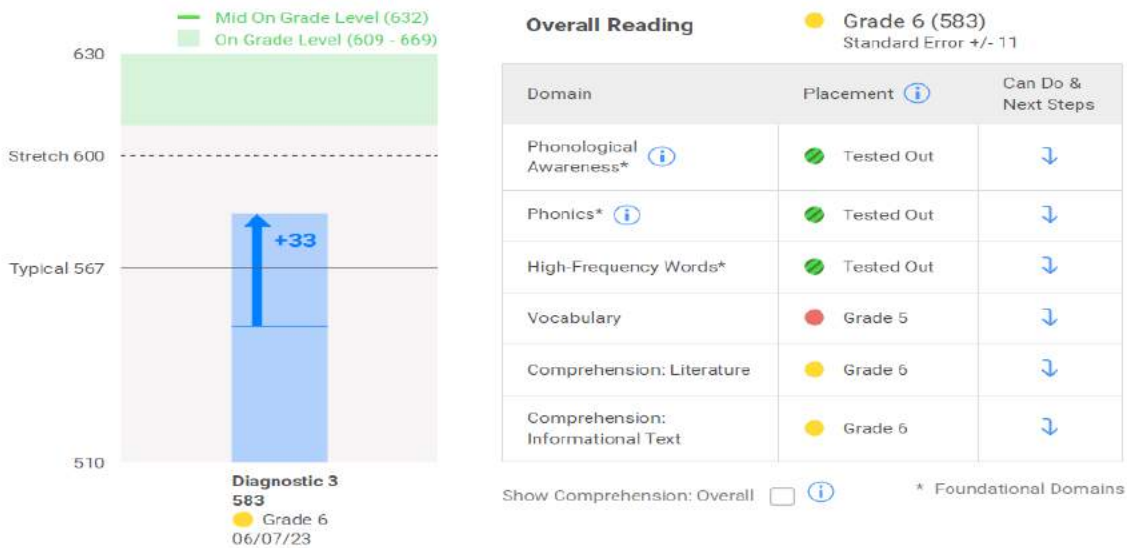
Get creative with your video - you can even make it like it is a movie trailer - for example it could be the trailer to the movie Game Night but it's part II and it's Amani Game Night. Here is an example of the trailer for the movie Game Night - [GAME NIGHT - Official Trailer](#) . We know that many of you are movie directors or movie makers. Have fun with this exercise and it will serve as great evidence of your studying and using the vocabulary word lists. Enjoy!

Amani Public Charter School i-Ready Wars - 2023

Completing i-Ready Personalized Instruction Lessons Helps Scholars Raise their Reading Level

The Summer Break is a great time for scholars to improve their reading level. At times you may hear your scholar say “i-Ready lessons are boring” or “I don’t want to do the lessons they don’t help.” National research shows that i-Ready helps students raise their reading levels. Below is a chart of a student who is in 7th grade and completed i-Ready lessons since the beginning of the year. This student grew 33 points or 2 grade levels in reading (from 4th grade to 6th grade) over the school year. The student still needs to grow in **Vocabulary, Comprehension Literature (which is fiction), and Comprehension Informational Text (which is nonfiction)** to 7th grade level. The results are color-coded: **Green** = On Grade Level; **Yellow** = 1 Year Below; **Red** = 2 or More Years Below

You will receive information about how your scholar did on the last diagnostic of the school year. ***Please look at your scholar’s score in the 3 areas listed in bold above - and make sure your scholar completes at least 1 i-Ready lesson a week.*** i-Ready will assign lessons to your scholar that are personalized to meet her/his/their needs in any of these areas.



Your scholar is invited to complete more than 1 lesson a week. The more lessons that your scholar completes and passes then the better it is for her/him/them to improve their reading level. We will reward the scholar at each grade that has completed and passed the most lessons at the end of the summer. We will also reward the scholar that has spent the most time on i-Ready lessons at the end of the summer. These rewards are what we call our i-Ready Wars. Good luck!

AMANI PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST 2023

Amani Summer Reading List

Welcome to Summer! Welcome to reading! Welcome to the Amani Public Charter School Summer Reading List 2023!

Amani Public Charter School has created this reading list so that our scholars will engage with the beauty of reading. We do not want their reading skills to slip. Instead, we want their reading skills to continue to grow and improve. We want to push our scholars to excel. This summer's reading list has been arranged according to the grade level that our scholars will be going to – for example, we are considering our current 5th grade scholars as the 6th graders on this grid and therefore, they should read the 6th grade books. We want to make sure that your scholar is reading what we call a “just right book.” This means that you should consult the email that you received regarding your scholar's Reading Grade Level for “Comprehension Literature” on the end of the year (EOY) i-Ready Diagnostic. This will let you know from which grade level you should select a novel for your scholar to read. We are hoping that this prevents your scholar from being frustrated by the readings this summer.

If your scholar is new to Amani and did not take an EOY i-Ready Diagnostic, then please have your scholar select a book from the grade level that he/she/they will be entering. If your scholar is a new 5th grader, then your scholar should select a 5th grade novel. Alternatively, if you happen to know your scholar's reading level then please choose a book that is near that reading level.

While your scholar is reading the book, we suggest that he/she/they take notes in a composition book to take notes in as well as sketch scenes from the book. This will help your scholar remember important information from the book. Your scholar will have an opportunity to review these notes/sketches as he/she/they completes the culminating assignment attached to the end of the list below.

Ratings/Appropriateness - Parents/Guardians Should Still Research or Preview

Scholars are to read one of the books on the following list by the first day of school. The lists were created using Common Sense Media's guidance about age appropriateness. We also utilized Scholastic as a guide and researched the various Lexile (literacy/reading) Levels of the books in order to tailor which grade levels where we assigned the books. Finally, these books have been read and vetted by various teachers and staff members of Amani Public Charter School. Yet, we are all different - we have different tastes, morals, and standards. We cannot assume that what we, Scholastic, and Common Sense Media deem to be grade level appropriate literature will be appropriate in your eyes. ***Therefore, we strongly encourage all parents/guardians to research the books to determine their suitability for their children.*** Since this is middle school, these are considered young readers or young adult readers. Therefore, there will be some books that may have references to young adult themes even if the characters are speaking about their parents. For example, a character may refer to his parents smoking cigarettes. *There may be themes such as*

homelessness, domestic violence or abuse, drinking, orphans, adoption, differently abled, discrimination, sexism, racism, religion, spirituality, and more. Again, it is up to all parents and guardians to preview or research the books to determine the suitability for your child. This is why we provide a list of several books and diverse authors. The books/authors are diverse in topics, gender, nationalities, cultures, and perspectives. We want to make sure that Amani scholars and families can choose the book to engage with for the Summer. If, by chance, a book on the list is not pleasing to you then you can make a different choice. If there isn't one book at all that appeals to your sensibilities on the list, then please choose a rigorous book (of at least 150 pages) for your child and have him/her/they complete the book task attached to the list. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are important to us, and the Amani Summer Reading List 2023 reflects our commitment to these principles.

Access to the Books in General and for Special Populations

Once our scholars choose a book, they can access it in a number of ways. The first way to make sure that you can read a book off the Amani Summer Reading List 2023 is:

1) Check a physical copy of the book out from the library.

The next several choices will not allow you to have a physical copy of the book to hold in your hands. These options will provide you with digital copies of the book. If you do not mind reading the book on a laptop, tablet, or phone then please feel free to make use of the following options:

2) Visit Online Libraries and Check Out the Book Online

You can visit any number of online libraries and check out the book that you are interested in online. Please be sure to have a security/anti-virus system on your laptop/tablet/electronic device as you visit the online libraries to check out the book. We want you to be able to check out books for **FREE**. Here are a few online sites that you can check out and please feel free to research your own sites.

Hoopla: we recommend the site [Hoopla](#) for unlimited downloads and no waiting list. All you need is a valid library card. [Mount Vernon Public Library](#). 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.

Mount Vernon Public Library: The Mount Vernon Public Library is our local library. You are able to visit it virtually just like you can in person. Please check out the website: [Mount Vernon Public Library](#). You can feel free to use Hoopla as stated above or explore the website in general.

3) Buy it.

You can buy the books from your local bookstore, [Amazon.com](#), or anywhere that you can find the book.

4) *Buy Your Own Digital/Online Copies of the Book*

You can buy digital copies of the book on various different sites - a popular site is [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) - particularly if you have a Kindle or want to purchase an audio version of the book (Audible). However, there are several other types of sites besides Amazon where you can purchase digital, PDF copies of books.

If your scholar is a reluctant reader, has reading difficulties, has a specialized reading plan, a 504 plan, an IEP, or speaks English as a second language then there are resources that you can use to help your scholar as she/he/they reads. In the previous sentences we mentioned Audible books as an option, listening to audio versions of books is very helpful to scholars who could benefit from additional help with reading. A few of the books that are on the Amani Summer Reading List appear on You Tube as “Read Alouds.” This means teachers across the United States have recorded themselves reading chapters of the books to their classes. Here is an example of a teacher reading the 5th Grade text, “Booked” by Kwame Alexander (there are a number of videos/audios of teachers reading it - here are 2 examples; [Booked by Kwame Alexander read aloud pages 1-20](#) AND [BOOKED by Kwame Alexander PT. 1 \(pg. 1-75\) Read Aloud / Audiobook](#). You may want to have your scholar search the book that she/he/they has chosen on You Tube to see if there are “Read Aloud” chapters.

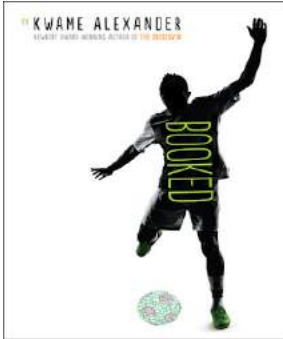
We have also provided book titles that are not only written novels, but they also have graphic novel versions of them. What are graphic novels? Graphic novels are novels written in a “comic book/comic-strip format” so they include sophisticated pictures and present the rigorous vocabulary of the novel in a sleek way. The comic book format makes it more engaging for the reluctant reader. For example, the 6th grade title, “A Wrinkle in Time” is not only a novel in general but also is printed as a graphic novel. The 5th grade title, “The Breadwinner” also has a graphic novel version. The 8th grade title, “Monster” also has a graphic novel version. We have also made sure to have either a graphic novel version of at least one book or an actual graphic novel text available at each grade level. Therefore, “American Born Chinese” and “New Kid” are actual graphic novels available at the 5th and 7th grade levels, respectively.

We have also provided a selection of “verse novels” to not only add a variety in the type of texts scholars can read but to also add another option for our reluctant readers. Verse novels are novels that are written in the style of poems. They are still very rich and sophisticated in content. The verse novels tend to have less printed words because they are written in the form of poems. We have included at least one verse novel at every grade level. Those novels include: “The Crossover;” “The Red Pencil;” “Harbor Me;” and “Brown Girl Dreaming.” Our goal is to make sure that all of our scholars have the opportunity to read so we want to make sure there are a variety of choices.

Lastly, in our efforts to make sure we are reaching the needs of the largest number of our scholars possible, our Amani Summer Reading List 2023 offers a Spanish language translation text at each grade level. We recognize that our population of Spanish speaking scholars is growing, and we offered Spanish as one of our languages to study this school year. We are hoping that all of our scholars take advantage of the Spanish language books and next year we will expand our list from a dual language list to a multi-lingual one. At Amani, we are not only pushing our scholars to

become greater, but we are pushing ourselves too. In addition to reading a book from the list our goal is to have our scholars choose a culminating activity to complete. The activity is attached to the end of the book list. The purpose of reading the book and completing the activity - your scholar will have a choice of activities - is to prepare your scholar for the academic rigors of the next grade level. We hope that your scholar and your family enjoy the Summer. We truly appreciate you. Have a happy and safe vacation!

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



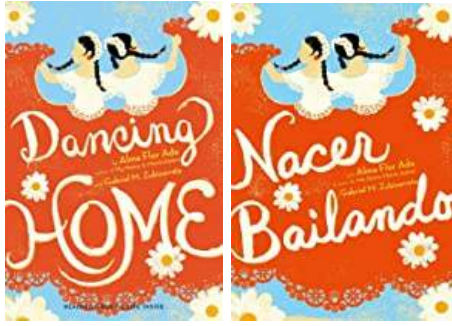
1. Booked by Kwame Alexander [verse novel]

“Soccer, family, love, and friendship take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read. This electric and heartfelt novel-in-verse by poet Kwame Alexander bends and breaks as it captures all the thrills and setbacks, action and emotion of a World Cup match!”



2. President of the Whole 5th Grade by Sherri Winston

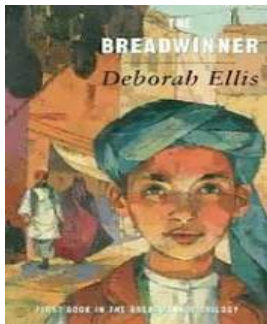
“When Brianna Justice's hero, the famous celebrity chef Miss Delicious, speaks at her school and traces her own success back to being president of her fifth grade class, Brianna determines she must do the same. She just knows that becoming president of her class is the first step toward her own cupcake-baking empire! But when new student Jasmine Moon announces she is also running for president, Brianna learns that she may have more competition than she expected. Will Brianna be able to stick to her plan of working with her friends to win the election fairly? Or will she jump at the opportunity to steal votes from Jasmine by revealing an embarrassing secret?”



3. Dancing Home [in Spanish language - Nacer Bailando] by Alma Flor Ada and Gabriel M. Zubizarreta

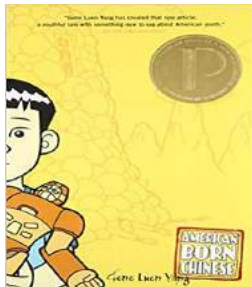
“Mexico may be her parents’ home, but it’s certainly not Margie’s. She has finally convinced the other kids at school she is one-hundred percent American—just like them. But when her Mexican cousin Lupe visits, the image she’s created for herself crumbles.”

“Las cosas tampoco son fáciles para Lupe. México no se había sentido como en casa desde que su padre se fue al norte a buscar trabajo. La esperanza de Lupe de verlo en los Estados Unidos la consuela un poco, pero aprender un nuevo idioma en una nueva escuela es difícil. Lupe, tanto como Margie, necesita una amiga.”



4. The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis (available as graphic novel)

“Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, 11-year-old Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Barred from attending school, shopping at the market, or even playing in the streets of Kabul, the heroine of Deborah Ellis's engrossing children's novel *The Breadwinner* is trapped inside her family's one-room home. That is, until the Taliban hauls away her father and Parvana realizes that it's up to her to become the "breadwinner" and disguise herself as a boy to support her mother, two sisters, and baby brother.”



5. 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.”



6. Rez Dogs by Joseph Bruchac

Malian loves spending time with her grandparents at their home on a Wabanaki reservation—she’s there for a visit when, suddenly, all travel shuts down. There’s a new virus making people sick, and Malian will have to stay with her grandparents for the duration.

Everyone is worried about the pandemic, but Malian knows how to keep her family safe: She protects her grandparents, and they protect her. She doesn’t go out to play with friends, she helps her grandparents use video chat, and she listens to and learns from their stories. And when Malsum, one of the dogs living on the rez, shows up at their door, Malian’s family knows that he’ll protect them too.

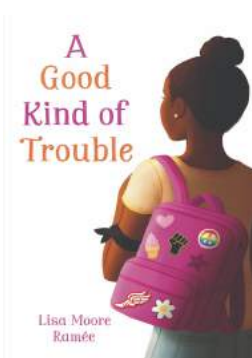


7. Wonder by R.J. Palacio

“August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can’t get past Auggie’s extraordinary face. Beginning from Auggie’s point of view and expanding to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others, the perspectives converge to form a portrait of one community’s struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope.”

This modern classic tells the tale of a boy who truly exudes courage, strength, and warmth in the face of a world that exhibits coldness and cruelty.

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



1. A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee

“Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. (Oh, and she’d also like to make it through seventh grade with her best friendships intact, learn to run track, and have a cute boy see past her giant forehead.) Shay’s sister, Hana, is involved in Black Lives Matter, but Shay doesn’t think that’s for her. After experiencing a powerful protest, though, Shay decides some rules are worth breaking. She starts wearing an armband to school in support of the Black Lives movement. Soon everyone is taking sides. And she is given an ultimatum.”

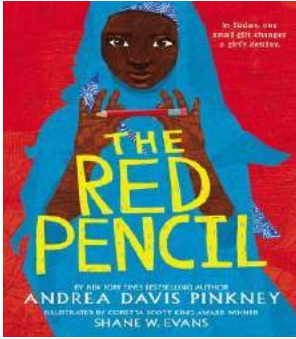


2. A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (available as graphic novel)

“It was a dark and stormy night.

Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure—one that will threaten their lives and our universe.”

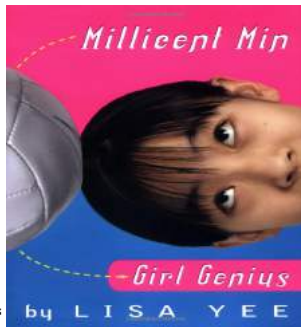
This is a modern classic novel which tells the tale of good versus evil. The author weaves the choices the siblings must make and the stands that they take against evil on their dangerous adventure.



3. **The Red Pencil** by Andrea Davis Pinkney [verse novel]

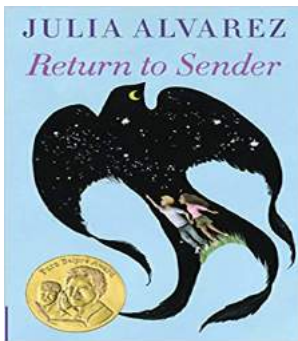
“Finally, Amira is twelve. Old enough to wear a *toob*, old enough for new responsibilities. And maybe old enough to go to school in Nyala--Amira's one true dream.

But life in her peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when the Janjaweed arrive. The terrifying attackers ravage the town and unleash unspeakable horrors. After she loses nearly everything, Amira needs to dig deep within herself to find the strength to make the long journey--on foot--to safety at a refugee camp. Her days are tough at the camp, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind--and all kinds of possibilities.”



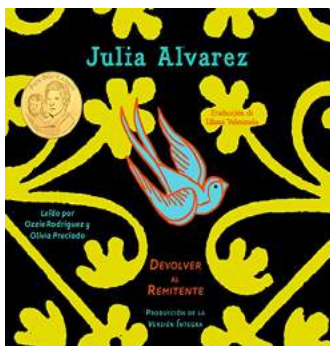
4. **Milliecent Min, Girl Genius** by Lisa Yee

“Who would have thought being smart could be so hard (and funny)? Milliecent Min is having a bad summer. Her fellow high school students hate her for setting the curve. Her fellow 11-year-olds hate her for going to high school. And her mother has arranged for her to tutor Stanford Wong, the poster boy for Chinese geekdom. But then Millie meets Emily. Emily doesn't know Milliecent's IQ score. She actually thinks Millie is cool. And if Millie can hide her awards, ignore her grandmother's advice, swear her parents to silence, blackmail Stanford, and keep all her lies straight, she just might make her first friend. What's it going to take? Sheer genius.”



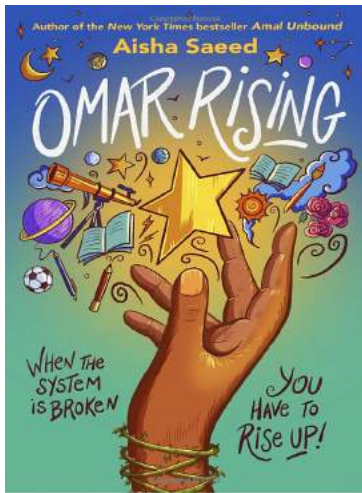
5. **Return to Sender** [in Spanish language - Devolver al Remitente] by Julia Alvarez

“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?”



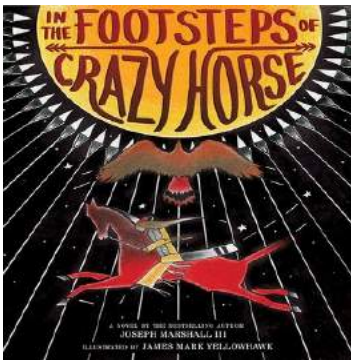
“La familia de Mari se encuentra a la deriva, con una gran necesidad de trabajo, pero se ve forzada a esconderse por miedo a que las autoridades los devuelvan a México y a la pobreza. La familia de Tyler lucha por salir adelante. Después de un accidente con un tractor que deja la granja que tienen en Vermont al borde de la quiebra, necesitan conseguir gente nueva que trabaje allí, de inmediato. Conocerse representa un golpe de suerte para ambas familias pues salvan la granja y Mari consigue un nuevo hogar, pero también surgen preguntas. A Tyler lo inquieta la presencia de los trabajadores mexicanos. ¿Son indocumentados? ¿Su propia familia infringió la ley al contratarlos? Mientras que Mari se siente dividida entre

sus raíces mexicanas y su nueva vida en Vermont. Le preocupa dejar ir el pasado y hay pedacitos que no quiere soltar...”



6. Omar Rising by Aisha Saeed

“Omar knows his scholarship to Ghalib Academy Boarding School is a game changer, providing him—the son of a servant—with an opportunity to improve his station in life. He can't wait to experience all the school has to offer, especially science club and hopefully the soccer team; but when he arrives, his hopes are dashed. First-year scholarship students aren't allowed to join clubs or teams—and not only that, they have to earn their keep doing menial chores. At first Omar is dejected—but then he gets angry when he learns something even worse—the school deliberately “weeds out” kids like him by requiring them to get significantly higher grades than kids who can pay tuition, making it nearly impossible for scholarship students to graduate. It's a good thing that in his favorite class, he's learned the importance of being stubbornly optimistic. So with the help of his tightknit new group of friends—and with the threat of expulsion looming over him—he sets out to do what seems impossible: change a rigged system.”

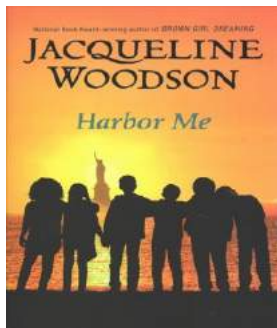


7. In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph M. Marshall III

“Through stories of Lakota leader Crazy Horse, a boy learns about his heritage and himself in this American Indian Youth Literature Award–winning novel from acclaimed author Joseph Marshall III.

Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boy, though you wouldn't guess it by his name. His mother is Lakota, and his father is half white and half Lakota. Over summer break, Jimmy embarks on a journey with his grandfather Nyles High Eagle. While on the road, his grandfather tells him the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota, and American, history.”

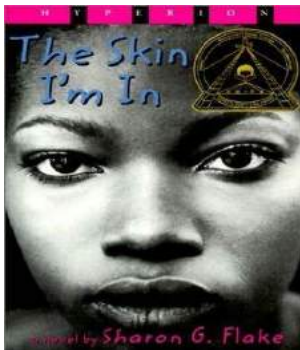
Entering 7th Grade Reading Assignment
Please choose ONE from the following titles:



1. Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson [verse novel]

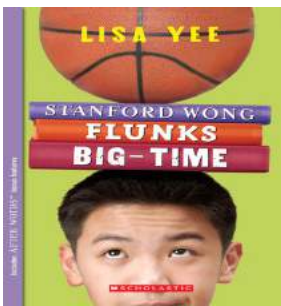
“It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for ‘A Room to Talk’), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them—everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from

the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.”



2. 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 blotched 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?”



3. Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time by Lisa Yee

Stanford Wong is having a bad summer. If he flunks his summer-school English class, he won't pass sixth grade. If that happens, he won't start on the A-team. If *that* happens, his friends will abandon him and Emily Ebers won't like him anymore. And if THAT happens, his life will be over. Soon his parents are fighting, his grandmother Yin-Yin hates her new nursing home, he's being "tutored" by the world's biggest nerdball Millicent Min--and he's not sure his ballpoint "Emily" tattoo is ever going to wash off.



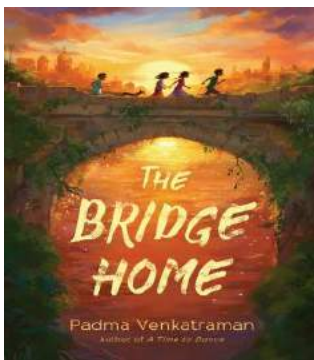
4. New Kid by Jerry Craft

“This **graphic novel** details the life of Jordan Banks - 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?”



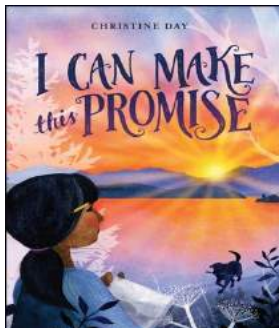
5. Tight by Torrey Maldonado

“Tight: Lately Bryan's been feeling it in all kinds of ways. He knows what's tight for him in a good way--reading comics, drawing superheroes, and hanging out with no drama. But drama's hard to escape where he's from, and that gets him wound up tight. And now Bryan's new friend Mike is challenging him to have fun in ways that are crazy risky. At first, it's a rush following Mike, hopping turnstiles, subway surfing, and getting into all kinds of trouble. But Bryan never feels right acting wrong. So which way will he go when he understands that drama is so not his style? Fortunately his favorite comic heroes shed light on his dilemma, reminding him that he has power--the power to choose his friends and to stand up for what he believes is right . . .”



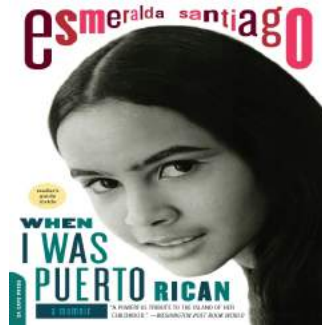
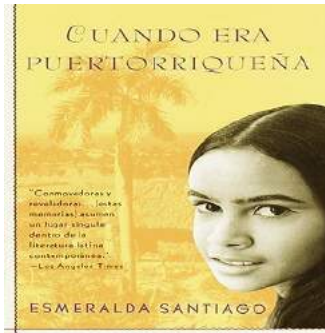
6. The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman

“Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves.... Life is harsh in Chennai's teeming streets, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. Very quickly, eleven-year-old Viji discovers how vulnerable they are in this uncaring, dangerous world. Fortunately, the girls find shelter--and friendship--on an abandoned bridge. With two homeless boys, Muthi and Arul, the group forms a family of sorts. And while making a living scavenging the city's trash heaps is the pits, the kids find plenty to laugh about and take pride in too. After all, they are now the bosses of themselves and no longer dependent on untrustworthy adults. But when illness strikes, Viji must decide whether to risk seeking help from strangers or to keep holding on to their fragile, hard-fought freedom.”



7. I Can Make this Promise

All her life, Edie has known that her mom was adopted by a white couple. So, no matter how curious she might be about her Native American heritage, Edie is sure her family doesn't have any answers. Until the day when she and her friends discover a box hidden in the attic—a box full of letters signed “Love, Edith,” and photos of a woman who looks just like her. Suddenly, Edie has a flurry of new questions about this woman who shares her name. Could she belong to the Native family that Edie never knew about? But if her mom and dad have kept this secret from her all her life, how can she trust them to tell her the truth now?

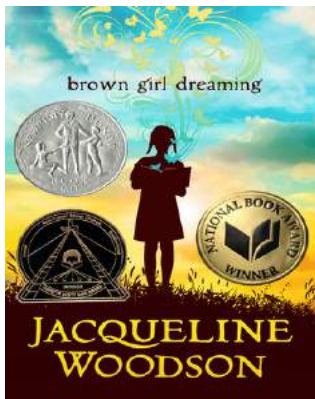


8. When I Was Puerto Rican [in Spanish language - Cuando Era Puertorriqueña] by Esmeralda Santiago

“De niña, Esmeralda aprendió a apreciar cómo se come una guayaba, a distinguir la canción del coquí, a identificar los ingredientes en las morcillas y a ayudar a que el alma de un bebé muerto subiera al Cielo. Pero precisamente cuando Esmeralda parecía haberlo aprendido todo sobre su cultura, la llevaron a Nueva York, donde las reglas —y el idioma— eran no sólo diferentes, sino también desconcertantes. Cómo Esmeralda superó la adversidad, se ganó entrada a la Performing Arts High School y después continuó a Harvard, de donde se graduó con altos honores, es el relato de la tremenda trayectoria de una mujer verdaderamente extraordinaria”

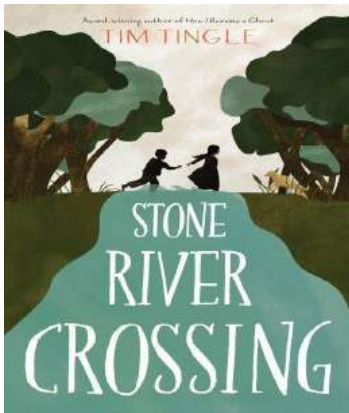
Esmeralda Santiago reminisces about her childhood in Puerto Rico and her early years in Brooklyn as the oldest of seven (soon to be 11) children. Her upbringing is turbulent on account of her parents’ relentless fighting, which only ever seems to stop when they decide to have another baby. When her youngest brother has an accident, her mother decides to move to New York with her children to seek medical treatment. Arriving in the United States, 13-year-old Santiago experiences uprooting and a loss of identity while she tries to adapt to a culture and language that are foreign to her.

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



1. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson [verse novel]

“*Jacqueline Woodson, the acclaimed author of Red at the Bone, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse.* 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.”



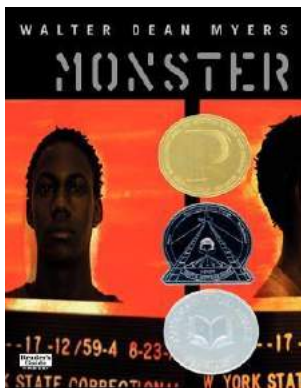
2. Stone River Crossing by Tim Tingle

“Martha Tom knows better than to cross the Bok Chitto River to pick blackberries. The Bok Chitto is the only border between her town in the Choctaw Nation and the slave-owning plantation in Mississippi territory. The slave owners could catch her, too. What was she thinking? But crossing the river brings a surprise friendship with Lil Mo, a boy who is enslaved on the other side. When Lil Mo discovers that his mother is about to be sold and the rest of his family left behind. But Martha Tom has the answer: cross the Bok Chitto and become free. Crossing to freedom with his family seems impossible with slave catchers roaming, but then there is a miracle—a magical night where things become unseen and souls walk on water. By morning, Lil Mo discovers he has entered a completely new world of tradition, community, and . . . a little magic. But as Lil Mo's family adjusts to their new life, danger waits just around the corner.”



3. Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero by Saadia Faruqi

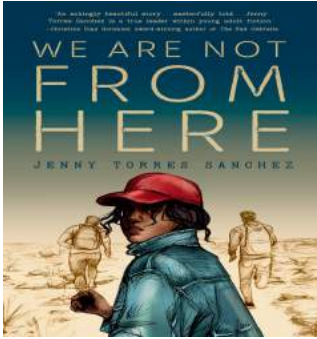
“Yusuf Azeem has spent all his life in the small town of Frey, Texas—and nearly that long waiting for the chance to participate in the regional robotics competition, which he just *knows* he can win. Only, this year is going to be more difficult than he thought. Because this year is the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, an anniversary that has everyone in his Muslim community on edge. With “Never Forget” banners everywhere and a hostile group of townspeople protesting the new mosque, Yusuf realizes that the country’s anger from two decades ago hasn’t gone away. Can he hold onto his joy—and his friendships—in the face of heartache and prejudice?”



4. Monster by Walter Dean Myers (available as graphic novel)

“Sometimes I feel like I have walked into the middle of a movie. Maybe I can make my own movie. The film will be the story of my life. No, not my life, but of this experience. I'll call it what the lady who is the prosecutor called me. *Monster*.”

“Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout. Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of “the system,” cluttered with cynical authority figures and unscrupulous inmates, who will turn in anyone to shorten their own sentences. For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life. As a way of coping with the horrific events that entangle him, Steve, an amateur filmmaker, decides to transcribe his trial into a script, just like in the movies.”



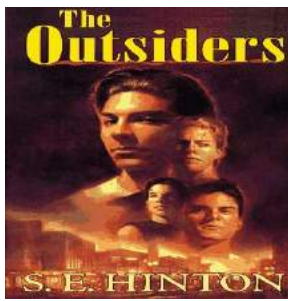
5. We Are Not From Here [in Spanish language - No Somos de Aquí] by Jenny Torres Sanchez

“Pulga has his dreams.

Chico has his grief.

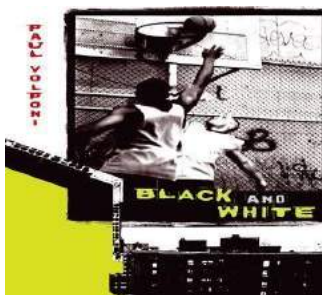
Pequeña has her pride. And these three teens have one another. But none of them have illusions about the town they've grown up in and the dangers that surround them. Even with the love of family, threats lurk around every corner. And when those threats become all too real, the trio knows they have no choice but to run: from their country, from their families, from their beloved home.”

“En su travesía desde Guatemala hacia Estados Unidos a través de México, siguen la ruta de La Bestia, el peligroso tren de carga que los conducirá a una vida mejor, si tienen suficiente suerte como para sobrevivir el viaje. Sin nada mas que una mochila a sus espaldas, y la desesperación que hace palpitar sus corazones, Pulga, Chico y Pequeña saben que no hay vuelta atrás, sin importar los peligros desconocidos que les esperan. En este impresionante retrato de tres vidas injustamente destrozadas, basado en hechos reales, Jenny Torres-Sanchez resalta el sacrificio de los migrantes en la frontera sur a través de una narración vivida y conmovedora.”



6. Ponyboy by S.E. Hinton

This is a modern classic novel. “No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.”



7. Black and White (Speak) by Paul Volponi

“Marcus and Eddie are best friends who found the strength to break through the racial barrier. Marcus is black; Eddie is white. Stars of their school basketball team, they are true leaders who look past the stereotypes and come out on top. They are inseparable, watching each other's backs, both on and off the basketball court. But one night—and one wrong decision—will change their lives forever. Will their mistake cost them their friendship . . . and their future?”

Culminating Assignment for the Book/Novel

After scholars read the book we ask for them to complete an assignment to show what they have learned from reading the book. It is important to us that scholars “show what they know.” This upcoming school year, we will concentrate on scholars’ ability to **analyze** what they are reading. *There are two major meanings of “analyze” that we use in our English classes: 1) to break apart or separate a whole (piece of text/literature) into its parts or 2) to examine, in detail, complex text in order to understand its structure or essential features.* Think about these definitions even when you think of doctors analyzing a patient that is sick; or lawyers analyzing a case or a CSI analyzing a crime scene - both definitions work. We want our scholars to continuously analyze what they are reading. Scholars must ask questions while they are reading the book - they must break apart what they are reading. They must read between the lines (make inferences). They have been introduced to many of these skills.

When reading fiction, we want them to be able to analyze the following:

- 1) **Who is the character? Who is the protagonist** (leading character of a fictional novel - often the champion) and what are the events that shape the protagonist?
- 2) **Who is the antagonist** (the major character who often opposes or is hostile to the protagonist) and what are the events that shape the antagonist?
- 3) **A character’s motivations** (the reasons why a character does what the character does - what is motivating the protagonist or antagonist and **why**).
- 4) **A character’s problems or issues** (what are the issues of the protagonist or antagonist and **why** do those problems or issues exist).
- 5) **How are the problems or issues of the character resolved?** (how are the problems or issues solved and **why**)

We would like for scholars to answer these questions while using multi-media as a format. We have two forms of multi-media projects that scholars can choose from: 1) a podcast (3 episodes) or 2) a graphic-novel/comic-strip (3 scenes). Whichever form is chosen the 3 sections should be broken up into **Section 1 - Rising Action** - which will consist of explaining the beginning of the novel and the **answers to questions 1, 2, and 3**; **Section 2 - Climax** - which will consist of explaining the middle of the novel leading up to the climax and the **answer to question 4**; and then

Section 3 - Falling Action - which will consist of explaining the end of the novel leading up to the resolution and the **answer to question 5**. **Section 4 - Opinion** - Scholars should state whether they enjoyed reading the book, why or why not, and if they would

recommend the book to others to read. Scholars will need to provide textual evidence (at least 2 quotes from the novel) in each section of their work. We suggest that scholars write or script their answers to the questions first before creating their projects.

Here are some instructions/websites that will help scholars create podcasts or graphic novels. You can feel free to use these websites or search for others to create the multi-media project.

Here is a set of step by step instructions on how to create the podcast:

[Podcast Instructions.pdf](#)

Websites to help scholars create podcast:

[Online Voice Recorder](#); [Download | Audacity](#) ®; [Vocaroo](#)

Websites to help scholars create graphic novel/comic strip:

[Storyboard That](#); [Pixton](#); [MakeBeliefsComix](#)

Your packet is due August 25, 2023. Please submit all of your work digitally to us by your grade level as follows:

Fifth Grade (Class of 2027)	Email summer@amanicharter.org
Sixth Grade (Class of 2026)	Turn in to your Google Classroom for your grade "6th Grade 2023-2024" - Class Code 76js2lq
Seventh Grade (Class of 2025)	Turn in to your Google Classroom for your grade "7th Grade 2023-2024" - Class Code nffjek
Eighth Grade (Class of 2024)	Turn in to your Google Classroom for your grade "8th Grade 2023-2024" - Class Code lefkwxn

It can also be handed in at the school if you are unable to submit a digital copy. You may turn a hard copy of your work into the Main Office. We're open 8-1 Mon-Thu for the summer.

Good luck and have a wonderful break!

Word List Grade 5

abolish	combine	exult	navigate	route
absurd	companion	feeble	negative	saunter
abuse	compassion	frigid	nonchalant	seldom
access	compensate	gigantic	numerous	senseless
accomplish	comply	gorge	oasis	sever
achievement	compose	guardian	obsolete	slither
aggressive	concept	hazy	occasion	sluggish
alternate	confident	hearty	overthrow	soar
altitude	convert	homonym	pardon	solitary
antagonist	course	identical	pasture	solo
antonym	courteous	illuminate	pedestrian	sparse
anxious	crave	immense	perish	spurt
apparent	debate	impressive	petrify	strategy
approximate	decline	independent	portable	suffix
aroma	dedicate	industrious	prefix	suffocate
assume	deprive	intense	preserve	summit
astound	detect	intercept	protagonist	suspend
available	dictate	jubilant	provide	synonym
avalanche	document	kin	purchase	talon
banquet	duplicate	luxurious	realistic	taunt
beverage	edible	major	reassure	thrifty
bland	endanger	miniature	reign	translate
blizzard	escalate	minor	reliable	tropical
budge	evade	mischief	require	visible
bungle	exasperate	monarch	resemble	visual
cautiously	excavate	moral	retain	vivid
challenge	exert	myth	retire	wilderness
character	exhibit	narrator	revert	withdraw