Souderton Area School District
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Summer 2026
For Incoming 6th Graders

Directions *for Incoming 6th Graders*

Summer means sun and fun, biking and hiking, picnics and . . . RELAXING WITH A GOOD BOOK!! Famous newspapers publish summer reading lists, so why shouldn't we?

You probably know how it feels to finish an exciting book; you feel satisfied with the story and pleased with your accomplishment. This summer you can get a "jump" on your yearly reading requirement by keeping this summer reading log.

Here is a list of great suggestions for reading provided by your middle school teachers. See if there's something there that you want to read. Of course you don't have to read only the books we've listed here. The list is intended as a helpful suggestion.

Please record any reading you do this summer on the log below. Any books you read this summer count towards next year's reading goal.

Summer Reading Recommendations:

- Read **at least two books** of your choice this summer (or many more).
- Bring your book log with you when you come back to school. If you lose this log, make your list on a sheet of notebook paper. Your new teacher will collect it from you.

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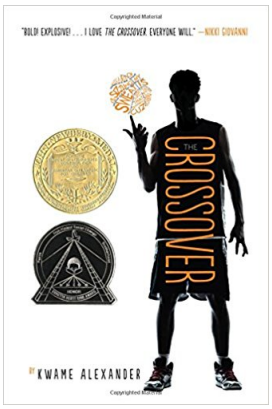
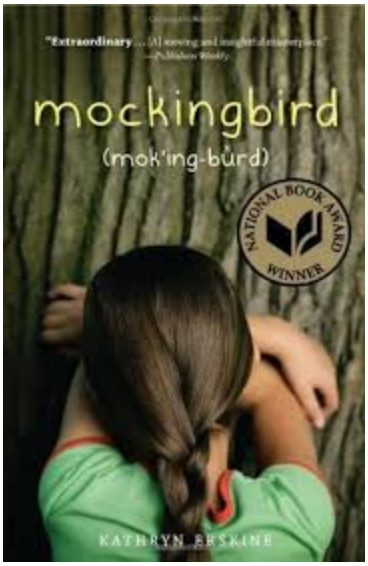
Summer Reading Suggestions Provided By Your Teachers

- **The Crossover** by *Kwame Alexander - 240 pages.* ***LEVEL N***

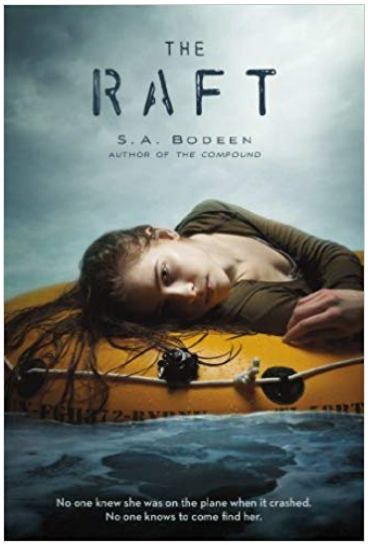


The hook: *With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . .The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering,*" announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

- **Mockingbird** by *Kathryn Erskine - 256 pages.* ***LEVEL W***

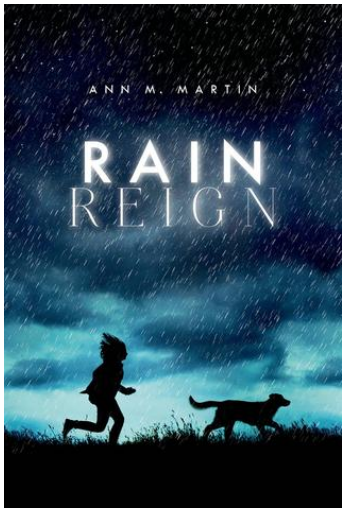


The hook: In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, but as an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's, she doesn't know how. When she reads the definition of closure, she realizes that is what she needs. In her search for it, Caitlin discovers that not everything is black and white—the world is full of colors—messy and beautiful.Kathryn Erskine has written a must-read gem, one of the most moving novels of the year.



The Raft by *S.A. Bodeen - 256 pages* **LEVEL Z**

The hook: Robie is an experienced traveler. She's taken the flight from Honolulu to the Midway Atoll, a group of Pacific islands where her parents live, many times. When she has to get to Midway in a hurry after a visit with her aunt in Hawaii, she gets on the next cargo flight at the last minute. She knows the pilot, but on this flight, there's a new co-pilot named Max. All systems are a go until a storm hits during the flight. The only passenger, Robie doesn't panic until the engine suddenly cuts out and Max shouts at her to put on a life jacket. They are over miles of Pacific Ocean. She sees Max struggle with a raft. And then . . . she's in the water. Fighting for her life. Max pulls her onto the raft, and that's when the real terror begins. They have no water. Their only food is a bag of Skittles. There are sharks. There is an island. But there's no sign of help on the way.



- **Rain Reign** by *Ann M. Martin - 226 pages* **LEVEL V**

  The hook: Rose Howard has Asperger's syndrome, and an obsession with homonyms (even her name is a homonym). She gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Rain was a lost dog Rose's father brought home. Rose and Rain are practically inseparable. And they are often home alone, as Rose's father spends most evenings at a bar, and doesn't have much patience for his special-needs daughter. Just as a storm hits town, Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search. Rose will find Rain, but so will Rain's original owners.

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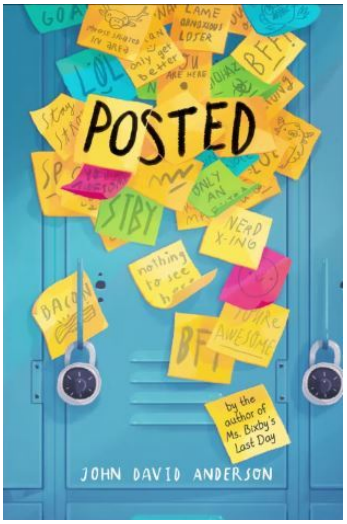
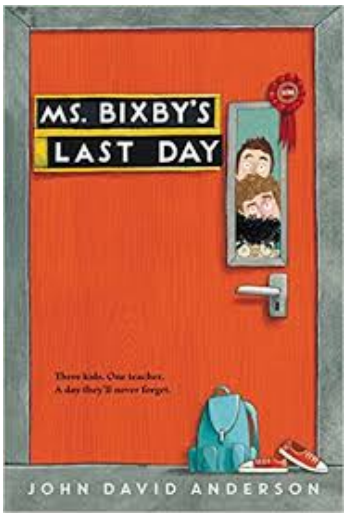
- **Posted** by *John David Anderson- 384 pages* **LEVEL V**



The hook: In middle school, words aren't just words. They can be weapons. They can be gifts. The right words can win you friends or make you enemies. They can come back to haunt you. Sometimes they can change things forever. When cell phones are banned at Branton Middle School, Frost and his friends Deedee, Wolf, and Bench come up with a new way to communicate: leaving sticky notes for each other all around the school. It catches on, and soon all the kids in school are leaving notes—though for every kind and friendly one, there is a cutting and cruel one as well. In the middle of this, a new girl named Rose arrives at school and sits at Frost's lunch table. Rose is not like anyone else at Branton Middle School, and it's clear that the close circle of friends Frost has made for himself won't easily hold another. As the sticky-note war escalates, and the pressure to choose sides mounts, Frost soon realizes that after this year, nothing will ever be the same.

- **Ms. Bixby's Last Day** by *Julia Nobel- 320 pages* **LEVEL V**



The hook: Everyone knows there are different kinds of teachers. The good ones. The not-so-good ones. The boring ones, the mean ones, the ones who try too hard. The ones you'll never remember, and the ones you want to forget. But Ms. Bixby is none of these. She's the sort of teacher who makes you feel like the indignity of school is worthwhile. Who makes the idea of growing up less terrifying. Who you never want to disappoint. What Ms. Bixby is, is one of a kind.

Topher, Brand, and Steve know this better than anyone. And so when Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she is very sick and won't be able to finish the school year, they come up with a plan. Through the three very different stories they tell, we begin to understand just what Ms. Bixby means to Topher, Brand, and Steve—and what they are willing to go to such great lengths to tell her.

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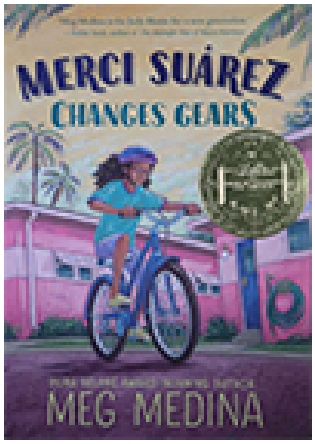
- **The Mystery of Black Hollow Lane** by Julia Nobel 320 pages **LEVEL S**

The hook: Emmy's dad disappeared years ago, and with her mother too busy to parent, she's shipped off to Wellsworth, a prestigious boarding school in England. But right before she leaves, a mysterious box arrives full of medallions and a note reading: These belonged to your father. Just as she's settling into life at Wellsworth, Emmy begins to find the strange symbols from the medallions etched into the walls and stumbles upon the school's super-secret society, The Order of Black Hollow Lane. As Emmy and her friends delve deeper into the mysteries of The Order, she can't help but wonder—did this secret society have something to do with her dad's disappearance?

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina 368 pages **Level R/S**



The hook: Merci Suarez knew that 6th grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. To start, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately – forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school. In a coming-of-age tale full of humor and wisdom, award-winning author Meg Medina gets to the heart of the confusion and constant change that defines middle school – and the steadfast connection that defines family.

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*Book excerpts taken from goodreads.com

**RatedReads.com is a great source for finding out the content and appropriateness of books for your child's maturity level.

Name_____

Title of Book	Author	No. of pages	Guardian Signature

***Please return this log when you return to school and hand it in to your teacher.**

***Additional titles can be added on a sheet of notebook paper.**