

NAMS Summer Reading List 2023 (*Optional*)

If completed, the assignment will be recorded as a Major Grade for ELA.

Entering 6th Grade: Choose from one of the following:

1. *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan.

Summary: Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. He must catch a thief who has stolen Zeus's lightning bolt, and along the way, battle a host of mythological enemies trying to stop him. (*Fantasy*)

2. *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

Summary: Through the eyes of ten-year old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war.

3. *Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar

Summary: In this coming of age story, Ruthie Mizrahi, a 10- year- old girl of Cuban-Jewish heritage, comes to live in New York City. Just when she feels she is making progress socially and culturally, a traumatic injury changes everything. (Historical Fiction)

4. *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina

Summary: As scholarship students at their Florida private school, Merci and her brother Roli have always felt a little different. When her grandfather starts to forget things, life at home and in sixth grade seem almost impossible to manage. Winner of the 2019 Newbery Award! (Realistic Fiction)

Entering 7th Graders: Choose from one of the following:

1. *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

Summary: Young Mattie Cook, living in Philadelphia, struggles with the aftermath of the American Revolution and the onslaught of the plague. Read about her fight for survival. (Historical Fiction)

2. *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment* by James Patterson

Summary: This action packed novel has a group of unique kids on the run from an organization. They are fiercely loyal to one another and work to find a way to survive in the wilderness while uncovering the mystery of this secret organization. A story of friendship and survival that will keep you on the edge of your seat!
(Science Fiction)

3. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson.

Summary: Tells the story of Woodson's childhood, in verse. In these 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. It also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories. (Poetry and Memoir)

4. *I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka, Liz Welch, and Martin Ganda

It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. All the other kids picked countries like France or Germany, but when Caitlin saw Zimbabwe written on the board, it sounded like the most exotic place she had ever heard of--so she chose it.

Martin was lucky to even receive a pen pal letter. There were only ten letters, and forty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one.

That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.

Entering 8th Graders: Choose from one of the following:

1. *Attucks! Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City* by Phillip Hoose.

Summary: By winning the state high school basketball championship in 1955, ten teens from an Indianapolis school shattered the myth of their inferiority. (Nonfiction)

2. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Summary: It is 1939. Nazi Germany. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. (Historical Fiction)

3. *Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

Summary: As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. (Gothic Historical Fantasy/Mystery)

4. *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Summary: Books are illegal. Technology rules all. Police no longer fear crime as much as thought and the spreading of ideas. But, what if one book fell into one's hands who is supposed to control them? What if one girl impacts the way one police officer thinks? What would change?

Assignment for Summer Reading Novel:

Assignment is due Aug, 17, 2023.

Reading Journal: Choose one novel from the reading list for the grade you will enter in the Fall of 2023. As you read the novel, be an active reader--mark, highlight, or make notes as you see fit so that you may more easily find specific passages. Then, create charts like the ones below. As you read, you will complete the reader response chart. You will also choose five (5) quotes that stand out to you. Copy the quote, the page number and the speaker in the left column. Respond to the questions about the quotes in the right column.

Create two charts like the ones below (you may copy and paste the charts below). Answer the following questions as you read the novel.

Reader Response Prompts	Sample Response
Before Reading: Making predictions: Think about the genre/title/author/setting. What do you think the novel will be about? What makes you think that?	I believe the novel will be about an unlikely friendship developed through an exchange of letters. I think this because the cover shows two very remote settings, and the characters seem to have a connection.
Making predictions: What challenges do you think the characters might face?	
During Reading: Self Monitoring: What have you noticed about the story? Are there parts	

that have confused you? What reading strategies did you use while reading?	
Inferring: What is the message of the story? What have you noticed that the author might not have explicitly told you? Is the setting important to the story? Why or why not?	
After Reading: What questions do you still have? What questions would you ask the author?	

	Quote Selections: Include quote, speaker and page number.	Sample Quote Response
Quote 1	<p>"Summer was our best season: It was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the treehouse; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colors in a parched landscape; but most of all, summer was Dill."</p> <p>Scout p. 36</p>	<p>Is there figurative language present? If so, identify it. Why did you choose this quote? Explain the significance.</p> <p>Sample response: There are multiple metaphors in this quote describing summer. I chose this quote because of Scout's love of summer. I feel like it represents her innocent perception of the season and how she longs for freedom.</p>
Quote 2		
Quote 3		
Quote 4		
Quote 5		