

Depew Middle School Summer Reading Adventure

Grades 6, 7, 8



Purpose: The purpose of summer reading is to promote student choice, extend learning beyond the classroom, introduce students to genres of literature that they will encounter throughout the coming school year, and offer new perspectives on the people, places, and ideas that shape students' worlds and experiences.

Summer offers a perfect opportunity to rediscover the pleasure of reading at a leisurely and enjoyable pace. Connecting to stories that are exciting and engaging is key to developing lifelong reading habits. Reading, writing, and success in school are closely interrelated. Even more importantly, reading engages the imagination like no other medium, transporting readers into the hearts and minds of others. **DMS ELA teachers are encouraging students to go on a reading adventure and continue to read this summer!!! Students should be prepared to discuss their summer reading and their summer reading experience in the fall.**

Here are 5 ways to get even the most reluctant reader to start a reading adventure:

1. Get inspired by Hollywood

Movies can be a great way to get kids excited about reading, so kick-start summer with film adaptations of popular books. Compare the book and the movie.

2. Wise up on magazines

Magazines cater to many interests and can inspire kids to read deeply on subjects they enjoy. Among magazines suitable for younger readers, several well-known magazines, such as *Sports Illustrated* and *National Geographic*, offer “kids” editions. Most magazines are available for electronic readers such as Kindle and Nook.

3. Create a readers’ theater

Parents can bring books to life by staging scenes from favorite stories. Act out characters, read scenes aloud, try funny voices, and use props from around the house — do whatever it takes to get kids excited about the story. By imagining themselves in the roles of their favorite characters, children can make a deeper connection to what they’re reading.

4. Listen to your books

Parents might not realize that audiobooks are freely available. Pick out the perfect summer tale, then set aside some time to listen to the audiobook together.

5. Organize a summer series

With school out, children have extra time to get sucked in by the compelling narratives of popular series. Genre books can be particularly interesting for older kids: *The Lord of the Rings* is a classic — and one of the best.

Helpful Links:

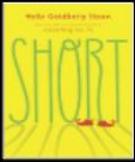
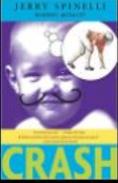
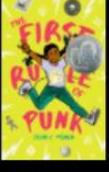
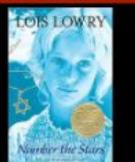
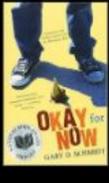
[Top 100 Middle School Reads](#)

Middle School Book Suggestion

Barnes and Noble's Summer Reading Program The Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Program is here to help you on your way, encouraging you to read books of your own choosing and earn a FREE book

National Geographic Explorer for Kids National Geographic Explorer For Kids is an online version of the award-winning magazine.

Mrs. Thurnherr and Mrs. Hagen Grade 6:

Levels R-S-T:	 <p>Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan Sensitive about her height, Julia gains new perspective and self-acceptance when she is cast as a munchkin in a summer stock theater production of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>.</p>	 <p>Crash by Jerry Spinelli Crash Coogan, a seventh grade football star, has been an aggressive person from the time he was very young; sometimes, he is too aggressive. When he meets an unusual neighbor, everything changes.</p>	 <p>Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper Melody has a photographic memory. If she could speak up, she could tell people what she thinks and knows...but she can't because Melody can't talk, walk, or write.</p>	 <p>First Rule of Punk by Celia Perez Malú loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyizo (hold the cilantro, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts a band, Malú finally begins to feel at home.</p>
Levels U-V-W:	 <p>Number the Stars by Lois Lowry The Rosens, a Jewish family from Denmark during World War II are planning to escape. Annemarie Johansen lives with her family in 1943 and is desperate to help.</p>	 <p>Masterminds by Gordon Korman After living in a perfect town his whole life, Eli discovers there are secrets that will change everything. <i>First in a series!</i></p>	 <p>Hoot by Carl Hiaassen Roy's battle with a land developer introduces him to potty-trained alligators, fake-fart champions, burrowing owls, renegade eco-avenger, and poisonous snakes with sparkling tails.</p>	 <p>Falafel by Firoozah Dumas It's the late 1970s in California, and fitting in becomes more difficult for Zomorod "Cindy" Yousefzadeh, as Iran makes U.S. headlines with protests, revolution, and finally the taking of American hostages.</p>
Levels X-Y-Z:	 <p>The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill Luna, having been turned into a witch as a young girl, discovers the magic within her while facing an evil force.</p>	 <p>Booked by Kwame Alexander Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon 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.</p>	 <p>Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Told from four interweaving points of view — two boys and two girls — Virgil's story celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner hero.</p>	 <p>Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt Doug struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure. A companion to <i>The Wednesday Wars!</i></p>

Mrs. Pilon and Mr. Cena Grade 7:

<p>Realistic Fiction:</p>	<p>Front Desk by Kelly Yang Mia Tang and her parents had no idea how difficult things would be when they came to America. After struggling to make it, they find themselves managing a motel for a cruel and exploitive owner.</p>	<p>Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. When things are hard at home and at school, Merci has to learn to adapt.</p>	<p>Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip by Jordan Sonnenblick Pete is a typical suburban teen who leaves 8th grade as one of the best baseball players in the state ...until he learns he can never play again.</p>	<p>Miracle's Boys by Jacqueline Woodson For Lafayette and his brothers, the challenges of growing up in New York City are even harder because they've lost their parents. It's up to eldest brother Tyree to support the boys.</p>
<p>Dystopian Fantasy:</p>	<p>Orphan Island by Laurel Snyder The sound of the bell that signals the boat's arrival fills Jimmy with dread. The boat comes yearly, bringing the new youngest child to the island and taking away the oldest, like her best friend.</p>	<p>Hidden Talents by David Lubar After being expelled from any number of schools, 13-year-old Martin winds up at Edgeview, a publicly funded boarding school and a last-chance alternative for kids with strange abilities. <i>First in a series!</i></p>	<p>Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer Miranda's disbelief turns to fear when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. How should her family prepare for the future with the new natural disasters around them? <i>First in a series!</i></p>	<p>Delirium by Lauren Oliver In an alternate United States, love has been declared a dangerous disease, and the government forces everyone who reaches eighteen to have a procedure called the Cure. <i>First in a series!</i></p>
<p>Poetry:</p>	<p>Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson These vivid poems share what it was like to grow up African-American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with Jim Crow laws and the Civil Rights movement.</p>	<p>Crossover by Kwame Alexander The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life, but they have some major differences in this novel in verse. <i>First in a series!</i></p>	<p>Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds This novel in verse takes place in a span of one minute. Sixty seconds. It is set in an elevator in which a young, angry boy gets on and begins his long journey down.</p>	<p>Witness by Karen Hesse In 1924, a small Vermont town turns against its own when the Ku Klux Klan moves in. No one is safe, especially the two youngest townspeople in this poetic novel of perspectives.</p>

Mrs. Ward and Mr. Cena Grade 8:

<p>Hero's Journey:</p>	<p>Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan Lost and alone in the forbidden Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.</p>	<p>Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard Mare Barrow lives in a world where life is determined by the color of one's blood. She was born a Red and has to make a living by pickpocketing and trying to obdige "the conscription" and being sent off to fight an ongoing war.</p>	<p>The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the unlucky survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one.</p>
<p>Historical Fiction:</p>	<p>Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort in WWII, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives.</p>	<p>The Hired Girl by Laura Amy Schlitz Joan longs for more education, but is trapped on her family's farm. Her father pushes her too far the day he burns her best friends—her books. Soon afterward, she escapes and makes her way to Baltimore to work as a maid.</p>	<p>Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai Set during the Vietnam War, Ha has only known Saigon. Now, she boards a ship headed for hope—in America. This is the moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing, told in poetic verse.</p>