

## NMHS Middle School Suggested Summer Reading List 2017-2018

**\*Read two books from the list below. Choose one to create a book jacket for your summer reading project. Projects are due on Friday, September 15, 2017, and are to be submitted to your English teacher for a grade. Students who submit book jackets on time and who follow the book jacket rubric criteria will receive a chance to win a \$20.00 Wal-Mart gift card. The book jacket rubric, reading list and e-book link can be found on the NMHS homepage at [nmh.ocsd5.net](http://nmh.ocsd5.net).**

*Titles with an \*asterisk can be found at the Orangeburg County Public Library and requested at the North branch library. Synopses are from Follett's [www.titlewave.com](http://www.titlewave.com).*

**Hartman, Rachel. Seraphina:** Intriguingly, in this world, dragons can transform at will into the body of a human. Part human, part dragon, Seraphina must hide her heritage as the tenuous peace her country has with dragons seems likely to slip away as unknown elements are stirring up trouble that even Seraphina's music can't assuage.

**\*LaFevers, Robin. Grave Mercy:** Ismae, a daughter of death and trained by the convent as an assassin, is assigned to assist Duval, the bastard brother of her ruler in this alternate medieval history novel.

**\*Sonnenblick, Jordan. Curveball: the Year I Lost My Grip:** After Peter endures a sports ending injury, he discovers that life can curve in new directions, not always the way he anticipates; a new girl and Grandfather's Alzheimer's among them.

**\*Healey, Karen. When We Wake:** Teegan, cryogenically frozen after being shot, is defrosted 100 years later and must find her place in a drastically altered world.

**Meyer, Marissa. Scarlet:** In this sci-fi retelling of Little Red Riding Hood, Scarlet finds herself drawn to the rugged, mysterious Wolf as she searches for clues about her missing grandmother.

**\*E-Book-Strasser, Todd. Fallout:** Scott's house is the only one in the neighborhood with a bomb shelter. When the unthinkable happens, 10 people must survive for two weeks in a room meant for only four.

**Walliams, David. The Demon Dentist:** "Darkness had come to the town. Strange things were happening in the dead of night. Children would put a tooth under their pillow for the tooth fairy, but in the morning they would wake up to find...a dead slug, a live spider, hundreds of earwigs creeping and crawling beneath their pillow. Evil was at work. But who or what was behind it?"

**\*Barnhill, Kelly. The Girl Who Drank the Moon.** Saved by a witch as a baby, Luna is accidentally filled with extraordinarily powerful magic.

**\*Erskine, Kathryn. Mockingbird:** 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.

**\*Gantos, Jack. Dead End in Norvelt:** In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

**Mass, Wendy. A Mango-Shaped Space:** Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.

**\*Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. The Boy Who Dared:** In October 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

**\*Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Found:** When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

**\*Schrefer, Eliot. Endangered:** A girl, having travelled with her mother to an animal sanctuary for bonobos in the Congo, struggles to survive with the animals after revolution breaks out and she and the chimpanzees are forced to flee into the jungle.

**\*Acigaluupi, Paolo. Ship Breaker:** In a futuristic world, teenager Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

**\*Levine, Kristin. Lions of Little Rock:** Painfully shy Marlee lives in Little Rock and makes friends with Liz the year after the ‘Nine’ integrated. When schools close, these friends decide they can make a difference.

**Brown, Don. Drowned City:** On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage—and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality.

**Tougias J., Michael. A Storm Too Soon:** When three men set out to sail from Florida to France, they hardly suspect the terrifying fate awaiting them. After several peaceful days aboard the Sean Seamour II, the sailors are overtaken by a sudden storm. Gigantic waves sink the boat, along with the men's supplies. This true story, adapted from the 2013 adult book of the same title, reads like a thriller, with one thing after another going wrong and each challenge seemingly impossible to overcome.

**\*Stone, Tanya Lee. Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America's First Black Paratroopers:** They were the Triple Nickles, the African Americans who pushed through military barriers to become the first black paratroopers. Their individual efforts, the eventual recognition of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, and the broader issues of segregation during the war period are illustrated with a rich collection of interviews, letters, and photos.

**Jarrow, Gail. Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America:** "In March 1900, San Francisco's health department investigated a strange and horrible death in Chinatown. A man had died of bubonic plague one of the world's deadliest diseases. But how could that be possible? 'Bubonic Panic' tells the true story of America's first bubonic epidemic--the public health doctors who desperately fought to end it, the political leaders who tried to keep it hidden, and the brave scientists who uncovered the plague secrets.

**\*Woodson, Jaqueline. Brown Girl Dreaming:** "The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South."

**\*Stone, Tanya Lee. Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream:** Here is the tale of thirteen women who proved that they were not only as tough as the toughest man but also brave enough to challenge the government. They were blocked by prejudice, jealousy, and the scrawled note of one of the most powerful men in Washington. But even though the Mercury 13 women did not make it into space, they did not lose, for their example empowered young women to take their place in the sky, piloting jets and commanding space capsules. ALMOST ASTRONAUTS is the story of thirteen true pioneers of the space age.

## NMHS Freshman Summer Reading List 2017-2018

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**\*Gagnon, Michelle. Don't Turn Around:** Computer hackers Peter and Noa stumble across a conspiracy targeting runaway teens.

**\*Volpini, Paul. The Final Four:** Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.

**Lubar, David. Sleeping Freshman Never Lie:** Dealing with bullies, the separation of old friends, and unsuccessful romances as a high school student, Scott decides to write a journal for his younger sibling in order to give him a helpful guide for surviving all the dramas, struggles, and issues he will be forced to face when he gets put into the game.

**\*Asher, Jay. Thirteen Reasons Why:** High school student Clay Jensen receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

**\*Wells, Jeanette. The Glass Castle:** The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.

**\*Wendelin Van Draanen. The Running Dream:** Sixteen-year-old Jessica Carlisle lives to run, starting every day with a five mile run with her dog, Sherlock. After school, she runs for the track team with her best friend, Fiona, hoping to win a college scholarship. But her entire world is turned upside down after a tragic accident leaves one of her teammate's dead, and Jessica an amputee.

**\*Ransom Riggs. Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children:** Jacob Portman is intrigued by his grandfather's peculiar pictures of the past. He ponders the levitating young girl, an invisible boy, and a floating baby. Jacob convinces his father to take him to the mysterious island where his grandfather once lived. He discovers that sometimes one has to journey to the source for answers. The question is, would you want to live in a loop where no one ages because the day never changes?

**\*Sepetys, Ruta. Between Shades of Gray:** In 1939, 16-year-old Lina, her mother, and her younger brother, are deported to a forced-labor camp in Siberia. Lina's great hope is that somehow her father, who has already been arrested by the Soviet secret police, might find and rescue them.

**\*Forman, Gayle. Where She Went:** 17 year old Mia, a young high school student with dreams of becoming a classical musician, is in a horrible car accident that kills her entire family and leaves her in a coma. Mia spends the novel contemplating whether she should continue to fight to live or to give up and join her family. *Where She Went* picks up three years after the accident and is told from Adam's perspective. Adam and his band have made it big, touring all over the world. But that tragic day and the

events that followed still haunt Adam. The novel covers one night in New York City as Adam is finally forced to deal with his past.

**Deuker, Carl. Payback Time:** Overweight, somewhat timid Mitch reluctantly agrees to be the sports reporter for the Lincoln High newspaper because he is determined to be a writer, but he senses a real story in Angel, a talented football player who refuses to stand out on the field--or to discuss his past.

**\*Alexie, Sherman. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian:** Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

**\*Moore, Wes. The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates**

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? .

**\*Maberry, Jonathan. Dust and Decay:** In post-apocalyptic America, fifteen-year-old Benny Imura and his friends set out into the great Rot & Ruin hoping to find a better future but are soon pitted against zombies, wild animals, insane murderers, and the horrors of Gameland.

**\*Garcia, Kami & Margaret Stohl: Beautiful Creatures (Or any book in the series):** In a small South Carolina town, where it seems little has changed since the Civil War, sixteen-year-old Ethan is powerfully drawn to Lena, a new classmate with whom he shares a psychic connection and whose family hides a dark secret that may be revealed on her sixteenth birthday.

**\*Dessen, Sara. Just Listen:** Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

**\*Myers, Walter Dean. Monster:** While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

**\*E-Book- Cooner, Donna. Skinny:** Ever Davies hopes that a risky weight-loss surgery might vanquish the cruel voice inside her head named "Skinny." But losing weight does not mean losing her insecurities.

**\*Turner, S. Pamela, Samurai Rising:** When Yoshitsune was just a baby, his father went to war with a rival samurai family--and lost. His father was killed, his mother captured, and his surviving half-brother banished. Yoshitsune was sent away to live in a monastery. Skinny, small, and unskilled in the warrior arts, he nevertheless escaped and learned the ways of the samurai. When the time came for the Minamoto clan to rise up against their enemies, Yoshitsune answered the call. His daring feats and impossible bravery earned him immortality.

**\*Osborne, Linda Barrett. This Land is Our Land: A History of American Immigration:** On the one hand, we see our country as a haven for the poor and oppressed; anyone, no matter his or her background, can find freedom here and achieve the "American Dream." On the other hand, depending on prevailing economic conditions, fluctuating feelings about race and ethnicity, and fear of foreign political and labor agitation, we set boundaries and restrictions on who may come to this country and whether they may stay as citizens.