



## MAYFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

### 2016 SUMMER READING RECOMMENDED FICTION for Students Entering 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE

All students are required to read two (2) books over the summer. The following is a list of titles recommended by Mayfield teachers and librarians. This list is also available at [mayfieldschools.org](http://mayfieldschools.org)

#### Recommended FICTION

Kwame Alexander. Crossover

The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences—Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks—both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart.

Katherine Applegate. Home of the Brave

Kek comes from Africa and has been sent to a new home. In America, he wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter—cold and unkind. But slowly he makes friends, including a sad cow that reminds Kek of home. He weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country. *Realistic*. Katherine Applegate is also the 2013 Newbery Award winner for The One and Only Ivan about an easygoing gorilla living at the local mall who has grown accustomed to humans watching him through glass walls. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home through new eyes.

Holly Black. Doll Bones

Black's tale of friendship and the trials of growing up is set against the backdrop of a spooky ghost story. *Realistic Fiction*

Andrew Clements. Extra Credit

It isn't that Abby Carson can't do her schoolwork; it's just that she doesn't like doing it. And that means she's pretty much failing sixth grade. Unless she wants to repeat, she'll have to complete an extra-credit project: find a pen pal in a foreign country. *Realistic*

Leslie Connor. Waiting for Normal

Living in the small trailer with her mother who is barely able to take care of herself, 12-year-old Addie makes the best of things, but misses her caring stepfather and sisters. Maybe one day something close to normal can happen for her, too. *Realistic*

Sharon Draper. Double Dutch. *This author visited Mayfield Middle School in 2014.*

Delia loves Double Dutch more than just about anything, and she's really good at it -- so good she and her teammates have a shot at winning the World Double Dutch Championships. Delia would die if she couldn't jump -- but Delia has a secret, and it could keep her off the team next year. *Realistic*

Sharon Draper. Out of My Mind

Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but NO ONE knows it. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows. But she can't. She can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. *Realistic*

John Feinstein. *Sports Mysteries: Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery, Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open, Cover-Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl*

Eighth grade sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie are thrilled to give their budding journalism careers a boost at some major sporting events, but end up giving their sleuthing skills a major workout, too.

Neil Gaiman. The Graveyard Book (2009 Newbery Award)

Nobody Owens would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts. *Supernatural*

Rita Williams-Garcia. One Crazy Summer

It is 1968, and three sisters have been put on a California-bound plane to spend a month with their mother, a poet who ran off years before. She sends the girls to a center run by the Black Panther Party so she can work on her poetry. Over the next four weeks, Delphine, Vonetta and Fern spend a lot of time learning about revolution and staying out of their mother's way. Sequels: P.S. Be Eleven and Gone Crazy in Alabama *Historical*



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Mark Goldblatt. Twerp

A terrible bullying incident involving fellow student, Danley Dimmel, prompted the week-long suspension of Julian Twerski (Twerp) and his friends from their sixth grade class. When he returns to school, in lieu of writing a report on William Shakespeare, Twerp's teacher, Mr. Selkirk, asks him to keep a journal. Sequel: Finding the Worm. *Historical*

Margaret Peterson Haddix. Among the Hidden series; *This author visited Mayfield Middle School in 2012*

This series explores a society where there are only 2 children allowed per family. Luke and other third-born children live in hiding from the Population Police, until they unite and fight for their right to exist. *Science Fiction*

Will Hobbs. Go Big or Go Home; *This author visited Mayfield Middle School in 2009*

Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his bedroom. *Science Fiction, Sports*

Anthony Horowitz. Alex Rider series: Stormbreaker, Point Blank, Skeleton Key, Eagle Strike, Scorpia, Ark Angel

After his death, Alex Rider discovers that his uncle was not a banker, but a secret agent for the British Intelligence – and now the MI6 wants Alex to continue his uncle's dangerous missions! *Adventure*

E.L. Konigsburg. The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place

While her parents are in Peru, Margaret Rose is delighted when her beloved uncles rescue her from Camp Talequa and bring her to stay with them at their wonderful house. But she soon discovers that something is terribly wrong. *Realistic*

Gordon Korman. Schooled, The Sixth-Grade Nickname Game, No Dogs Allowed, The Swindle Series, Ungifted

*This author visited Mayfield Middle School in 2011.* He has approximately 55 books to his credit.

Ingrid Law. Savvy.

At age 13, all the Beaumonts discover their supernatural power—their savvy. Mibs can't wait to turn thirteen, but she needs more than magic when Poppa is hurt in a terrible accident just before her birthday. A Newbery Honor Book. Sequel: Scumble. *Fantasy*.

Mike Lupica. Heat, Summer Ball, Travel Team, The Big Field

In addition to coaching his own children in sports, Mike Lupica is a sports writer for the New York Daily news and has been a TV anchor on ESPN. He writes novels for young adults, many of which have been on the New York Times bestseller lists. Travel Team, Heat, Miracle on 49th Street, and Summer Ball are just a few of his popular titles. *Sports Fiction*

Wendy Mass. Every Soul A Star, A Mango Shaped Space, Heaven Looks a Lot Like the Mall, 11 Birthdays

Wendy Mass is a bestselling author of realistic fiction for young adults. *Realistic Fiction*

Ben Mikaelson. Petey.

Set 1922, Petey is born with severe cerebral palsy and at the age of 2, his parents commit him to a state institution. Petey struggles to communicate, is bound to his wheelchair and is later moved into a nursing home where he befriends a boy who that learns there is much more to Petey than meets the eye. A story that teaches all people deserve respect and that one person can make a difference. *Historical*.

R.J. Palacio. Wonder.

August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. Companion Novel: Auggie & Me. *Realistic*.

Linda Sue Park. A Long Walk to Water.

Based on the true story of Salva, one of 3,800 Sudanese "Lost Boys" airlifted to the United States in the mid 1990s. Separated from his family by war, he survives starvation, animal attacks, and disease, and ultimately leads a group of about 150 boys to safety in Kenya. Salva's life is told side-by-side with the story of Nya, a young girl who lives today in one of those villages. *Realistic*



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Gary Paulsen. Brian's Return

After having survived alone in the wilderness, Brian finds that he can no longer live in the city but must return to the place where he really belongs. Conclusion to Hatchet, The River, Brian's Winter, & Brian's Hunt Adventure; Survival

Gary D. Schmidt. Okay for Now.

As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, Doug Swieteck has all the stats stacked against him. As Doug struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally--a fiery young lady who helps Doug find the strength to endure his troubles. Schmidt is also the author of The Wednesday Wars. *Realistic.*

Ruta Sepetys. Between Shades of Gray.

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life--until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp. *Historical.*

Jordan Sonnenblick. Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie

Steven enjoys the normal life of a 13-year-old: he plays a mean set of drums, hopes Renee will notice him, and puts up with his little brother, Jeffrey. But aggravation turns to fear when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia. Sequel: After Ever After *Realistic; Humor*

Amy Timberlake. One Came Home

To find out what really happened to her purportedly dead sister, sharpshooting 13-year-old Georgie Burkhardt and her sister's one-time suitor Billy McCabe follow the trail of pigeon hunters and discover far worse going on near Placid, Wisconsin, in 1871. *Historical*

Clare Vanderpool. Moon Over Manifest. (2011 Newbery Award)

Abilene Tucker is initially disappointed by the Depression town she encounters before finding a hidden box of mementos and letters that mention a spy. Vanderpool is also the author of Navigating Early, two boys' quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters. *Historical.*

Jacqueline Woodson. Brown Girl Dreaming. (2015 Newbery Honor Book)

This Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Honor author tells her story of what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 70s in both the North and the South through a collection of poems about family, writing, and growing up during the Civil Rights Movement. *Memoir Free Verse Poetry.* Woodson is also the author of Locomotion, Feathers, and After Tupac and D Foster.

*You may also want to check out [ala.org](http://ala.org) for a list of all Newbery Award books. The Newbery Medal has been awarded annually since 1922 by the Association for Library Service to Children to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.*