All Middle School Students are required to read four (4) books over the summer. They must complete one (1) book in each category and complete the written assignment for each book. The assignments should be turned in to the Language Arts teachers during the first week of school in September.

The required books are available in print, as ebooks and/or audiobooks, and can be obtained from local libraries or bookstores.

All Middle School students (entering 6 - 8th grades) are required to read one (1) of the following:

Category 1: The books on this reading list cover a wide range of reading abilities, maturity levels, and interest levels. Please keep this in mind when helping your student select appropriate summer reading material.

**The Wishtree by Katherine Applegate**

“Trees can’t tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories. . . . Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood “wishtree”—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red’s branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red’s hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all — until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red’s experience as a wishtree is more important than ever.”

From Amazon.com
It Ain’t So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas
"Set in the late 1970s this is a story about a girl from Iran trying to fit in to her new California home, a task made all the more difficult as the Iran hostage crisis unfolds. Dumas gives us plenty of lighthearted laughter while telling a story that still resonates with the difficult experience of many young immigrants today." - Seira Wilson, Amazon Editor

Refugee by Alan Gratz
“Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together."-- Provided by publisher.

We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World by Malala Yousafzai
“In her powerful new book, Nobel Peace Prize winner and New York Times-bestselling author Malala Yousafzai introduces some of the people behind the statistics and news stories about the millions of people displaced worldwide. In a time of immigration crisis, war, and border conflicts, We Are Displaced is an important reminder from one of the world's most prominent young activists that every single one of the 68.5 million currently displaced is a person -- often a young person -- with hopes and dreams.”
From Amazon.com
**Written Assignment:** After reading one (1) of the above books, select a tree that you often see, take a photo of it, print the photo and write a story about what the tree has seen in its lifetime. The story can be nonfiction, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, biography, poetry, etc.? You pick the genre. Would it be a good wish tree? Why? Your story should be a **minimum** of three (3) paragraphs (or more) and be sure to use spell and grammar check.

**Category 2.**

*Making Friends* by Kristen Gudsnuk  (Graphic Novel)
“Sixth grade was SO much easier for Dany. All her friends were in the same room and she knew exactly what to expect out of life. Now that she's in seventh grade, she's in a new middle school, her friends are in different classes and forming new cliques, and she is totally, completely lost. What Dany really needs is a new best friend! So when she inherits a magic sketchbook from her eccentric great-aunt in which anything she sketches in it comes to life, she draws Madison, the most amazing, perfect, and awesome best friend ever. “  From Amazon.com

**Written Assignment:** Make a sketch, painting, collage, sculpture, or digital piece of art of a potential imaginary “best” friend. In a Google doc, describe five (5) attributes/qualities of this character that would make them an ideal best friend. Describe three (3) attributes/qualities that would not make them an ideal best friend. Be sure to use spell and grammar check.

**Category 3.**

*Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales
In 1994, Yuyi Morales left her home in Xalapa, Mexico and came to the US with her infant son. She left behind nearly everything she owned, but she didn't come empty-handed. She brought her strength, her work, her passion, her hopes and dreams...and her stories.
“Dreamers is a celebration of what migrants bring with them when they leave their homes. It's a story about family. And it's a story to remind us that we are all dreamers, bringing our own gifts wherever we roam. Beautiful and powerful at any time but given particular urgency as the status of our own Dreamers becomes uncertain, this is a story that is both topical and timeless.” From Amazon.com

**Written Assignment:** None

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**Category 4.**

**Free choice book** - Please select a book of personal interest to you that is at your reading level.

**Written Assignment:** Write the title and author below as well as a short description of the plot. Rate it from 1 - 10 stars with ten stars being terrific!

Title:

Author:

Description of the plot:

# of Stars: ★★★★★★★★★

HAPPY READING !!!!!!!