

# Middle School Summer Reading List

## Rising Grades 6, 7, and 8

### Plainfield Public School District

#### RECOMMENDED READING LIST

- Aveyard, Victoria. ***Red Queen***. HarperCollins, 2015. A sweeping tale of seventeen-year-old Mare, a common girl whose once-latent magical power draws her into the dangerous intrigue of the king's palace. Will her power save her or condemn her?
- Bragg, Georgia. ***How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous***. Walker Publishing, 2011. Over the course of history men and women have lived and died. In fact, getting sick and dying can be a big, ugly mess-especially before the modern medical care that we all enjoy today. This book relays all the gory details of how nineteen world figures gave up the ghost. Readers will be fascinated well past the final curtain, and feel lucky to live in a world with painkillers, X-rays, and soap.
- Diaz, Alexandra. ***The Only Road***. Simon and Schuster, 2016. The story of two teen cousins fleeing a violent gang in their poor Guatemalan village and making the perilous journey through Mexico to the United States. Courage, their own talents, the kindness of strangers, and above all the love of friends and family sustain them.
- Erskine, Kathryn. ***Mockingbird: (Mok'ing-burd)***. Philomel, 2010. Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.
- Freedman, Russell. ***We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler***. Clarion Books, 2016. The story of Austrian siblings who belonged to Hitler Youth, but grew to form a campaign of active resistance to Hitler and the Nazis, risking their lives to distribute leaflets urging Germans to defy the Nazi government.
- Gownley, Jimmy. ***The Dumbest Idea Ever!*** Graphix, 2014. This graphic novel memoir tells the real-life story of thirteen-year-old Jimmy who had a "dumb idea" that turned his life upside down and became the best thing that ever happened to him.
- Hillenbrand, Laura. ***Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive***. Ember, 2014. The young adult adaptation of the *New York Times* bestseller about Louis Zamperini, a track athlete turned bombardier, who survives a crash and capture by the enemy. A testament to the strength of the human spirit and the ability to endure tremendous odds.

# Middle School Summer Reading List

## Rising Grades 6, 7, and 8

### Plainfield Public School District

- Keenan, Sheila. ***Dogs of War***. Graphix, 2013. This graphic novel tells the unforgettable true stories of three war heroes from three different eras—World War I, World War II, and Vietnam—and they all happened to have four legs.
- Mass, Wendy. ***The Candymakers***. Little, Brown, 2010. Four gifted twelve-year-olds, including Logan, the candymaker's son, are set to be contestants in the Confectionary Association's national competition to determine the nation's tastiest sweet, but nobody anticipates that a friendship will form between the children.
- Nazario, Sonia. ***Enrique's Journey (The Young Adult Adaptation): The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with His Mother***. Random House, 2014. The true story of Enrique, a teenager from Honduras, who sets out on a journey, braving hardship and peril, to find his mother, who had no choice but to leave him when he was a child and go to the United States in search of work. Enrique's story will bring to light the daily struggles of migrants, legal and otherwise, and the complicated choices they face simply trying to survive and provide for the basic needs of their families.
- Patterson, James and Tebbetts, Chris. ***Middle School, the Worst Years of My Life***. Little, Brown, 2011. Rafe's plan to break every rule in the school handbook is soon out of his control. *First in a series*.
- Scieszka, Jon. ***Thriller (Guys Read, Book #2)***. Walden Pond Press, 2011. The second volume in the Guys Read Library of Great Reading is chock-full of mystery, intrigue, and nefarious activity. Featuring some of the best writers around, and compiled by certified "guy" Jon Scieszka, *Thriller* is a pulse-pounding collection of brand-new short stories, each one guaranteed to keep you riveted until the final page.
- Sepetys, Ruta. ***Salt to the Sea***. Philomel Books, 2016. World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, a ship that promises salvation. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety.
- Shusterman, Neal and Elfman, Eric. ***Tesla's Attic***. Disney-Hyperion, 2014. When Nick holds a yard sale to get rid of the junk in the attic of his new home, he realizes too late that all the objects have mysterious powers and he needs to get them back.

# Middle School Summer Reading List

## Rising Grades 6, 7, and 8

### Plainfield Public School District

Sullivan, Tara. ***The Bitter Side of Sweet***. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2016. Fifteen-year-old Amadou and his younger brother Seydou travel from Mali to find work and end up being tricked into forced labor on a cacao plantation in the Ivory Coast. When a girl named Khadija arrives, the three join forces to attempt to flee and rejoin their families. Inspired by real-life events.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. ***You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen***. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2016. An innovative history in verse celebrates the story of the Tuskegee Airmen: pioneering African-American pilots who triumphed in the skies and past the color barrier.

# **Middle School Summer Reading List**

## **Rising Grades 6, 7, and 8**

Plainfield Public School District

### **RECOMMENDED AUTHOR/SERIES LIST**

Anderson, Laurie Halse	<b><i>Chains, Speak (and others)</i></b>
Collins, Suzanne	<b><i>The Hunger Games (series)</i></b>
Draper, Sharon	<b><i>Out of My Mind, The Jericho Trilogy, others</i></b>
Freedman, Russell	<b><i>Freedom Walkers, 100 People Who Changed America</i></b>
Green, Tim	<b><i>Football Champ, Football Genius, Football Hero, Baseball Great, Pinch Hit</i></b>
Dashner, James	<b><i>The Maze Runner, The Scorch Trials, The Death Cure, The Kill Order</i></b>
Haddix, Margaret Peterson	<b><i>The Missing (series)</i></b>
Khoury, Jessica	<b><i>The Corpus Trilogy: Origin, Vitro, Kalahari</i></b>
L'Engle, Madeleine	<b><i>A Wrinkle in Time</i></b>
Myers, Walter Dean	<b><i>Bad Boy: A Memoir, Cruisers, Monster, The Dream Bearer, The Glory Field, etc.</i></b>
Patterson, James	<b><i>Maximum Ride (series)</i></b>
Pfeiffer, Jules	<b><i>Phantom Tollbooth</i></b>
Reynolds, Jason	<b><i>Ghost, Patina, As Brave as You</i></b>
Riordan, Rick	<b><i>Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series)</i></b>
Tolkien, J. R. R.	<b><i>The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings trilogy</i></b>
Westerfeld, Scott	<b><i>Midnighters (series)</i></b>

***Your teachers may also recommend other titles and authors, based on their knowledge of you and your interests.***