

# 2020-21 NPSD Middle School Summer Reading

## ~Birchwood Middle & Dr. Edward A. Ricci Middle ~

**This year's summer reading honors and celebrates student voice and choice.**

**For all grades, 6-8, choose one book below.** Although there are recommended grade levels after each text, students may choose any text.

Book suggestions containing mature content are marked with \*MC. [Please see link below for many more recommendations.](#)



### 1. *In the Shadow of the Sun* by Anne Sibley O'Brien

North Korea is known as the most repressive country on Earth, with a dictatorial leader, a starving population, and harsh punishment for rebellion. Not the best place for a family vacation. Yet that's exactly where Mia Andrews finds herself, on a tour with her aid-worker father and fractious older brother, Simon. Mia was adopted from South Korea as a baby, and the trip raises tough questions about where she really belongs. Then her dad is arrested for spying, just as forbidden photographs of North Korean slave-labor camps fall into Mia's hands. The only way to save Dad: get the pictures out of the country. Thus Mia and Simon set off on a harrowing journey to the border, without food, money, or shelter, in a land where anyone who sees them might turn them in, and getting caught could mean prison -- or worse. An exciting adventure that offers a rare glimpse into a compelling, complicated nation, *In the Shadow of the Sun* is an unforgettable novel of courage and survival. Thriller!  
**Grade 6** (current world topic)



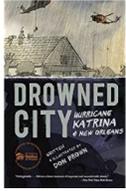
### 2. *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

*Ghost* has been chosen for a middle school track team that could qualify him for the Junior Olympics. Struggling to deal with his past and present, Ghost receives help from his coach. Realistic Fiction **Grade 6**  
(RI Middle School Book Award 2018 nominee; many students will relate to subject matter)



### 3. *Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart

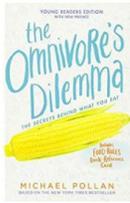
This is the story of a transgender girl named Lily, a bipolar boy named Dunkin, and a tree named Bob. It's about finding out who you're meant to be and finding the people who will encourage you to reach for the sky, not chop you down. Realistic Fiction  
**Grades 7 / 8** (RI Middle School Book Award 2018 nominee; current topic)\*MC



**4. Drowned City** by Don Brown

The sadness of avoidable tragedy and the triumph of the human spirit come to life in this graphic novel about Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. Graphic Non-Fiction

**Grades 7/8** (RI Middle School Book Award 2018 nominee; graphic non-fiction is very popular)



**5. The Omnivore's Dilemma for Kids** by Michael Pollan

Journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes... from fast food and big organic to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, this young readers' adaptation of Pollan's famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices. Non-fiction

**Grades 7/8** (Health, wellness)

-----  
**If you prefer to read a book that is not on the suggested list, here are some other options you can select from the [Middle School Reading list](#).**  
*Please have your parents approve your text choice by completing the section below and submitting it to your 2020/2021 English teacher on the first day of school.*

In lieu of the suggestions provided, I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(parent/guardian)

give permission to \_\_\_\_\_ to have read \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Name) (Book Title)

by \_\_\_\_\_ for his/her 2020-21 Summer Reading requirement.  
(Author)

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Summer Reading Assignment:

**The assignment is due Friday, 9-18-2020 and will count as a Course Assignment grade.**

## **Book Talk Criteria- Your book talk should include the following:**

1. Your Name, Title and Author of the Book
2. Be creative in mentioning the main characters of novel
3. Describe the setting
4. Explain the Climax/Turning Point of novel (most interesting part)
5. What Conflicts did the Main Character face
6. Without giving away the ending what was your favorite part
7. What kind of Personal Connection did you make with novel

## **Be creative and use evidence from the text to support your statements and claims when creating your Book Talk.**

- Create a Slide-Deck
- [Powtoons](#)
- [Screencastify](#); [Using Screencastify w/Slides tutorial](#) to narrate your Book Talk.
- Present in person to the class or your teacher.
- Create a movie trailer for your book

## **Tips when Presenting Book Talk**

- **Speak loudly and clearly**
- **Make frequent eye contact**
- **No more than 3-5 minutes**
- **Speak with enthusiasm**
- **Remember it's your job to hook the reader**

**See the next page for the rubric that will be used to assess the summer reading assignment.**

Here is [the rubric](#) that will be used to score your 2020-21 NP Middle School Summer Reading assignment.

*Note: This rubric aligns with RICAS Writing Rubric for grades 6-8.*

<b>4</b>	<b>Insightful response that addresses the chosen prompt</b> <b>Ample and appropriate evidence</b> <b>Ample and complex explanation and analysis of evidence</b> <b>Skillful and/or subtle organization</b> <b>Rich expression of ideas</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Clear response that addresses the chosen prompt</b> <b>Appropriate evidence</b> <b>Clearly explains and analyzes evidence</b> <b>Clear organization</b> <b>Clear expression of ideas</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Response addresses the prompt in a limited or somewhat unclear way</b> <b>Limited evidence</b> <b>Limited explanation and analysis of evidence</b> <b>Some organization, but not throughout the response</b> <b>Attempts clarity of ideas</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Response to chose prompt is confusing and unclear</b> <b>Insufficient evidence</b> <b>Insufficient explanation and analysis</b> <b>Minimal Organization</b> <b>Poor expression of ideas</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Response shows evidence of knowledge of the text, but does not respond directly to any of the given prompts; or no attempt at the assignment was made.</b>