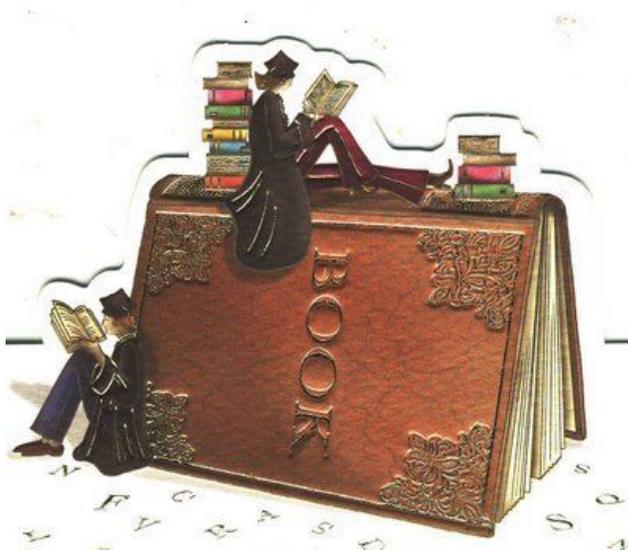


# PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS 2018



# Introduction to Summer Assignments

## Grades 6-8

The titles on the following pages have been selected as required summer assignments in the designated courses. The selections were made based on the curriculum for these courses. Some reading assignments present mature subject matter and have been so identified in the annotation. Parents are encouraged to read these selections along with their child or prior to their child's reading the book. Parents who have any questions or concerns about summer assignments should contact one of the administrators listed below.

For reading assignments, students may choose to borrow the books at the public library or to purchase the books for themselves. If students are unable to locate the required books, they should call the principal who will assist them in acquiring them.

When students return to school in September, they will be asked to participate in activities based on the summer reading. One of the most important goals of the summer assignment program is to engage students in activities that will prepare them for upcoming curriculum in the new school year. To this end, students should complete the assignments carefully and reflect on what they are doing so that they are well positioned to reap the most benefit from their educational program.

Dr. Tali Axelrod, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction [taxelrod@pthsd.net](mailto:taxelrod@pthsd.net)  
973-263-7180 x7340

Mrs. Vicky Santana, Coordinating Supervisor of World Languages/  
K-5 Music/K-12 Art/K-12 ESL [vsantana@pthsd.net](mailto:vsantana@pthsd.net)  
973-263-7180 x7172

Mrs. Dana Ahmuty, Coordinating Supervisor of 6-12 Language Arts/  
6-12 Media [dahmuty@pthsd.net](mailto:dahmuty@pthsd.net)  
973-263-7180 x7194

Mrs. Rachel Villanova, Coordinating Supervisor of 6-12 Science/  
Industrial Arts/FCS [rvillanova@pthsd.net](mailto:rvillanova@pthsd.net)  
973-263-7180 x7247

Mrs. Pamela Freund, Coordinator of 6-12 Math/Business/Music [pfreund@pthsd.net](mailto:pfreund@pthsd.net)  
973-263-7180 x7006

Mr. Juan Cruz, Coordinating Supervisor of 6-12 Social Studies/  
K-12 Physical Education [jcruz@pthsd.net](mailto:jcruz@pthsd.net)  
973-263-7180 x7172

## GRADE 6

### Language Arts 6

#### **CMS**

**Draper, Sharon. *Out of My Mind*. Athenuem Books for Young Readers. 2010** ISBN# 9781416971702  
Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.

#### **BMS**

**Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. *Fish In a Tree*. Nancy Paulsen Books. 2015** ISBN# 9780399162593  
Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities.

### Advanced Language Arts 6

**Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Pictures of Hollis Woods*. Random House, Dell Yearling, 2002.**

ISBN# 0-385-32655-6

This adolescent novel explores the life of a troubled twelve year-old girl, Hollis Woods, who is abandoned at birth. Throughout the text Hollis longs for a sense of belonging; she expresses her feelings, desires, and observations of the world through her drawings. During many instances in the novel, Hollis reflects on her past experiences with the Regans, a doting foster family that tries to adopt her during the pleasant stay she has with them. The book addresses subjects, such as abandonment, foster care, and aging in a sensitive manner. The summer reading and extension activities integrate exercises that develop students' understanding of the author's use of flashback, foreshadowing, and figurative language.

### Social Studies 6

**Weeks, Sarah, and Gita Varadarajan. *Save Me a Seat*. New York: Scholastic, 2016. Print.**

ISBN# 978-0-545-84660-8

*Save Me a Seat* tells the story of two boys, Joe and Ravi, from different backgrounds who end up good friends. With two different authors writing this book, each exploring accurate ideas of their own cultures, *Save Me a Seat*, is a true innovation in literature and not to be ignored by everyone looking to add more diversity into their reading. The first unit in the 6th grade social studies curriculum is culture. This book provides a starting point for the year as it focuses on many aspects of culture while connecting to the lives of the students who read it. While the book will be a focus in September, it also highlights topics to be discussed throughout the rest of the year.

## GRADE 7

### Language Arts 7

**Palacio, R.J. *Wonder*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2012.** ISBN #978-0375869020

This novel will have you choosing kindness and liking it. August is a multi-faceted character, whom we can all relate to in some way. “Auggie” was born with a craniofacial deformity and despite his twenty-seven surgeries, still looks different from everyone else. His relationships with his family members, friends, and “enemies” are all explored through multiple narrators in this book. Home-Schooled for his entire elementary school life, Auggie enters a real school for the first time. This book shares the pain and joy of a young man in a unique situation.

### Advanced Language Arts 7

**Hyde, Catherine Ryan. *Pay It Forward: Young Readers Edition*. Simon & Schuster, 2014.** ISBN-13: 978-0684872384

When twelve-year-old Trevor accepts his social-studies teacher’s assignment to come up with a plan to change the world, his idea is simple. Do a good deed for three people and ask them each to “pay it forward” to three others who need help. He imagines a vast movement of kindness and goodwill spreading beyond his small California town and to the world. When changes start to happen, including an inexplicable national drop in crime rates, a journalist discovers Trevor is the source of the random acts of kindness that are making a difference. Word spreads and Trevor is invited to Washington to meet the president, and he becomes a national hero. But though Trevor is determined to see that good in everyone, the world may not be as kind.

### Social Studies 7: Introduction To American Studies – Advanced

#### Central Middle School and Brooklawn Middle School

**Paulsen, Gary. *Sarny*. Delacourt Press, 1997.** ISBN# 0-385-32195-3

*Sarny* tells the fictional story of a woman who began her life as a slave and lived well into her 90's into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The story continues to follow the life of her character as introduced in the book *Nightjohn*, written by the same author. Her story begins with her life as a slave during the Civil War, and follows her experiences during Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era. It addresses the issues she had to face as she lived her life, married, raised her children, and struggled against prejudice and discrimination throughout her lifetime. This book helps students make the transition in the curriculum from the Reconstruction Era into the 20<sup>th</sup> century as it includes topics such as the role of women in American society, Civil War and Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and civil rights.

## **GRADE 8**

### **REGULAR Language Arts 8**

(LA8 Students are required to read **one** of the following titles)

**Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*. Harper Tempest, 1999.**

ISBN# 0-064-40731-4

Sixteen year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for his participation in a convenience store robbery that results in the owner's death. Using a combination of personal journal entries and a movie screenplay, Meyers conveys Harmon's struggle between his wavering conscience and his role in that night's events. By hearing the sounds of prison life, seeing the evidence presented in the trial, and feeling the fear and confusion in the heart of the teenage boy, the reader becomes a member of the jury. Is Steve Harmon guilty or innocent? This book presents the opportunity for team-building to foster character development.

**Myers, Walter Dean. *Slam!* Scholastic, 1996.** ISBN# 0-590-48668-3

Greg "Slam" Harris is an ace on the basketball court with dreams of playing in the NBA. The problem Slam has is that he can't seem to figure out how to transfer that level of competence on the court to the other areas of his life including school and relationships. Slam is quick to fly off the handle at his teachers and his coach, jeopardizing his future and his standing on the basketball court. He experiences difficulties in his relationship with his girlfriend Mtisha, and his best friend, Ice, who has gotten himself into trouble. With some advice and guidance from the team's assistant coach, perhaps Slam will become a winner in all areas of his life.

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *If You Come Softly*. Penguin, 1998.** ISBN# 0-698-11862-6

Two teenagers bump into each other in their unfamiliar, new high school. Both Ellie and Jeremiah dream about seeing each other again, and by chance, Jeremiah is transferred into one of Ellie's classes. While their love continues to grow, this interracial couple's relationship later faces opposition from family, society, and friends. Will they ever be accepted?

### **Language Arts Pre-Honors 8**

**Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. Random House Books, 2007.**

ISBN #: 978-0-385-75472-9

It is 1939, Nazi Germany, and Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist - books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

### **Social Studies 8 Pre-Honors**

**Cushman, Karen. *Catherine, Called Birdy*. Turtleback, 1995.** ISBN# 0-785-76149-7

*Catherine, Called Birdy* is a vivid firsthand account of everyday life on a medieval English manor during the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Through her diary entries, the fourteen-year-old Catherine describes the importance of family, religion, health, entertainment, and marriage during the Middle Ages. The novel provides an in depth look at medieval feudal society and compliments our secondary text and resources.

