All School Required Read: The common book that everyone reads will be our jumping off point as we begin in August. The use of a common read gives us a shared experience upon which we can build as we start the year.

**** All Read (required):  ****

**I Am Malala (Young Readers Edition)** How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World By Malala Yousafzai, Patricia McCormick

Choose four of the following: We will have a writing project over one of these when you return.

**Amelia’s War** by Ann Rinaldi

The story begins in 1861, as 11-year-old Amelia Grafton relates the Civil War’s impact on her sharply divided yet tightly linked town: “Mama and I were Southerners, but not Rebels. We were for the Union, but not the Yankees. You have to be from Maryland to understand it.”

**Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl** by Anne Frank

For almost fifty years, Anne Frank's diary has moved millions with its testament to the human spirit's indestructibility, but readers have never seen the full text of this beloved book—until now. This new translation, performed by Winona Ryder, restores nearly one third of Anne’s entries, excised by her father in previous editions, revealing her burgeoning sexuality, her stormy relationship with her mother, and more.  (biography)

**Anne of Green Gables** by L.M. Montgomery

When Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert of Green Gables, Prince Edward Island, send for a boy orphan to help them out at the farm, they are in no way prepared for the error that will change their lives. The mistake takes the shape of Anne Shirley, a redheaded 11-year-old girl who can talk anyone under the table. Fortunately, her sunny nature and quirky imagination quickly win over her reluctant foster parents. Anne’s feisty spirit soon draws many friends—and much trouble—her way.
**Nightjohn** by Gary Paulson  
This historically accurate, frequently violent novel tells the story of 12-year-old Sarny, a female slave at the Waller plantation. Sarny first sees Nightjohn when he is brought there with a rope around his neck, his body covered in scars. He had escaped to freedom but has returned to teach reading -- even though he knows that the penalty for reading is dismemberment. And Sarny is willing to take the risk to learn.

**Sarny: A Life Remembered** by Gary Paulson  
The Civil War is over, and Sarny has been released from the shackles of slavery. She's free, but what does that mean? This sequel to Gary Paulsen's acclaimed novel, *Nightjohn*, follows Sarny as she searches for her children after the war. Hope comes from surprising places, and soon Sarny finds herself in New Orleans, working, teaching, and building her life anew. Though the war is over, hatred and danger lurk around every corner, threatening her efforts to teach others to read. In Sarny, Paulsen creates a character that sparkles with heart and courage. His descriptions of her first days of freedom--her first lavender-scented bath, the sweet taste of canned peaches on bread--drip with immediacy. Sarny's story is so rich, so engaging that it's hard to say good-bye to her when the book is over. Readers will find themselves on the edges of their seats, asking, "... and then what happened, Mr. Paulsen?"

**Nothing Is Impossible: Reflections on a New Life** by Christopher Reeve  
In these reflections, Reeve shows that we are capable of overcoming seemingly insurmountable hardships. He teaches us that for able-bodied people, paralysis is a choice – a choice to live with self-doubt and fear of taking risks – and that it is not an acceptable one…He asks challenging questions about why it seems so difficult for us to work together as a society. (biography)

**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain  
From playing pirates on a deserted island to attending his own “funeral,” from exploring a bat-filled underground cave to digging for treasure in a haunted house, Tom Sawyer is a genius at getting himself and his friends into and out of sometimes dangerous adventures.

**The Staircase** by Ann Rinaldi  
How could Lizzy Enders’s father leave her in a girls school run by the Sisters of Loretto in Santa Fe? She’s surrounded by Catholics, who pray to Saint Joseph and whose saints keep watch over her—and she’s Methodist! Taunted by the other boarders, Lizzy befriends a wandering carpenter named Jose, who with just three tools—and his unflagging faith—builds a staircase to the choir loft of the new chapel. Through their friendship, Lizzy discovers the inner strength to forgive and to trust. Working from the legend of the “miraculous” staircase in the Chapel of Loretto in Santa Fe, Ann Rinaldi skillfully blends the mystery surrounding the builder of the staircase with the daily trials of a young girl growing up in the 1870s.

**White Fang** by Jack London  
*White Fang* is the story of a wild dog’s journey toward becoming civilized in the Canadian territory of Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush, at the end of the 19th Century. The book is characteristic of London’s precise prose style and his innovative use of voice and perspective. Much of the novel is written from the view-point of the animals, allowing London to explore how animals view their world, and how they view humans. *White Fang* examines (sometimes graphically) the violent world of wild animals, and the equally violent world of supposedly-civilized humans. The book also explores complex themes including morality and redemption.
**Into Thin Air** by Jon Krakauer

When Jon Krakauer reached the summit of Mt. Everest in the early afternoon of May 10, 1996, he hadn't slept in fifty-seven hours and was reeling from the brain-altering effects of oxygen depletion. As he turned to begin the perilous descent from 29,028 feet (roughly the cruising altitude of an Airbus jetliner), twenty other climbers were still pushing doggedly to the top, unaware that the sky had begun to roil with clouds...

*Into Thin Air* is the definitive account of the deadliest season in the history of Everest by the acclaimed Outside journalist and author of the bestselling *Into the Wild*. Taking the reader step by step from Katmandu to the mountain's deadly pinnacle, Krakauer has his readers shaking on the edge of their seat. Beyond the terrors of this account, however, he also peers deeply into the myth of the world's tallest mountain. What is it about Everest that has compelled so many people—including himself—to throw caution to the wind, ignore the concerns of loved ones, and willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense? Written with emotional clarity and supported by his unimpeachable reporting, Krakauer's eyewitness account of what happened on the roof of the world is a singular achievement.

**Peak** by Roland Smith

The emotional, tension filled story of a fourteen year old boy's attempt to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mt. Everest.

**Hoops** by Walter Dean Myers

All eyes are on seventeen-year old Lonnie Jackson while he practices with his team for a city wide basketball Tournament of Champions. His coach, Cal, knows Lonnie has what it takes to be a pro-basketball player, but warns him about giving in to the pressure. Cal knows because he, too, once had the chance--but sold out.

**Monster** by Walter Dean Myers

A sixteen year old boy named Steve Harmon finds himself on trial for murder after he is accused as acting as a lookout for the young men who actually commit a robbery at a Harlem drugstore and kill the store owner. The story is presented predominantly from his own viewpoint in the form of a screenplay and journal entries he writes, as he faces the trial and possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison.

**Sunrise Over Fallujah** by Walter Dean Myers

Robin “Birdy” Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn’t quite sure why he joined the army, but he’s sure where he’s headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom, but the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR.

**Heart of a Champion** by Carl Deuker

Jimmy Winter is a born star on the baseball field, and Seth Barnam can only dream of being as talented. Still, the two baseball fanatics have the kind of friendship that should last forever. But when Seth experiences an unthinkable loss, he is forced to find his own personal strength — on and off the field.
On the Devil's Court by Carl Deucker

What would you give to be your school's superstar? After reading Dr. Faustus, Joe considers the merits of selling his soul to the devil. Suddenly, he finds himself changing from a lousy basketball player and a C student to the star athlete he always dreamed he could be. Even though he isn't sure if he actually made a deal with the devil, he can't help but enjoy the benefits that come with his newfound abilities. But is achieving his dreams worth what he may have given up? In this coming of age sports novel, Joe learns the power of belief and that the only goals worth attaining are the ones that you earn -- on your own.

Payback Time by Carl Deucker

Through the eyes of a distinctly non-athletic protagonist—a fat high school journalist named Mitch—veteran sports novelist Deuker reveals the surprising truth behind a mysterious football player named Angel. When Angel shows up Lincoln High, he seems to have no past—or at least not one he is willing to discuss. Though Mitch gets a glimpse of Angel's incredible talent off the field, Angel rarely allows himself to shine on the field. Is he an undercover cop, wonders Mitch? Or an ineligible player? In pursuit of a killer story, Mitch decides to find out just who this player is and what he's done. In the end, the truth surprises everyone.

A Wind in the Door by Madeleine L'Engle

The forces of good and evil fight for the life of a boy and the ultimate salvation of humanity.

Swiftly Tilting Planet by Madeleine L'Engle

In this companion to the Newbery Award winner A Wrinkle in Time and A Wind in the Door, fifteen-year-old Charles Wallace and the unicorn Gaudior undertake a perilous journey through time in a desperate attempt to stop the destruction of the world by the mad dictator Madog Branzillo. They are not alone in their quest.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

A girl who is a true nonconformist must decide to be herself or try to “fit in” with the popular group.

Love Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

LOVE, STARGIRL picks up a year after Stargirl ends and reveals the new life of the beloved character who moved away so suddenly at the end of Stargirl. The novel takes the form of "the world's longest letter," in diary form, going from date to date through a little more than a year's time. In her writing, Stargirl mixes memories of her bittersweet time in Mica, Arizona, with involvements with new people in her life In Love, Stargirl, we hear the voice of Stargirl herself as she reflects on time, life, Leo, and - of course - love.

Heartlight by T.A. Barron

Heartlight is a quest with the highest possible stakes, a tale of mystery and adventure that will be enjoyed by readers of all ages. It is the story of the extraordinary bond between a young girl and her grandfather; and an eloquent statement about the ability of one individual, armed solely with the power of love, to change the course of the stars.
**Merlin’s Dragon** by T.A. Barron

Long ago, at the dawn of Merlin’s world, a strange little creature appeared. Part lizard, part bat, his eyes glowed with mysterious light. Meet Basil—one very small in size but very large in destiny. Adventurous and gripping, this first book in The Merlin’s Dragon trilogy brings to life an original, unforgettable character. And like all books by T.A. Barron, it radiates excitement, depth, and passion.

**Tree Girl** by T.A. Barron

Anna doesn't know how she lost her mother, or when. For as long as she can remember, she has lived in a lonely cottage by the sea with cranky old Mellwyn the fisherman.

Lyrical, spellbinding, and profoundly moving, T.A. Barron’s tale is both truly magical and unforgettable.

**Dancing in Cadillac Light** by Kimberly Willis Holt

In 1968, eleven-year-old Jaynell's life in the town of Moon, Texas, is enlivened when her eccentric Grandpap comes to live with her family.

**Part of Me** by Kimberly Willis Holt

Tracing a family's roots is like taking a journey through the years. In the case of one Louisiana family, that journey can be charted by the books they read and loved. The journey begins in 1939 with Rose, who moves with her mother and siblings from rural Texas to live with their estranged grandfather in the Louisiana bayou. Rose connects with this flavorful community through her love of books and by driving a bookmobile. Two decades later, Merle Henry, Rose's son, is more passionate about trapping a mink than about reading, although there is a place in his heart for Old Yeller. In 1973, Merle Henry's daughter, Annabeth, feels torn between reading fairy tales and a crush on a real-life knight in shining armor. And in the present day, Annabeth's son, Kyle, finds himself in a bind: he hates reading, but the only summer job he can get is at the library.

**The Water Seeker** by Kimberly Willis Holt

What would you do if you knew you had a special gift—a sixth sense—that was passed down from one generation to the next? A gift that could help people in times of need, but one your father often saw as a trap. Would you use that gift? This is the story of Amos Kincaid, the dowser's son.

**Unbroken** by Laura Hillenbrand

*Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* follows Louis Zamperini as a bombardier during World War II. When a plane he is piloting disappears into the Pacific Ocean, years of starvation, imprisonment and brutality follow.

**The Big Field** by Mike Lupica

For Hutch, shortstop has always been home. It’s where his father once played professionally, before injuries relegated him to watching games on TV instead of playing them. It’s where Hutch himself has always played and starred. Until now! The arrival of Darryl “D-Will” Williams, the top shortstop prospect from Florida, means Hutch is displaced, in more ways than one. Second base feels like second fiddle, and when he sees his father giving fielding tips to D-Will—the same father who can’t be bothered to show up to watch his son play—Hutch feels betrayed. With the summer league championship on the line, just how far is Hutch willing to bend to be a good teammate?
The Devil’s Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

Hannah thinks tonight’s Passover Seder will be the same as always. Little does she know that this year she will be mysteriously transported into the past where only she knows the horrors that await.

Clover by Dori Sander

Clover is a 10-year-old old black girl from a small town in South Carolina, whose life changes forever when her father dies and she is forced to forge a new relationship with the white stepmother she hardly knows. A beautiful, trenchant story of family lost and found, CLOVER is a unique and heartfelt reading experience for all ages.

Witch and Wizard by James Patterson

The world is changing: the government has seized control of every aspect of society, and now, kids are disappearing. For 15-year-old Wisty and her older brother Whit, life turns upside down when they are torn from their parents one night and slammed into a secret prison for no reason they can comprehend. The New Order, as it is known, is clearly trying to suppress Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Being a Normal Teenager. But while trapped in this totalitarian nightmare, Wisty and Whit discover they have incredible powers they'd never dreamed of. Can this newly minted witch and wizard master their skills in time to save themselves, their parents--and maybe the world?

The Horse and His Boy by C.S. Lewis

Narnia...where horses talk and hermits like company, where evil men turn into donkeys, where boys go into battle...and where the adventure begins. During the Golden Age of Narnia, when Peter is High King, a boy named Shasta discovers he is not the son of Arsheesh, the Calormene fisherman, and decides to run far away to the North--to Narnia. When he is mistaken for another runaway, Shasta is led to discover who he really is and even finds his real father. A boy and a talking horse share an adventurous and dangerous journey to Narnia to warn of invading barbarians. Narnia...where horses talk and hermits like company, where evil men turn into donkeys, where boys go into battle...and where the adventure begins. A boy and a talking horse share an adventurous and dangerous journey to Narnia to warn of invading barbarians.

Reading Bowl Books for 2018-2019 (Grades 6-8)

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cataya

For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. And maybe a few shifts as junior lunchtime dishwasher at Abuela’s restaurant. Maybe. But this summer also includes Carmen, a poetry enthusiast who moves into Arturo’s apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn’t notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.
**We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler** by Russell Freedman
In his signature eloquent prose, backed up by thorough research, Russell Freedman tells the story of Austrian-born Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie. They belonged to Hitler Youth as young children, but began to doubt the Nazi regime. As older students, the Scholls and a few friends formed the White Rose, a campaign of active resistance to Hitler and the Nazis. Risking imprisonment or even execution, the White Rose members distributed leaflets urging Germans to defy the Nazi government. Their belief that freedom was worth dying for will inspire young readers to stand up for what they believe in.

**Refugee** by Alan Gratz
Three different kids. One mission in common: ESCAPE.

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world…

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America…

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe…

All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.

**Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March** by Lowery, Leacock, and Buckley
A 50th-anniversary tribute shares the story of the youngest person to complete the momentous Selma to Montgomery March, describing her frequent imprisonments for her participation in nonviolent demonstrations and how she felt about her involvement in historic Civil Rights events.

**Click Here to Start** by Denis Markell
What if playing video games was prepping you to solve an incredible real-world puzzle and locate a priceless treasure?
Twelve-year-old Ted Gerson has spent most of his summer playing video games. So when his great-uncle dies and bequeaths him the all so-called treasure in his overstuffed junk shop of an apartment, Ted explores it like it's another level to beat. And to his shock, he finds that eccentric Great-Uncle Ted actually has set the place up like a real-life escape-the-room game!

**Ghost** by Jason Reynolds
Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from widely different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. However, they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their
acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

_Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team_ by Steve Sheinkin
When superstar athlete Jim Thorpe and football legend Pop Warner met in 1904 at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, they forged one of the winningest teams in American football history. Called "the team that invented football," they took on the best opponents of their day, defeating much more privileged schools such as Harvard and the Army in a series of breathtakingly close calls, genius plays, and bone-crushing hard work.

_Hoodoo_ by Ronald Smith
Twelve-year-old Hoodoo Hatcher was born into a family with a rich tradition of practicing folk magic: hoodoo, as most people call it. But even though his name is Hoodoo, he can't seem to cast a simple spell. Then a mysterious man called the Stranger comes to town, and Hoodoo starts dreaming of the dead rising from their graves. Even worse, he soon learns the Stranger is looking for a boy. Not just any boy. A boy named Hoodoo. The entire town is at risk from the Stranger’s black magic, and only Hoodoo can defeat him. He’ll just need to learn how to conjure first.

_The Ethan I was Before_ by Ali Standish
Ethan had been many things. He was always ready for adventure and always willing to accept a dare, especially from his best friend, Kacey. But that was before. Before the accident that took Kacey from him. Before his family moved from Boston to the small town of Palm Knot, Georgia.

Palm Knot may be tiny, but it’s the home of possibility and second chances. It’s also home to Coralee, a girl with a big personality and even bigger stories. Coralee may be just the friend Ethan needs, except Ethan isn’t the only one with secrets. Coralee’s are catching up with her, and what she’s hiding might be putting both their lives at risk.

_Karma Khullar’s Mustache_ by Kristin Weintge
Debut author Kristi Wientge tackles the uncomfortable—but all too relatable—subject of female body hair and self-esteem with this sweet and charming novel in the tradition of Judy Blume.

“'I'm amazed how the tiniest moments grow into books.'—Kimberly Willis Holt
Book descriptions came from the books, “Literature Network” and Wikipedia.)