



# HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Grade 8 Summer Reading

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

June 3, 2021

This summer all intermediate and middle school students will read at least four books as part of our summer reading program. Research indicates that over the summer, the average student falls 2 months behind in reading skills. Studies suggest that children who read as few as 6 books over the summer maintain the level of reading skills achieved during the preceding school year. RSD17's summer reading program is designed to give students both choice in their book selection and an opportunity to share their thinking with their peers and grow their own understanding through conversation. This program is intended to help support academic performance, promote a lifelong enthusiasm for reading, and foster a feeling of community in our school. One of these books will be selected from a list compiled by the teachers, aligned to our curriculum. In the fall, students will participate in book club conversations about the text they chose. Students will complete the [book club conversation guide](#) in preparation for this activity and bring it with them on the first day of school.

Choose 1 of the following recommended books for your grade level from the list below. Summaries and book trailers for the books are located on the [RSD17 Summer Learning Website](#). Please visit the site for all resources and materials related to summer learning.

[The Boys Who Challenged Hitler](#) by Phillip House- level V

[The Secret Life of Bees](#) by Sue Monk Kidd-Level Z

[Scythe](#) by Neal Shusterman level Z+

[Trouble](#) by Gary Schmidt

[Eleanor and Park](#) by Rainbow Rowell

[Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster](#) by Jon Krakauer

[The Alchemist](#) by Paulo Coelho

[When You Were Everything](#) by Ashley Woodfolk

Choose additional books to read: Students can refer to these lists for additional summer reading suggestions and record the titles they read on the [Summer Reading Book Log](#).

RSD17's summer reading program is an essential component of our school literacy plan, which will allow students to choose from a wide variety of books, while maintaining their reading skills during the summer months. It is our hope that this program will encourage our students to experience the joy of

reading this summer. If you have any questions about the summer reading program, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Beermuender at [jbeermuender@rsd17.org](mailto:jbeermuender@rsd17.org).

Sincerely,  
Grade 8 ELA teachers and Reading Staff