



HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grade 7 Summer Reading

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

June 4, 2020

This summer all intermediate and middle school students will read at least four books as part of our summer reading program. Research indicates that children who don't read over the summer experience summer learning loss. This concept stems from research suggesting 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.

- [Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life](#) by Wendy Mass-Level U
- [Gregor the Overlander](#) by Suzanne Collins-Level V
- [Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry](#) by Mildred Taylor-Level W
- [The Crossover](#) by Kwame Alexander-Level X
- [Where the Red Fern Grows](#) by Wilson Rawls-Level X
- [Because of Mr. Terrupt](#) by Rob Buyea-Level Y
- [Counting by 7s](#) by Holly Goldberg Sloan-Level Z
- [Harbor Me](#) by Jacqueline Woodson-not leveled

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](#).

[Favorite Authors, Science and Social Studies Topics](#)

[Nutmeg Award Nominees Grades 7 and 8](#)

[Project Lit and Scholastic](#)

[Governor's Summer Reading Challenge](#)

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.

Sincerely,

Grade 7 ELA Teachers and Reading Staff