



Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet School
for Health Sciences and Engineering
Middle School Summer Reading
2016-2017

All middle school students, whether in 7th Grade or 8th Grade, are to choose **THREE** books from the list below to read:

Nimona by Noelle Stevenson

This graphic novel features action and the adventures of the evil - or is he? - Lord Blackheart and Nimona, a complicated sidekick who will win readers' hearts with her sass and spirit.

Drowned City by Don Brown

Drowned City, a nonfiction text, tells the story of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in graphic novel form. Readers will see and learn about some of the events of August 2005 that changed The Big Easy forever.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Imagine life trapped in a body that does not match the mind's abilities. Melody's amazing story will give readers insight into the ups and downs of such an existence.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

This realistic story of the Greasers and the Socs, rival gangs from different sides of the railroad tracks, is narrated by Ponyboy Curtis. Ponyboy is a smart, sensitive kid who struggles to search for an identity among the conflicting values of a society in which he and his brothers find themselves "outsiders."

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Basketball fans might find this story of twin brothers, written in poetry form, compelling. Their relationship faces challenges in this story of athletics, love, and life.

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

A Vietnamese refugee leaves her home with her mother and brothers only to arrive in the southeastern United States and face new adversity. This story, told in short poems, is based in part on Lai's own experience as a child.

The Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson

What makes a hero? This memoir of a Polish boy who survived the horrors of the Holocaust explores a life that someone found worth saving.

Taking Flight by Michaela Prince

An autobiography of one of America's rising stars of ballet takes readers from Sierra Leone to the United States and back to Africa. Michaela Prince was born with a skin condition but did not allow it to hold her back from accomplishing her dream of dancing.

X: a Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz

Written by Malcolm X's third daughter, this fictionalized story of the human rights leader's young life will enlighten and empower readers.

The first few weeks of class will be devoted to the study of the summer reading books. You should bring your own copy of each book with you when you report to school. (If this proves to be problematic for you and your family, see your teacher at the beginning of school.) Because you will be required to create meaning from what you read, you are expected to be an active reader. That means you should take notes (highlighting or

underlining important parts, writing notes in the margins or on the front and end covers) on the books as you read to help you remember important parts.

Some things to take notes on as you read:

- Study the setting of each book and think about the impact it has on the plot and characterization
- Describe the characters, both primary and secondary
- Note the primary conflicts in each book and how they are resolved
- Note the climax, or highest point of action, in each book
- Consider family and community relationships and connections within each story

Again, you are expected to be an active and engaged reader of the books. **While you are not required to complete a writing assignment on the reading over the summer, you are responsible for the reading and creating meaning from it. Testing on the books will begin the second day of school. Bring copies of the books with you when you report to school. These guidelines and any appropriate additional instructions will be posted on the school's website (www.mlkmagnet.mnps.org). Check the website frequently for any updates.**