



Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet School
for Health Sciences and Engineering
Middle School Summer Reading
2017-2018

All-school Summer Reading

The faculty of MLK is excited to re-institute an all-school summer reading book to promote community and the goals of lifelong learning we, as teachers and staff, seek to instill in you, our reason for being here.

Many of you have heard or seen a recent film called *Hidden Figures*. This movie was based on a book that we have chosen for every student and faculty member to read. Our goal is to create opportunities for all members of our community to discuss the important issues addressed in *Hidden Figures* and have experiences with other students in other classes and grade levels to enrich these experiences. When we return to school, we hope to have some classroom and out-of-class activities during which all students will get to learn more about math, science, history, and many other topics addressed in *Hidden Figures*.

To that end, please carefully read *Hidden Figures Young Readers Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly before the first day of school. While there is not a required summer written assignment, you will be expected to know key details from this informational text and will be tested at the start of the school year. Various classes will explore the book in different ways, including through projects, writing assignments, and class discussions. Your thorough reading of the book will be expected and will enhance your participation in these assignments. Upon your return to school in August, please bring your own copy of the text with you for the first several weeks.

7th and 8th Grade Summer Reading

Both seventh and eighth grade students are to choose two of the following in addition to *Hidden Figures Young Readers Edition*:

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

A powerful story of World War II-era life in Europe, this historical fiction novel takes readers into the mind of a benevolent Death, the narrator who explains the life of one young girl who learns about the scarcity of war and the horrors of Nazi ideology. Liesel's compassion and understanding grow as she searches for meaning in one of life's most important treasures: books.

Booked by Kwame Alexander

This realistic fiction novel, written in verse, will resonate with lovers of soccer and any middle schooler who's struggled with parents, friends, teachers, crushes, and all the other real-life problems everyone faces growing up.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

This classic novel featuring Buck, an amazingly strong and intelligent sled dog, will compel readers with its adventurous journey from sunny southern California to the frozen Yukon Territory. Famous for his accurate tales of exploration and the relationships between humans and their animals, Jack London has amazed and enlightened generations of readers.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

The story of a clone and his journey to learn who he really is, this dystopian novel has been enjoyed by MLK students for years. Readers who are interested in the possibilities of science and the conflict over drugs in the United States and Mexico will learn about what could go wrong in the future. The protagonist's friendships, intelligence, and pure luck get him out of many life-threatening situations, so there is plenty of adventure to be enjoyed in this novel, too.

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

Readers will come to love the two characters from whose perspective this tale is told: a Sudanese girl in the 2000s and a Sudanese boy in the 1980s. The boy, whose life the story is based upon, comes of age during war, struggles with separation from his family and violence, and eventually leaves his homeland. The girl lives in more peaceful times but still must make long treks to fetch water and has little time or energy to improve her life until changes come to her village.

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

This award-winning novel, a story of grief and loneliness, features a monster and a 12 year-old boy. The protagonist learns some valuable lessons from his strange visitor and readers will come away from this story with a few reminders about what is important in life, too.

Wonder by RJ Palacio

The story of a boy with deformities and disabilities and his adjustment to the life-changing reality of a regular school has warmed hearts and challenged the countless fans of this realistic fiction novel. Auggie and his friends and family tell the story of a middle school boy who just wants to fit in but faces many more challenges than most.

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) as you read to help you remember important parts.

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.