Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
This fantasy novel, set in Africa, explores real issues of race and tolerance and couples them with heart-pounding chase scenes, battles, and adventure. Zélie, the heroine, along with the two other narrators, must fight to save - or destroy - magic, their families, and even their own identities. This is Adeyemi's first novel, and it will appeal to readers interested in folklore and strong female characters, as well as lovers of Harry Potter, Naruto, and Black Panther.

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton
The Outsiders delves into the hearts, minds, and stories of a group that had no voice before S.E. Hinton gave them one. The realistic story of the Greasers and the Socs, rival gangs from different sides of the railroad tracks, is narrated by Ponyboy Curtis, a smart, sensitive kid who has grown to be one of the most recognizable figures in young adult literature. Ponyboy and his brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death. During their struggle, they search for an identity among the conflicting values of a society in which they find themselves “outsiders.”

The first few weeks of class will be devoted to the study of the summer reading novels. You should bring your own copy of the novels 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 novel as you read to help you remember important parts.

Some things to take notes on as you read:

• Study the setting of each novel 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 novel and how they are resolved
• Note the climax, or highest point of action, of the novels
• Major themes
• Symbolism

Again, you are expected to be an active and engaged reader of the novels. 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 novels will begin the second day of school. Bring copies of the novels with you when you report to school.