

Middle School English Summer Reading 2023

Dear Families,

This summer, middle school students should plan to read at least **two** new-to-them books over the summer.

One book can be a free choice.

One book should be chosen from the Virginia State Literacy Association's Virginia Reader's Choice middle school selections for 2023-2024:

Book	Genre / Topic /Features
<i>All He Knew</i> by Helen Frost	historical fiction; based on a true story; novel-in-verse
<i>City Spies</i> by James Ponti	first in a popular series; spy fiction / action adventure
<i>Coop Knows the Scoop</i> by Taryn Souders	murder mystery; friendship; small town
<i>Flight of the Puffin</i> by Ann Braden	alternating narrators; friendship; identity; bullying
<i>Race to the Bottom of the Earth</i> by Rebecca E.F. Barone	nonfiction; history; adventure
<i>Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler</i> by Ibi Zoboi	biography; nonfiction; poetry; multigenre
<i>The Last Cuentista</i> by Donna Barba Higuera	sci-fi; fantasy; space; mystery
<i>The Magical Imperfect</i> by Chris Baron	novel-in-verse; friendship; belonging
<i>The Mysterious Disappearance of Aiden S. (As Told to His Brother)</i> by David Levithan	mystery; family; faith
<i>What Comes Next</i> by Rob Buyea	amily; change; tragedy; animals; healing

As your student reads their Virginia Reader's Choice book, they should keep a page of notes, organized any way they would like. *Students will share these notes with their English teacher in the first week of school.*

These notes might include:

- Characters' names
- Questions that arise as they read
- Important objects or symbols in the book
- Significant settings
- Meaningful quotes from the text
- Illustrations
- Opinions about events in the story
- Things they learn through their reading
- A brief summary
- Connections between this book and their lives
- Connections between this book and other books, movies, television shows, etc.
- Unfamiliar or interesting words encountered in this book and their meanings
- A perspective or voice they think is missing in the story
- Anything else that feels interesting or important.

Notes may be on paper or digital. However, students will need to bring them on the first day of class.

In the first two weeks of school, students will be meeting in book clubs with faculty members and other students who chose the same title. They will be using the notes they take to [create one-pagers](#) that represent their experience reading the book and for the purposes of small-group discussion.

Please reach out to a middle school English teacher with questions regarding summer reading:

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