Directions for Summer Reading:

You must read the required core novel. In addition to the core novel, you must read one other book (from any category) from the Additional Reading Requirement Reading List as part of your required summer reading assignment. Therefore, you will read two books for your required summer reading assignment - Freak the Mighty and one of the other books listed below. Please choose a book that you have not yet read. You must complete both the required core novel and the additional reading requirement novel by the first day of school.

Required Core Novel

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
Two Boys - a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces - forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. A story about triumph over human imperfection, shame, and loss.

Additional Requirement Book List by Category

Realistic Fiction

Bauer, Joan. Almost Home. When twelve-year-old Sugar's grandfather dies, and her gambling father takes off again, Sugar and her mother lose their home in Missouri. With the help of a rescue dog, Shush; a foster family, a supportive teacher; a love of poetry; and her own grace and good humor, Sugar come to understand that while she can't control the hand life deals her, she can control how she responds.

Creech, Sharon. The Great Unexpected. Orphans Naomi and Lizzie are best friends, but Naomi has a knack for being around when trouble happens, and she knows all of the peculiar people in town. Into their lives drops the strangely charming Finn boy. Across the sea, on a grand estate in Ireland, an elderly lady has a plan. These two worlds weave together with great unexpected gifts of love and forgiveness.

Curtis, Christopher. Bud, Not Buddy. It's 1936 Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, and a 10-year old Bud may be a motherless boy, but Bud's got a few things going for him. 1. He has his own suitcase full of special things; 2. He's the author of "Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself"; 3. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: posters of Herman E. Calloway and his band of renown, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression. Bud is sure those posters will lead him to his father. Once he decides to hit the road, nothing can stop him, not hunger, not fear, not would-be vampires, not even Herman E. Calloway himself. Also acceptable as a book choice only if you have already read the first book is the next book in the series: The Mighty Miss Malone (companion book).
Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet*. Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother has given him as a present and a dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart ever since his parents' divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self-pity, or despair. It will take all his know-how and determination to survive. Also acceptable as a book choice *only* if you have already read the first book is one of the other books in the series: *The River, Brian’s Winter, Brian’s Return*, and *Brian’s Hunt*.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Crash*. Seventh grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the importance of friendship and family.

**Science Fiction and Fantasy**

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. *Cosmic*. Twelve-year-old Liam, who looks like he is thirty and is tired of being treated like he is older than he actually is, decides he is going to pose as the adult chaperone on the first spaceship to take civilians into space, but when he decides he ends up in outer space with a group of kids and no adult supervision, he must think fast to make things right.

Carman, Patrick. *The Dark Hills Divide*. When she finds the key to a secret passageway leading out of the walled city of Bridewell, twelve-year-old Alexa explores the mysterious forests and mountains that lie beyond the wall. Also acceptable as a book choice *only* if you have already read the first book is one of the other books in the series: *Into the Mist* (prequel), *Beyond the Valley of Thorns, The Tenth City*, and *Stargazer*.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Running Out of Time*. When the diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1996 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn*. Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface. Also acceptable as a book choice *only* if you have already read the first book is one of the other books in the series: *Skybreaker* and *Starclimber*.

Pierce, Tamora. *Sandry's Book*. Four young misfits find themselves living in a strict temple community where they become friends while learning to use their powers, especially magic. Also acceptable as a book choice *only* if you have already read the first book is one of the other books in the series: *Tris’s Book, Daja’s Book*, and *Briar’s Book*.

**Historical Fiction**

Avi. *Seer of Shadows*. In this intriguing historical ghost story set in New York City in 1872, Horace Carpentine becomes an apprentice to a local society photographer and learns more about deception, ghosts, and photography than he could have ever imagined.

Calkhoven, Laurie. *Will at the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863*. In 1863, twelve-year-old Will, who longs to be a drummer in the Union army, is stuck in his sleepy hometown of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. However, when the Union and Confederate armies meet right there in his town, he and his family are caught up in the fight, and Will learns about the horrors of war. Also acceptable as a book choice *only* if you have
already read the first book is one of the other books in the series: Daniel at the Siege of Boston, 1776 and Michael at the Invasion of France, 1943.

Compestine, Ying Chang. Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party: A Novel. During the Cultural Revolution in China, Ling struggles to make sense of injustice and severe losses of freedom that she and her well-educated family must endure.

Gibbs, Stuart. The Last Musketeer. On a family trip to Paris to sell family heirlooms, fourteen-year-old Greg and his parents are whisked back to 1615 Paris, and Greg teams up with the soon-to-become Three Musketeers in an attempt to free his imprisoned parents from imminent death. Also acceptable as a book choice only if you have already read the first book is one of the other books in the series: Traitor’s Chase and Double Cross.

Lowery Nixon, Joan. A Family Apart. The first book of the Orphan Train Quartet tells the story of Frances Mary, 13, eldest of the six Kelly children. Life in New York's grim 19th century slums consist of hardship for the poor but honest Kelly clan. When Mrs. Kelly feels that she is no longer capable of providing for her children, she sends them West on the Orphan Train, to be adopted by farm families. Also acceptable as a book choice only if you have already read the first book is one of the other books in the series: Caught in the Act, In the Face of Danger, A Place to Belong, A Dangerous Promise, Keeping Secrets, and Circle of Love.

Classic

Cleaver, Vera. Where the Lilies Bloom. Mary Call has promised her dying father to keep her brother and sisters together forever on the mountain and never take help from strangers. She is determined to keep her word, no matter what. At first she is sure she can manage. But then winter comes fast and furious. Mary Call has to learn that the land where the lilies bloom is also a cruel and unforgiving place. It may take more than a promise to keep her family together.

Hunt, Irene. Across Five Aprils. On an April 1861 morning, Matt and Ellen Creighton are working the family farm in southern Illinois. Ellen is weighed down with worry. The entire country feels the tension of impending war. People are wondering if President Lincoln will ever declare war. Then, Shadrach, the local school teacher comes to the family farm with the news that the Confederates have fired on Fort Sumter. This news will change the Creighton family forever.

Rawlings, Marjorie. The Yearling. The Pulitzer Prize winner tells the story of the Baxter family and their wild, hard but satisfying life in remote central Florida. Fighting off a starving pack of wolves, wrestling alligators in the swamp, romping with bear cubs, drawing off venom of a giant rattlesnake bite with the heart of a fresh-killed-deer -- it's all in a day’s work for this family living in the scrublands.

Verne, Jules. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. This story is a classic science fiction tale about a French professor and his companions who are trapped aboard a futuristic submarine with a mad sea captain. All aboard the submarine come face to face with exotic ocean creatures and strange sights hidden from the world above.