Directions for Summer Reading:
You **must** read one novel from the required Core Genre List. Other novels in a series may **not** replace the novel listed on the Core Genre List. In addition to reading one required novel from the Core Genre List, you **must also** read one book from the Additional Reading Requirement List (from any genre) as part of your summer reading requirement. For your Additional Reading Requirement List choice, you may read the next novel in the series if you have already read the previous novel. Therefore, you will read a total of **two books for your required summer reading assignment**—one novel you choose from the Core Genre List and one of the novels from the Additional Reading Requirement List.

Please choose books you have **not** yet read. You must **read** the actual, unabridged novel—no graphic novel versions or abridged stories or film/television substitutions. You must complete **both** the required Core Genre List novel and the Additional Reading Requirement List novel by the **first day of school**. You will have discussions and assignments based on the summer reading books.

Required Core Genre List—*Read one novel from this list. (Science Fiction and Fantasy)*

Condie, Ally. *Matched*. Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, and what to believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate, that is until she sees Ky Markham's face flash for a slight instant before the screen fades to black. The Society tells her this is a simple glitch, a rare malfunction, and that she should focus on the happy life she is destined to lead with Xander. But however much Cassie attempts to forget the appearance of Ky's face, Cassia cannot forget it. For the first time in her life, Cassia begins doubting the Society's infallibility and is faced with an impossible choice—between the only life she has always known and a path that no one else has ever dared to follow. (blurb from amazon.com)

Evans, Richard Paul. *Michael Vey 1: The Prisoner of Cell 25*. To everyone at Meridian High School, fourteen-year-old Michael Vey is nothing special, just the kid who has Tourette’s syndrome. But in truth, Michael is extremely special—he has electric powers. Michael thinks he is unique until he discovers that a cheerleader named Taylor has the same mysterious powers. With the help of Michael’s friend, Ostin, the three of them set out to discover how Michael and Taylor ended up with their abilities, and their investigation soon brings them to the attention of a powerful group who wants to control the electric teens—and through them, the world. (blurb from amazon.com)

Kincaid, S. J. *Insigntia*. The planet's natural resources are almost gone, and war is being fought to control the assets of the solar system. The enemy is winning. However, hope may come in the form of Tom Raines. Tom is an awkward fourteen-year-old and does not seem like a typical hero. Yet, Tom’s genius skills at virtual-reality gaming make him a prime candidate for the United States Military and its special Intrasolar Forces. As a new member of these special forces, Tom's life completely changes. Suddenly, he is someone important, has new opportunities, has new friends, has a shot at having a girlfriend, and can use his gaming skills to help save those he cares about. (blurb from HAISLN and amazon.com)
Lu, Marie. *Legend*. What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the poor section, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From rather different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths—until the day something happens to June’s brother and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks justice. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has actually brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets. (blurb from amazon.com)

Okorafor-Mbachu, Nnedi. *Zahrah the Windseeker*. In this female coming-of-age story set in the Ooni Kingdom, children born dada—with vines growing in their hair—are rumored to have special powers. Zahrah does not know anything about that. She feels normal. However, others think she is different—they fear her and tease her. Only Dari, her best friend, does not fear Zahrah. But then something begins to happen—something that definitely marks Zahrah as different—and the only person she can tell is Dari. He pushes her to investigate, edging them both closer and closer to danger, until Dari’s life is on the line. Only Zahrah can save him, but to do so she will have to face her worst fears alone, including what makes her so different. (blurb from amazon.com)

Patterson, James. *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment*. Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it is like to soar in the sky. She and all the members of the “flock” are just like ordinary kids, except as a result of genetic experimentation, they have wings and can fly. After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, Max and her friends take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. (blurb from amazon.com and JC library)

Pierce, Tamora. *First Test*. In the medieval and fantastic realm of Tortall, Keladry of Mindelan (known as Kel) is the first girl to take advantage of the decree that permits females to train for knighthood. But Kel is not a girl to underestimate. The young Keladry of Mindalen, daughter of nobles, serves as a page, but must prove herself to the males around her if she is ever to fulfill her dream of becoming a knight. This story is filled with magic, skill, adventure, and pure determination of will. (part of blurb from Barnes and Noble.com)

Yancey, Rick. *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp*. Alfred Kropp is just trying to survive high school when his guardian uncle ropes him into a suspicious get-rich-quick scheme that changes his life forever: stealing Excalibur—the legendary sword of King Arthur. But when Alfred unwittingly delivers the sword into the wrong hands, he undertakes an unlikely quest filled with fast-paced adventure and magic to right his wrong and save the world from imminent destruction. Through it all, Alfred learns he is not just a nobody nor is he just an ordinary teenager. (part of blurb from Barnes and Noble.com)
• Realistic Fiction (action takes place within the lifetime of the author/publication)

Garcia McCall, Guadalupe. **Under the Mesquite.** As the oldest of eight siblings, Lupita is used to taking the lead—and staying busy behind the scenes to help keep everyone together. But when she discovers Mami has been diagnosed with cancer, Lupita is terrified by the possibility of losing her mother, the anchor of her close-knit Mexican American family. Suddenly Lupita must face a whole new set of challenges, with new roles to play, and no one is handing her the script. (blurb from guadalupegarciamccall.com)

Hinton, S. E. **The Outsiders.** No one ever said life was easy, but Ponyboy is pretty sure that he has life figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. He also knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. On the flip side, he knows he can also count on regular trouble from the Socs, a vicious group of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up kids like Ponyboy and his friends. At least Ponyboy knows what to expect from life—that is, until the night things go too far. (blurb from amazon.com)

Ly, Many. **Roots and Wings.** Grace’s grandmother has died, and she and her mother must travel back to the Cambodian community to give her a proper Cambodian funeral. But Grace wants to use the trip to learn who her father was, why her mother and grandmother moved from St. Petersburg to Pennsylvania where they are the only Cambodians Grace has ever seen, and what Cambodian culture is truly all about. Embraced by her mother’s old friends, Grace feels both at home and lost, fascinated by the traditions she has never known, but strangely judged by some members of the community. (blurb from randomhouse.com)

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. **Counting by 7s.** Twelve-year-old genius and outsider, Willow Chance, must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident. (blurb from JC library site)

Sonnenblick, Jordan. **Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie.** Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece. Also acceptable as a book choice only if you have already read the first book is the next book in the series: **After Ever After.** (blurb from indiebound.org)

Spinelli, Jerry. **Stargirl.** Stargirl. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of her name. She captures Leo Borlock’s heart with just one smile, and he can think only of her. Leo sees how she sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The other students of Mica High are enchanted by her, at first. Then the students turn on her, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the thing that can destroy her. (blurb from amazon.com)

• Historical Fiction (action takes place during the 1970s or before)

Boyne, John. **Boy in the Striped Pajamas.** Berlin, 1942: When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are rather different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences. (blurb from amazon.com)
Halse Anderson, Laurie. *Fever 1793*. During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out. Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease. (blurb from amazon.com)

Hale, Marian. *Dark Water Rising*. In the early 1900s, Galveston, Texas is a booming city, but to Seth, it is the end of a dream. He longs to be a carpenter like his father, but his family has moved to Galveston so he can go to a good school. Even though this move may not have been what he wanted, Seth believes the last few weeks of summer may actually turn out to be good because he has a job as a builder and the beach is nearby. When a storm warning is raised one hot afternoon, no one could have imagined how strong of a storm it would be. Giant walls of water crash in from the sea. Shingles and bricks fly dangerously through the air. People are swept away by rushing water. Seth and his family now have to focus on surviving this frightening ordeal. (blurb from amazon.com)

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Weedflower*. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the lives of a Japanese American girl and her family are forever changed. Sumiko, age twelve, lives with her family on a flower farm in Southern California. Though often busy with chores, Sumiko enjoys working with the blossoms, particularly stock, or weedflowers. Even though Sumiko is American, in the difficult days that follow the bombing, her family members fear for their safety because of growing mistrust and prejudice. Uncle and Jiichan are taken to a prison camp, and the others are eventually sent to an assembly center at a racetrack, where they live in a horse stable. When the government moves her family to the Arizona desert, Sumiko misses the routine of her old life and struggles with despair. During these uncertain times, Sumiko makes a few close friends, including a tender relationship with a Mohave boy from whom she learns that the camp is on land taken from the Mohave reservation and that the tribe's plight parallels that of the incarcerated Japanese Americans. (blurb from amazon.com)

Perkins, Mitali. *The Secret Keeper*. When her father loses his job and leaves India to look for work in America, Asha Gupta, her older sister, Reet, and their mother must wait with Baba’s brother and his family, as well as their grandmother, in Calcutta. Uncle is welcoming, but in a country/time steeped in tradition, the three women must abide by his decisions. Asha knows this is temporary—just until Baba sends for them. But with scant savings and time passing, the tension builds. Asha’s only solace is her rooftop hideaway, where she pours her heart out in her diary, and where she begins a clandestine friendship with Jay Sen, the boy next door. Asha can hardly believe that she, and not Reet, is the object of Jay’s attention. Then news arrives and Asha must make a choice that will change their lives forever. (blurb from amazon.com)

Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars*. Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker does not like Holling—he is sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? Also acceptable as a book choice only if you have already read the first book is the next book in the series: *Okay for Now*. (blurb from amazon.com)

**Crime Fiction (Mystery Fiction and Detective Fiction)**

Abbott, Tony. *The Postcard*. When Jason's grandmother dies, he is sent down to her home in Florida to help his father clean out her belongings. At first, he complains about spending his summer miles away from his best friend, doing chores, and sweating in the Florida heat, but he soon discovers a mystery surrounding his
grandmother's murky past. An old, yellowed postcard, a creepy phone call with a raspy voice at the other end asking, "So how smart are you?", an entourage of odd funeral goers, a bizarre magazine story—all contain clues that will send him on a thrilling journey to uncover family secrets. (blurb from amazon.com)

Bradley, Alan. *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*. It is the summer of 1950—and at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events: A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Then, hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath. For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw. 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 Weed That Strings the Hangman’s Bag, A Red Herring Without Mustard, I Am Half-Sick of Shadows, Speaking from Among the Bones, The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches, As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust*, and *Thrice the Brinded Cat Hath Mew’d*. (blurb from amazon.com)

Feinstein, John. *Last Shot: Mystery at the Final Four (The Sports Beat, I)*. When Stevie wins a writing contest for aspiring sports journalists, his prize is a press pass to the Final Four in New Orleans. While exploring the Superdome, he overhears a plot to throw the championship game. With the help of fellow contest winner Susan Carol, Stevie has just forty-eight hours to figure out who is blackmailing one of the star players and why. Also acceptable as a book choice only if you have already read the first book is one of the other books in the series: *Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open, Cover-up: Mystery at the Super Bowl, Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series, The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army-Navy Game*, and *Rush for Gold: Mystery at the Olympics*. (blurb from amazon.com)

Gleason, Colleen. *The Clockwork Scarab: A Stoker and Holmes Novel*. Evaline Stoker and Mina Holmes never meant to get into the family business. But when you are the sister of Bram and the niece of Sherlock, vampire hunting and mystery solving are in your blood, so to speak. And when two young society girls disappear—one dead, one missing—there is no one more qualified to investigate. Now fierce Evaline and logical Mina must resolve their rivalry and solve a murder with only one clue, an Egyptian scarab. The pressure is on and the stakes are high. If Stoker and Holmes do not figure out why London's finest sixteen-year-old women are in danger, they could become the next victims. 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 Spiritglass Charade, The Chess Queen Enigma*, and *The Carnelian Crow*. (blurb from amazon.com)

Lane, Andrew. *Death Cloud (Sherlock Holmes: The Legend Begins)*. It is the summer of 1868, and Sherlock Holmes is fourteen. On break from boarding school, he is staying with eccentric strangers—his uncle and aunt—in their vast house in Hampshire. When two local people die from symptoms that resemble the plague, Holmes begins to investigate what really killed them, helped by his new tutor, an American named Amyus Crowe. So begins Sherlock’s true education in detection, as he discovers the dastardly crimes of a brilliantly sinister villain of exquisitely malign intent. Also acceptable as a book choice only if you have already read the first book is one of the other books in the series: *Rebel Fire, Black Ice, Fire Storm, Snake Bite*, and *Knife Edge*. (blurb from amazon.com)

Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game*. This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. The mysterious death of this eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance. They could become millionaires, depending on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, which involves blizzards, burglaries, and bombings. (blurb from barnesandnoble.com)