

Incoming 7th Grade Summer Reading for 2019-2020

Calle Mayor Middle School

Exploring Growth in Character

Concept:

In 7th grade, we will be focusing on our transformation from childhood to adolescence. These summer reading books have been selected to inspire students by allowing them to experience stories that explore growth in character. Students will be incorporating themes and ideas from their summer reading into their 1st Quarter work in 7th grade English.

Assignment:

The assignment has two parts:

1. It is suggested that all students read **Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March**, by Lynda Blackmon Lowery.
2. Additionally, all students will read one (or more) of the books from the “Book Choice” list below.
3. Keep a *Reading Chart* of all the books you read. List the title, author, and number of pages.

Read **Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom** and one (or more) of the following:

<i>All Heart: My Dedication and Determination to Become One of Soccer's Best</i> Carli Lloyd	<i>All the Right Stuff</i> Walter Dean Myers
<i>Crossover</i> Kwame Alexander	<i>The Fifth Wave</i> Richard Yancey
<i>Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science</i> Jeannie Atkins	<i>Norse Mythology</i> Neil Gaiman
<i>The Prophecy Keepers</i> Melanie Bryant	<i>See You in the Cosmos</i> Jack Cheng
<i>Strong Inside (Young Readers Edition): The True Story of How Perry Wallace Broke College Basketball's Color Line</i> Andrew Maraniss	<i>Tight</i> Torrey Maldonado

All Heart: My Dedication and Determination to Become One of Soccer's Best

Lloyd, Carli

Despite being named the FIFA Women's World Player of the Year, winning two Olympic gold medals in women's soccer, and being instrumental in clinching the 2015 Women's World Cup, Lloyd's successes did not come easy. In this memoir for young readers, adapted from her New York Times best-seller When Nobody Was Watching (2016), Lloyd highlights her constant struggles with self-criticism and her quest for perfection, which often leave her feeling like an underachiever. She begins with being cut in 2003 from the U.S. Under-21 soccer team and how it drove her more to become one of the country's best female soccer athletes. Her conversational narrative then takes readers step-by-step through her ups and downs both on and off the playing field, including her intense personal training, initial trouble fitting in among her teammates and with coaches, and troubled relationship with her parents. While soccer fans will especially enjoy the detailed descriptions of key matches from her career, there's much to glean about teamwork and determination for any teen. An inspiring story of perseverance.

All the Right Stuff

Myers, Walter Dean

When his troubled father is killed in a street shooting, 16-year-old Paul is determined to become the hero his father never was. The means to this end present themselves when he lands a community-service job working at a soup kitchen. The elderly proprietor, Elijah I. Jones, introduces the boy to the concept of the social contract. Soon Paul's job is far more than just serving soup to seniors; it is a de facto seminar on citizen-government interaction, social justice, and civil liberties. Set in Myers' signature Harlem neighborhood, this novel of ideas is a challenging but rewarding read that invites readers to learn, along with Paul, a complex philosophical—and practical—concept.

Crossover

Alexander, Kwame

Twelve-year old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.

The Fifth Wave

Yancey, Richard

After the first wave, only darkness remains. After the second wave, only the lucky escape. After the third wave, only the unlucky survive. After the fourth wave, only one rule applies: trust no one.

Now it's the dawn of the fifth wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Cassie believes that to stay alone is to stay alive; until she meets Evan Walker. Beguiling and mysterious, Evan may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her brother – or even saving herself. But Cassie must choose between trust and despair, defiance and surrender, and life and death.

Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science

Atkins, Jeannie

A gorgeously written novel in verse about three girls in three different time periods who grew up to become groundbreaking scientists.

Norse Mythology

Gaiman, Neil

In *Norse Mythology*, Gaiman stays true to the myths in envisioning the major Norse pantheon: Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki—son of a giant—blood brother to Odin and a trickster and unsurpassable manipulator.

Gaiman fashions these primeval stories into a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds and delves into the exploits of deities, dwarfs, and giants. Through Gaiman's deft and witty prose, these gods emerge with their fiercely competitive natures, their susceptibility to being duped and to duping others, and their tendency to let passion ignite their actions, making these long-ago myths breathe pungent life again.

Prophecy Keepers

Bryant, Melanie

Fourteen year old Lisandra Ackart discovers that she is the "Gifted One" spoken of in the ancient legends and reluctantly embarks on a journey to save her world from the rising Darkness.

See You in the Cosmos

Cheng, Jack

11-year-old Alex Petroski loves space and rockets, his mom, his brother, and his dog Carl Sagan—named for his hero, the real-life astronomer. All he wants is to launch his golden iPod into space the way Carl Sagan launched his Golden Record on the Voyager spacecraft in 1977. From Colorado to New Mexico, Las Vegas to L.A., Alex records a journey on his iPod to show other lifeforms what life on earth, *his* earth, is like. The funny, lost, and remarkable people he meets along the way can only partially prepare him for the secrets he'll uncover—from the truth about his long-dead dad to the fact that, for a kid with a troubled mom and a mostly not-around brother, he has way more family than he ever knew.

Strong Inside (Young Readers Edition): The True Story of How Perry Wallace Broke College Basketball's Color Line

Andrew Maraniss

Perry Wallace was born at an historic crossroads in U.S. history. He entered kindergarten the year that the Brown v. Board of Education decision led to integrated schools, allowing blacks and whites to learn side by side. A week after Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, Wallace enrolled in high school and his sensational jumping, dunking, and rebounding abilities quickly earned him the attention of college basketball recruiters from top schools across the nation. In his senior year his Pearl High School basketball team won Tennessee's first racially-integrated state tournament.

The world seemed to be opening up at just the right time, and when Vanderbilt University recruited Wallace to play basketball, he courageously accepted the assignment to desegregate the Southeastern Conference. The hateful experiences he would endure on campus and in the hostile gymnasiums of the Deep South turned out to be the stuff of nightmares. Yet Wallace persisted, endured, and met this unthinkable challenge head on. This insightful biography digs deep beneath the surface to reveal a complicated, profound, and inspiring story of an athlete turned civil rights trailblazer.

Tight

Maldonado, Torrey

Bryan's mom has always encouraged his quiet, thoughtful nature, but his dad is different. He thinks it's time for the sixth-grader to toughen up. With a quick temper and recently out of jail on probation, he tells Bryan it's better for a man to be feared than to be liked.

Bryan's not really sure about this, and it doesn't seem to even matter when he befriends new kid Mike. At first everything is calm and chill, the way Bryan likes it, as the boys bond over their love of reading comics and drawing superheroes. But things get uncomfortable when it turns out Mike has some risky ideas about how to have fun. Then Bryan's dad gets in a fight and ends up back in jail, and something in Bryan snaps. He starts cutting school, jumping subway turnstiles and going train surfing, with Mike in the lead. But when Mike takes things a step too far and shows his true colors, Bryan has a difficult decision to make.

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March

Lowery, Lynda Blackmon

As the youngest marcher in the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Lynda Blackmon Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed eleven times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. In this memoir, she shows today's young readers what it means to fight nonviolently (even when the police are using violence, as in the Bloody Sunday protest) and how it felt to be part of changing American history.