Please select **two** books from the list below to read during summer break. Be prepared for an assessment activity when school begins in the fall. For series books, students can read any book in the series.

**The Ruins of Gorlan** by John Flanagan (Rangers Apprentice series)
On Choosing Day Will's heart was set on Battle school, but he is small for his 15 years. Brave and skilled at moving and climbing silent as a shadow, his unwanted apprenticeship tests his talent and spirit in the battle against the Kingdom's ancient foes.

**An American Plague: the true and terrifying story of the yellow fever epidemic of 1793** by Jim Murphy (Non-Fiction)
Provides an account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793, discussing the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.

**Wonder** by R.J. Palacio
August Pullman is not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. Sure, he's a huge Star Wars fan, he loves his dog, and he's got a pretty good sense of humor. But August was born with a craniofacial abnormality, a genetic defect that caused his facial features to be severely deformed. His life has never been "normal."

**Chasing Vermeer** by Blue Balliett
When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

**A Coal Miner's Bride: The Diary of Anetka Kaminska, Lattimer, Pennsylvania, 1896** by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (historical Fiction)
Thirteen-year-old Anetka lives in Russia-occupied Sadowska, Poland, in 1896. Annetka loves her village, and doesn't have "America fever" as many other villagers do. She longs for a letter from her father and for his return from America, where he has been working in a Pennsylvania coal mine for almost two years. But when Tata's letter finally arrives, Annetka learns that he has arranged for her to marry Mr. Stanley Gawrich. In return, Stanley will pay for her passage to America.

**Out of the Dust** by Karen Hesse (Historical fiction)
A poem cycle that reads as a novel, *Out of the Dust* tells the story of a girl named Billie Jo, who struggles to help her family survive the dust-bowl years of the Depression. Fighting against the elements on her Oklahoma farm, Billie Jo takes on even more responsibilities when her mother dies in a tragic accident.

**Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz (series)
Readers will cheer for Alex Rider, the 14-year-old hero of British author Horowitz's spy thriller. When his guardian and uncle, Ian, is mysteriously killed, Alex discovers that his uncle was not the bank vice-president he purported to be, but rather a spy for the British government. Now the government wants Alex to take over his uncle's mission: investigating Sayle Enterprises, the makers of a revolutionary computer called Stormbreaker.

**Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans** by Kadir Nelson (Non-Fiction)
Examines the history of the United States, focusing on events that influenced African-Americans and how they advanced liberty and justice in America.

**Fantasy League** by Mike Lupica
Twelve-year-old Charlie is a fantasy football guru. Though he's not much of a player, when it comes to knowing and loving the game, he's at the top. He even becomes a celebrity when his podcast gets noticed by a sports radio host, who plays Charlie's fantasy picks for all of Los Angeles to hear.

**The Loud Silence of Francine Green** by Karen Cushman
Francine Green doesn't speak up much, and who can blame her? Her parents aren't interested in her opinions, the nuns at school punish girls who ask too many questions, and the House Committee on Un-American Activities is blacklisting people who express unpopular ideas. There's safety in silence. Francine would rather lose herself in a book, or in daydreams about her favorite Hollywood stars, than risk attracting attention or getting in trouble.

**No More Dead Dogs** by Gordan Korman
Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.
**Penny from Heaven** by Jennifer Holm
Penny Falucci is 11 in 1953 when she learns the secret that has kept her mother and her deceased father’s family apart since she was a baby. Restrictions on Italian Americans during World War II, the fear of polio, wringer washing machines, and Penny’s mother starting to date the milkman combine to make this an interesting story of an imperfect family.

**Caught By the Sea: My Life on Boats** by Gary Paulsen (autobiography)
Gary Paulsen takes readers along on his maiden voyage, proving that ignorance can be bliss. Also really stupid and incredibly dangerous. He tells of boats that have owned him — good, bad, and beloved — and how they got him through terrifying storms that he survived by sheer luck.

**Maze of Bones: 39 Clues** by Rick Riordan (series)* read the first book
Minutes before she died, Grace Cahill changed her will, leaving her descendants an impossible decision: "You have a choice: one million dollars or a clue."

**Pinned** by Sharon G. Flake
Autumn and Adonis have nothing in common and everything in common. Autumn is outgoing and has lots of friends. Adonis is shy and not so eager to connect with people. But even with their differences, the two have one thing in common—they're each dealing with a handicap. For Autumn, who has a learning disability, reading is a painful struggle that makes it hard to focus in class. But as her school's most aggressive team wrestler, Autumn can take down any problem. Adonis is confined to a wheelchair. He has no legs. He can't walk or dance. But he's a strong reader who loves books. Even so, Adonis has a secret he knows someone like Autumn can heal.

**Weedflower** by Cynthia Kadohata
After Pearl Harbor is attacked, twelve year old Suniko and her family are relocated from their flower farm in California to an internment camp in Arizona. The camp is on a Mohave Indian reservation. Suniko struggles to adjust to her new surroundings, becomes friends with a Mohave boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop someday.

**Among the Hidden** by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside.

**The Lighting Thief** by Rick Riordan (Percy Jackson series)
Percy Jackson has ADHD, dyslexia, and a taste for trouble, so he's stuck going to a private school in upstate New York for hard-to-handle kids. If he doesn't get his life into shape, this could be the sixth school he's expelled from.

**The Ear, the Eye, the Arm** by Nancy Farmer
The year is 2194, and Tendai, Rita, and Kuda are the children of Zimbabwe's wealthy and powerful chief of security. They've escaped from their father's estate to explore the dangerous city of Harare—and promptly disappear. Their parents call in the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm, detectives whose exposure to nuclear waste has given them special powers. Together they must save the children from the evils of the past, the technology of the future, and criminals with plans much more sinister than anyone could have imagined.

**Challenging Reads**

**Cinder** by Marissa Meyers (Lunar Chronicle series)
Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

**The White Giraffe** by Lauren St. John
The night Martine Allen turns eleven years old is the night her life changes completely. Martine’s parents are killed in a fire, so she must leave her home to live on an African wildlife reserve with a grandmother she never even knew she had. When Martine arrives, she hears tales of a mythical animal living there — a white giraffe.

**Uglies** by Scott Westerfield
Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.

**Tomorrow When the War Began** by John Marsden (tomorrow girl series)
When Ellie and her friends go camping, they have no idea they're leaving their old lives behind forever. Despite a less-than-tragic food shortage and a secret crush or two, everything goes as planned. But a week later, they return home to find their houses empty and their pets starving. Something has gone wrong — horribly wrong.

**Julie Krone: Unstoppable Jockey** by Jeff Savage (biography)
This book discusses the childhood, education, riding career, and personal life of the first woman jockey to win a Triple Crown race.