

GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST
2019

The list below consists of suggested titles for middle school students entering seventh grade, to read over the summer. I would like the students to read one book from this suggested reading list, as well as another book of their choice. I also expect the students to write a book review for both of the books that they read. **The directions for writing the book review are on the back of this sheet.** This summer reading assignment will be due no later than September 18. I prefer that the assignment be completed by the first day of school, and students that bring in the assignment on the first day of school will be given extra credit. I encourage parents to preview a book's content and consult a librarian if you have any questions about a particular book. **HAPPY READING!**

For students entering seventh grade at Great Falls Middle School:

Favorite books voted by GFMS seventh grade students:

<u>Title and Genre</u>	<u>Author</u>
<i>Jackie and Me</i> (sports, fantasy)	Dan Gutman
<i>The Big Field</i> (sports, fiction)	Mike Lupica
<i>Gone</i> (dystopian/ sci-fi)	Michael Grant
<i>The Selection</i> (dystopian/fiction)	Keira Cass
<i>The Night She Disappeared</i> (mystery)	April Henry
<i>The Glass Castle</i> (memoir, nonfiction)	Jeannette Walls
<i>Everything, Everything</i> (fiction/romance)	Nichola Yoon
<i>Dragonwatch</i> (fantasy)	Brandon Mull
<i>Arrows of the Queen</i> (fantasy)	Mercedes Lackey

Ms. Martin's favorite young adult books:

<i>When I Was Puerto Rican</i> *	Esmeralda Santiago
<i>Twisted</i> *	Laurie Halse Anderson
<i>Homecoming</i>	Cynthia Voigt
<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> *	Sherman Alexie

*-Some mature content

-> see back

Summer Book Review Rubric

Main character (s):

Explain the main character (s) by giving details about their life, explaining the conflict (s) that they faced, and describing their emotions.

_____/7

Plot:

Give a **brief background** into the relationships between the characters, summarize the plot of the book, and **hint at the resolution** of the book.

_____/7

Reactions:

Give your opinions and reactions about the book, recommend what kind of reader would enjoy the book.

_____/5

Refer to the book title and author within the review.

_____/1

TOTAL POINTS

_____/20

Firegirl

By Tony Abbott

Firegirl is a young adult, realistic-fiction novel. It takes place in a seventh grade classroom, at a Catholic School in Connecticut. The main character is a seventh grade boy named Tom Bender. Tom is a boy that has a hard time getting attention or standing out in the crowd; he always seems to blend into the background. This is partly because he is afraid to speak up, and he has very little self confidence. Everything in Tom's seventh grade class changes, after a new student arrives. This new student is a girl named Jessica, who has been badly burned in an accident. When Jessica walks into the room, the class does not treat her the way any teacher would hope. The students ignore her because they are frightened by the way she looks, and some students are even disgusted by her. Even one of Tom's friends, Jeff, refused to hold her hand during prayers.

Tom finally gets a chance to stand out from the crowd by sticking up for something he believes in. He becomes so upset by how his classmates are treating Jessica, and he slowly begins to get to know her by spending time with her. Tom begins to feel more strongly about how Jessica deserves to be treated, and he becomes very upset when classmates start rumors about her. Tom faces the conflict: *Do I stick up for Jessica and do what's right, or do I stay quiet like I always do?*

I felt that this was a great story because it was so realistic, and everyone can relate to Tom in some way. It was so easy to put yourself in Tom's shoes to try and decide what you would do in his position. I enjoyed this story very much because it makes you think about how important it is to be sensitive to others' feelings, and it makes you think about what it means to be a good person.

You'll have to read the story to find out what happens to Tom and Jessica!

-Ms. Martin