

Dear Rising 7th and 8th Grade Raiders and Families,

A study at John Hopkins University concluded that students experience learning and reading loss when they are not taking part in active education. This "Summer Slide" can account for up to two months of academic loss. Research has shown that reading and enriching summer activities can eliminate this loss of learning. In fact, the number of books read during the summer is consistently correlated to academic gains because students return to school ready to continue their learning with little or no learning loss.

We believe encouraging students to read year round is essential to building lifelong learners. As a result, we hereby officially challenge you to read at least **two books from the Battle of the Books list**. Not only will you discover the joy of being lost in a book, but you will also benefit academically.

You are challenged to choose two (2) *new-to-you* titles from the following list to read over the summer.

[The Battle of the Books list for 2021-2022 includes:](#)

- ***New Kid*** by Jerry Craft**
- ***The Crossover*** by Kwame Alexander**
- ***Roller Girl*** by Victoria Jamieson
- ***Alexander Hamilton: The Making of America*** by Teri Kanefield**
- ***Song for a Whale*** by Lynne Kelly
- ***A Good Kind of Trouble*** by Lisa Moore Ramee'e
- ***Counting by 7's*** by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- ***The Screaming Staircase*** by Jonathan Stroud
- ***The Bridge Home*** by Padma Venkatraman**
- ***All of the Above*** by Shelley Pearsall**
- ***I Will Always Write Back*** by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda
- ***Etiquette & Espionage*** by Gail Carriger
- ***Paper Things*** by Jennifer Richard Jacobsen
- ***Cinder*** by Marissa Meyer
- ***Bloom*** by Kenneth Oppel
- ***Undefeated*** by Steve Sheinkin
- ***Deathwatch*** by Robb White
- ***Beyond the Bright Sea*** by Lauren Wolk

**Indicates books that are currently planned for the 2021-22 parent/student/teacher book club: Reading Raiders. Many Language Arts teachers offer extra credit to students who attend these events throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Rugby Middle School 7th and 8th Grade ELA Department

Friendly reminders:

Your student ID is an easy way to check out books at your local library.

These titles are available wherever books are sold or lent.

Adults are encouraged to read as well. Join the fun!