

June 2023

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Congratulations on completing 5th grade! I'm very excited to start learning together in 6th grade! Throughout this much-deserved break from school, students will be required to complete summer reading in order to maintain and improve the critical literacy skills they've worked so hard to develop throughout the seventh grade school year. While we know and understand that summer is busy, we also know that studies show that the more engaged students are in reading, the less likely they are to suffer from learning loss while improving their verbal and written reasoning. This summer, rising 6th graders will be required to read **the graphic novels listed here**.

- **Swim Team** by Johnnie Christmas | From Amazon: "A splashy, contemporary middle grade graphic novel from bestselling comics creator Johnnie Christmas! Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brigitha, home to the Mighty Manatees—until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help. With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her swim-crazed community counting on her to turn the school's failing team around. But that's easier said than done, especially when their rival, the prestigious Holyoke Prep, has everything they need to leave the Mighty Manatees in their wake. Can Bree defy the odds and guide her team to a state championship, or have the Manatees swum their last lap—for good?"
- **The Crossover Graphic Novel Version** by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile | From Amazon: Kwame Alexander's *New York Times* bestseller and Newbery Medal-winning *The Crossover* is vividly brought to life as a graphic novel with stunning illustrations by star talent Dawud Anyabwile. *New York Times* Bestseller · Newbery Medal Winner · Coretta Scott King Honor Award · 2015 YALSA Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults · 2015 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers · *Publishers Weekly* Best Book · *School Library Journal* Best Book · *Kirkus* Best Book "A beautifully measured novel of life and line." —*New York Times Book Review* *The Crossover* is now a graphic novel! "With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. 'Cuz tonight I'm delivering," raps twelve-year-old Josh Bell. Thanks to their dad, he and his twin brother, Jordan, are kings on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood—he's got mad beats, too, which help him find his rhythm when it's all on the line. See the Bell family in a whole new light through Dawud Anyabwile's dynamic illustrations as the brothers' winning season unfolds, and the world as they know it begins to change.

There is no project; however, there will be a brief quiz on the novel when we get back to school; the exact date is TBD, **but it will be within the first week**. The quiz will include short passages and the associated images and will require students to analyze those passages. After the quiz, we will work on a small project.

Happy reading,
Ms. Henkin