

Summer Reading Titles

The following three books are your choices for your summer reading assignment. The reading options are the same for all three grade levels. The assignment is the same for all four books. Please email me (gtegiacchi@ascaalbany.org) if you need help finding a book or have any questions about the assignment.

- *We Could Be Brothers* by Derrick D. Barnes

In this much anticipated middle grade novel by author Derrick Barnes (**Ruby & the Booker Boys**) two thirteen- year-old African-American boys become friends during a three day stint in an after school suspension. They were both involved in two unrelated incidents with the same person, the resident menace at Alain Locke Middle, **Tariq Molten**.

Robeson Battlefield is from a two parent household, where both parents are highly successful and educated. Academic achievement, social consciousness and responsibility are reinforced daily in the Battlefield household.

Pacino Clapton comes from a single parent household; his mom works two full time jobs. Pacino has a ton of responsibilities, including cutting hair to help pay bills, and taking care of his twin five- year-old sisters.

During this three day span, the young men visit each others home, and "chop it up" on a multitude of subjects including respect of self and Black women, the dire state of hip-hop music, the use of the dreaded "N" word, and masculinity.

Before long, the three boys are on a collision course. And when they do intersect, their lives are changed forever.

- *Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine

Caitlin has Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon was killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way things were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word closure--and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be so black and white after all.

- *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

(If you liked *A Wrinkle in Time* - this is the read for you!)

Shortly after a fall-out with her best friend, sixth grader Miranda starts receiving mysterious notes, and she doesn't know what to do. The notes tell her that she must write a letter—a true story, and that she can't share her mission with anyone.

It would be easy to ignore the strange messages, except that whoever is leaving them has an uncanny ability to predict the future. If that is the case, then Miranda has a big problem—because the notes tell her that someone is going to die, and she might be too late to stop it.

Name: _____

English _____ (Grade)

Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: After you have read your book, please complete the following assignment. **This assignment is due on 9/10/18.**

- Choose TWO of the three possible questions.
- Please answer the questions completely. However, for each question, you may answer by:
 - Writing a paragraph response (5-7 sentences).
 - Creating some sort of artistic visual. ***Artistic visuals still need to answer each question completely and include text!***
- You may answer both questions in the same way, or may choose a different approach for each question. If you have an additional idea for how you would like to answer the questions, please feel free to email me and ask! (gtegiacchi@ascaalbany.org)

Title: _____

Author: _____

1. Answer each of the following:
 - a. Choose two central characters, and describe their relationship.
 - b. What about their relationship do you find interesting? Why did you pick these two characters?
 - c. How does the relationship change between the beginning and the end of the story? Is this change for better or for worse?
 - d. What causes the change in this relationship?

2. Answer each of the following:
 - a. In one sentence, what is the main idea of this story?
 - b. What are two quotes from the story that support the main idea? Please include their page numbers.
 - c. How does the first quote you chose support the main idea?
 - d. How does the second quote you chose support the main idea?
 - e. What is one example of how this main idea is at work in our society today?

3. Answer the following questions by rating the book on a scale of 1-10. Each question should have AT LEAST 2-3 sentences that explain why you rated it the way you did.
 - a. How would you rate the overall storyline/plot of the text?
 - b. How would you rate the importance of this text?
 - c. How would you rate the emotional impact of this text (aka: did it make you feel something)?
 - d. Overall, how would you rate this book? Who would you recommend it to and why?