**WOODLAWN MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**SUMMER 2022**

**GIFTED/GREAT SCHOLARS SUMMER READING LIST**

**6th, 7th, and 8th grades**

**Gifted-Required to read 2 books from the list**

**Great Scholars-Required to read 1 book from the list.**

1. **96 Miles by J.L. Esplin**

[Realistic fiction, survival, Nevada desert, white male protagonist, 13y, brothers, blackout, robbery] Summary: During a massive blackout in rural Nevada, two brothers struggle to survive without their dad. After a robbery, they must set out across the desert to get help.

1. **Bloom by Kenneth Oppel**

[Science fiction, remote island in British Columbia, assumed white female/female/male protagonists, evil plants, horror, suspense] Summary: The invasion begins with rain -- a rain that carries seeds that sprout overnight, everywhere. These new plants crowd out crops, release toxic pollens, and form large underground pods that swallow animals and people. They are unstoppable.

1. **City Spies by James Ponti**

[Realistic fiction, adventure, Puerto Rican female protagonist, ethnically diverse side characters, computer hacking, foster care, secret agency, spies] Summary: Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. She gets a second chance when a mysterious man offers her a chance to join a group of spies.

1. **Clean Getaway by Nic Stone, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile**

[Realistic fiction, Black male protagonist, 11y, road trip, family, racism, civil rights] Summary: While suspended from school, eleven-year-old, racially mixed William "Scoob" Lamar joins his white grandmother on a road trip, during which he learns about life in the Jim Crow South and a shocking secret about G'ma.

1. **Danny Constantino’s First (and Maybe Last?) Date by Paul Acampora**

[Realistic fiction, romantic comedy, white male protagonist, ethnically diverse side characters, 7th grade, friendship, family, small towns, school dances, fame] Summary: Between going to the middle school dance with his celebrity crush and watching his mom campaign to be the next town mayor, Danny has a lot to learn about life in the spotlight.

1. **Dress Coded by Carrie Firestone**

[Realistic fiction, white female protagonist, ethnically diverse side characters, 8th grade, sexism, body objectivity, podcasts, vaping] Summary: An eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.

 **7. From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks**

[Realistic fiction, Black female protagonist, 12y, family, friendship, incarcerated parent, justice] Summary: Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime.

1. **Twins by Varian Johnson, illustrated by Shannon Wright**

[Realistic fiction, graphic novel, Black female protagonists, 6th grade, sisters, family, friendship, identity, individualism] Summary: A contemporary middle-grade graphic novel about two twin siblings who begin to drift apart once they enter middle school.

1. **When Life Gives You Mangos by Kereen Getten**

[Mystery, Black female protagonist, 12y, memory loss, friendship, family, community, hurricanes] Summary: Living on an island that visitors call exotic, 12-year-old Clara struggles with her increasingly distant relationship with a best friend and her inability to clearly recall the traumatizing events that occurred a year earlier.

1. **When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, illustrated by Victoria Jamieson and Iman Geddy**

[Nonfiction, graphic novel, Somali male, brothers, refugees, disability, survival, trauma] Summary: Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother.

1. **Wink by Rob Harrell**

[Realistic fiction, white male protagonist, 12y, 7th grade, illness, cancer, family, friendship, bullying, music] Summary: After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can help him survive both treatment and middle school.

1. **Wish in the Dark, A by Christina Soontornvat**

[Fantasy, Thai male and female protagonists, family, privilege, protest, justice, Les Misérables retelling] Summary: After escaping from prison, Pong hides out in a city run by a governor who magically controls all light. Nok, whose father oversaw the prison, vows to find Pong and restore her family's good name.

**During the 1st 9 weeks grading period of the 2022-23 school year the students will be required to complete a project on one of their required readings.**

**ENJOY!**