2022 Camillus Middle School 7th to 8th Grade Summer Reading

Participation is mandatory for every student entering 8th grade. Below is the list of summer reading books selected from varying literary genres from which your child will select. Many of these books are of high interest at typical reading levels. Others may be written at a more challenging reading level or contain more mature content.

**Parental review and assistance is expected to help children find literature that is both content appropriate and meets a comfortable reading level for your child.**

**Ground Zero by Alan Gratz** On the morning of September 11, 2001, nine-year-old Brandon goes to work with his Dad on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Brandon sneaks out and is in the elevator when a jet plane hits the tower. He must find his way down 89 floors to escape, only to try to make his way back up again through the burning building to rescue his father. Meanwhile Reshmina, a girl living in Afghanistan in 2019, is still reeling from the effects of 9/11. When she rescues an American soldier from the Taliban, her life and family are in imminent danger. Told in alternating voices, this action-packed historical fiction novel will have your heart pounding. (690L)

**Wink by Rob Harrell** Ross Maloy just wants to be a normal seventh grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to "the cancer kid." But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table. Based on Rob Harrell's real life experience, and packed with comic panels and spot art, this incredibly personal and poignant novel is an unforgettable, heartbreaking, hilarious, and uplifting story of survival and finding the music, magic, and laughter in life's weirdness. (580L)

**Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes** Only the living can make the world better. Jerome Rogers, a 12 year-old black boy living in Chicago, is killed by a white police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real one. As a ghost, he observes the devastation his death has unleashed on his family and community. Soon, he meets and learns from other ghosts, like Emmett Till, who have lost their lives to racial violence. But when he realizes that Sarah, the daughter of the white police officer who shot him, is the only one who can see him, he's left to wonder why? What lessons do they have to learn from one another? (HL 360L)

**When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller** When Lily moves with her family to Washington to be with her ailing grandmother, or Halmoni, the last thing she expects is to encounter a magical tiger she’s heard about in Halmoni’s Korean folktales. She soon learns that the tiger is the key to uncovering Halmoni’s past and possibly saving her life. When You Trap a Tiger is a powerful story about one of our greatest powers — storytelling and the effects those stories have on who we become. (590L)

**Ali Cross by James Patterson** When Ali's best friend Gabe is reported missing, Ali is desperate to find him. At the same time, a string of burglaries targets his neighborhood — and even his own house. With his father on trial for a crime he didn't commit, it's up to Ali to search for clues and find his friend. But being a kid sleuth isn't easy — especially when your father warns you not to get involved! — and Ali soon learns that clues aren't always what they seem. Will his detective work lead to a break in Gabe's case or cause even more trouble for the Cross family? (700L)

**When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson** Omar Mohamed was only four years old when he fled to a Kenyan refugee camp from war-torn Somalia with only his little brother in tow. Accompanied with Victoria Jamieson's brilliant graphic artwork, When Stars Are Scattered is a remarkable true account of Omar's childhood growing up in the camp, raising his little brother and dreaming of a better life for them both. A heartbreaking, hopeful, eye-opening must-read graphic novel for all ages. (530L)