June 2019

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Welcome to the eighth grade!

Summer reading is an important activity for intellectual growth and development. It encourages students to continue learning while providing fun and enjoyment. What helps make reading entertaining for children is allowing them the freedom to choose books that speak to their unique interests.

Summer Reading is a free choice read.

Students should not select a book they have previously read. We encourage students to read two or more books of their choosing. With the direction of a parent or other adult family member, students should select a book that is at or above their reading level.

RMS 8th grade teachers and students have developed a list of summer reading suggestions. Additionally, the outgoing eighth graders created book trailers, blog and podcast reviews of these summer reading suggestions. You can access their recommendations at:

http://ryemiddleschoolreads.blogspot.com

Please understand that the titles here are just some ideas for reading. These suggestions may be just right for you. We encourage you and your family to find your own favorites.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child’s current Language Arts teacher.

We wish you a summer of happy reading!

Sincerely,

8th Grade English Teachers
Suggested Titles Recommended by 8th Grade Students of 2018-2019:

**Opposite of Always** by Justin A. Reynolds
When Jack and Kate meet at a party, bonding until sunrise over their mutual love of Froot Loops and their favorite flicks, But then Kate dies. And their story should end there.

**On the Come Up** by Angie Thomas
Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. As the daughter of an underground hip hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri’s got massive shoes to fill.

**This Place: 150 Years Retold** by Kateri Akiwenzi-Damm Sonny Assu
Explore the past 150 years through the eyes of Indigenous people.

**Strange Grace** by Tessa Gratton
Long ago, a village made a bargain with the devil: to ensure their prosperity, when the Slaughter Moon rises, the village must sacrifice a young man into the depths of the Devil’s Forest. Only this year, the Slaughter Moon has risen early.

**Never Missing, Never Found** by Amanda Panitch
Some choices change everything. Scarlett chose to run. And the consequences will be deadly.

**When** by Victoria Laurie
Maddie doesn’t have a choice. The forehead of every person she sees is marked by the shadowy digits of their deathdate. Her unique, innate skill often feels more like a curse than a gift.

**Shouting at the Rain** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
From the author of *Fish in a Tree*, comes a compelling story about perspective and learning to love the family you have. Delsie loves tracking the weather—lately, though, it seems the squalls are in her own life.

**Let’s Go Swimming on Doomsday** by Natalie C. Anderson
When Abdi’s family is kidnapped, he’s forced to infiltrate a Somali terrorist group and act as a spy for the American CIA.

**Four Dead Queens** by Astrid Scholte
A theft gone wrong, a conspiracy, and four murdered monarchs

**Nothing but the Truth** by Avi
A ninth-grader’s suspension for singing “The Star-Spangled Banner” during homeroom becomes a national news story.

**One of Us Is Lying** by Karen M. McManus
A story of what happens when five strangers walk into detention and only four walk out alive.