



Dear Parents of Rising 5th–9th Grade Students,

My name is Dave Gargill, and I'm reaching out in my capacity as the English Department Chair to apprise you of this year's summer reading selections in grades five through nine. The dedicated folks in the department have put considerable thought into curating this list, choosing titles that will engage our young readers while planting thematic seeds that their instructors hope will reach full flower as these topics and tropes reemerge throughout each grade level's curriculum.

When students arrive in the fall, they should be prepared to be assessed on the material between the front and back covers of the "Required Summer Reading" texts listed below. So, if a particular book has an "Introduction" or an "Afterward," it might behoove them to read those ancillary sections. If, in their academic life at IMS or elsewhere, they've been encouraged to annotate as they read, they should continue that practice, chronicling their impressions and observations, always wondering, "What is this book about, and how is the author conveying this information?" While we cherish and support our local libraries, students will likely work with these texts for the first few weeks of the school year, so having their own copy will be beneficial. Required reading books are [available through the IMS Bookstore](#). If you would like to purchase and receive these works prior to the end of the school year, **orders must be placed by this coming Monday, May 27th**, with [Anne Fitzgerald](#). Just for fun, students are also encouraged to read at least one book from the "Suggested Summer Reading" list, which will be shared with parents and students before Prize Day.

Generally, we—as IMS faculty—strive to teach for relevance and purpose in all that we do as educators; additionally, we hope that the content of our courses accounts for the diversity of voices and perspectives extant in the wider world. These equally worthy imperatives influence, inform, and go much of the way towards explaining our decision-making process. As you might guess, I'm always up for discussing literature, so if you ever have questions about a specific selection, or the rationale for its inclusion on this list, I'm just an email away. Without further delay, here are this year's "Required Summer Reading" titles:

Entering 5th Grade:

Far North, by Will Hobbs

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson, by Bette Bao Lord

Entering 6th Grade:

Holes, by Louis Sachar

A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeleine L'Engle

Entering 7th Grade:

The Poet X, by Elizabeth Acevedo

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, by Sherman Alexie

Entering 8th Grade:

Washington Black, by Esi Edugyan

Entering 9th Grade:

Behind the Beautiful Forevers, by Katherine Boo

Brave New World, by Aldous Huxley

Wishing you and your family a wonderful summer!

Dave Gargill

English Department Chair