



East Meadow School District

Established in 1814

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

KENNETH ROSNER
Superintendent of Schools

FRANK LUKASIK
Director of Literacy
and Funded Programs

June 4, 2026

Dear Parent,

I would like to thank you for supporting our faculty in making reading a priority for your child through your participation in the East Meadow Summer Reading Program. A student's success in school depends upon their ability to read a variety of texts both thoughtfully and critically. Summer reading is a valuable experience for all students and an important extension of their educational growth here in East Meadow.

We encourage you to support your child to read regularly over the summer. Just as athletes train in the off-season to stay in shape, students also need to stay "intellectually fit" by reading. Research shows that students who read during the summer are more likely to retain—and even strengthen—their academic progress. Our goal is to foster strong, lifelong reading habits while helping students deepen their curiosity, critical thinking, and engagement with the world around them. We encourage all students to read widely and often!

High School Summer Reading Requirements:

- **Incoming 9th, 10th, and 11th graders:** Please select one book from the [linked list](#). During the week of September 21, 2026, students will complete an in-class writing assignment using a critical lens.
- **Incoming 12th graders:** Students will select a book of their choice and complete an in-class assignment the week of September 21, 2026.
- **All students should take notes while reading and use the attached organizer to help prepare. The writing assignment will count as a First Quarter English grade.**

A range of texts is offered to appeal to different interests and reading levels. Books can be found at the school library, the East Meadow Public Library, the Nassau County Public Library Digital Doorway, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and through Sora, our East Meadow digital library platform. Sora offers access to a wide selection of eBooks and audiobooks. We encourage families to be part of the book selection process. While all texts on the list have literary value, some may be more appropriate for mature readers. Please help your child select a book that fits their age, maturity, and interests.

Students are only required to read one book from the grade specific list. For those looking for more, additional suggestions can be found on the summer reading website at <https://tinyurl.com/445sjup8>.

Please note, students enrolled in honors, AP, and/or college level courses may receive an assignment specific to that course.

Happy reading,

Frank Lukasik

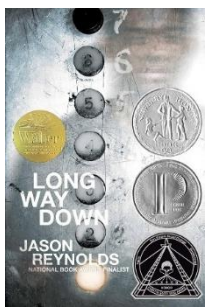
Director of Literacy and Funded Programs

Entering **Grade 9** Summer Reading Titles



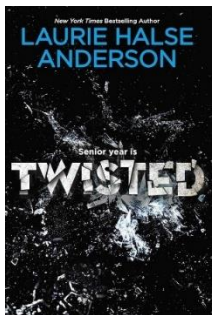
Yamile Saied Mendez

Seventeen-year-old Camila “la Furia” Hassan is a talented soccer player from a traditional working-class family in Rosario, Argentina, who aspires to be a professional futbolera. Her life as a player is a secret she keeps from her parents, especially from her abusive father, but her support system includes her brother, Pablo, a professional soccer player himself, and her best friend and teammate, Roxana. After her team wins the local league and qualifies for a South American tournament, Camila finally has a chance to show her talent to scouts and hopefully fulfill her dream to join a North American team. Camila needs parental permission to join the tournament, but coming clean is hard—and then things get worse when the boy she loves is back in town.



Jason Reynolds

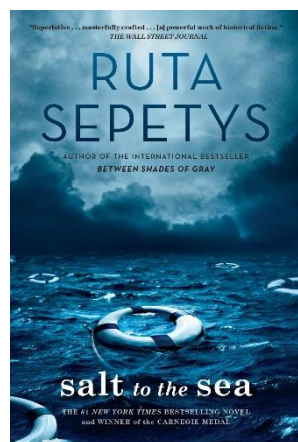
After 15-year-old Will sees his older brother, Shawn, murdered on the streets, he sets out to do the expected: the rules dictate no crying, no snitching, and revenge. Though the teen has never held one, Will leaves his apartment with his brother’s gun tucked in his waistband. As he travels down on the elevator, the door opens on certain floors, and Will is confronted with a different figure from his past, each a victim of gun violence, each important in his life. They also force Will to face the questions he has about his plan. As each “ghost” speaks, Will realizes how much of his own story has been unknown to him and how intricately woven they are. Told in free-verse poems, this is a raw, powerful, and emotional depiction of urban violence. The structure of the novel heightens the tension, as each stop of the elevator brings a new challenge until the narrative arrives at its taut, ambiguous ending.



Laurie Halse Anderson

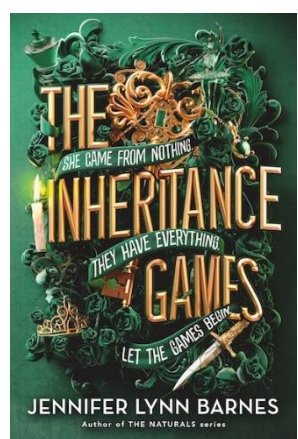
Tyler was always the kind of guy who didn’t stand out until he spent the summer before his senior year working as a punishment for spray painting the school. His new image and buff physique attracts Bethany—the über-popular daughter of his father’s boss—but his angry and distant father becomes even more hostile towards him. Despite the graffiti incident, though, Tyler is a conscientious, albeit confused, young man, trying to find his way. Unfortunately, his newfound notoriety as a “bad boy” leads to false accusations that land him—and his father’s job—in hot water. As tension mounts, Tyler reaches a crisis point revealed through one of the most poignant and gripping scenes in young-adult literature. Taking matters into his own hands, Tyler decides that he must make a choice about what kind of man he wants to be, with or without his father’s guidance.

Entering **Grade 10** Summer Reading Titles



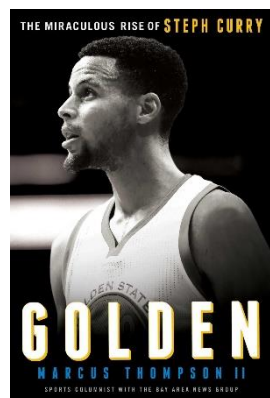
Ruta Sepetys

While the Titanic and Lusitania are both well-documented disasters, the single greatest tragedy in maritime history is the little-known January 30, 1945, sinking in the Baltic Sea by a Soviet submarine of the Wilhelm Gustloff, a German cruise liner that was supposed to ferry wartime personnel and refugees to safety from the advancing Red Army. The ship was overcrowded with more than 10,500 passengers — the intended capacity was approximately 1,800 — and more than 9,000 people, including 5,000 children, lost their lives. Sepetys (writer of *'Between Shades of Gray'*) crafts four fictionalized but historically accurate voices to convey the real-life tragedy. Joana, a Lithuanian with nursing experience; Florian, a Prussian soldier fleeing the Nazis with stolen treasure; and Emilia, a Polish girl close to the end of her pregnancy, converge on their escape journeys as Russian troops advance; each will eventually meet Albert, a Nazi peon with delusions of grandeur, assigned to the Gustloff decks.



Jennifer Lynn Barnes

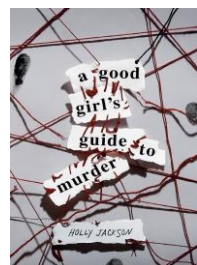
Avery Grambs has a plan for a better future: survive high school, win a scholarship, and get out. But her fortunes change in an instant when billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves Avery virtually his entire fortune. The catch? Avery has no idea why -- or even who Tobias Hawthorne is. To receive her inheritance, Avery must move into a sprawling, secret passage-filled Hawthorne House, where every room bears the old man's touch -- and his love of puzzles, riddles, and codes. Unfortunately for Avery, the family also occupies Hawthorne House that Tobias Hawthorne just dispossessed. This includes the four Hawthorne grandsons: dangerous, magnetic, brilliant boys who grew up with every expectation that one day they would inherit billions. Their apparent Grayson Hawthorne is convinced that Avery must be a conwoman, and he's determined to take her down. His brother, Jameson, views her as their grandfather's last hurrah: a twisted riddle, a puzzle to be solved. Caught in a world of wealth and privilege, with danger around every turn, Avery will have to play the game herself just to survive.



Marcus Thompson

Golden is the first in-depth look at Steph Curry and the Warriors, written by longtime beat reporter Marcus Thompson. A lifelong fan turned insider, Thompson reveals what makes Curry exceptional—his relentless work ethic, intense gameplay, and deep ties to family and faith. Blending traits from both parents—his mother's drive and joy with his father Dell Curry's calm and sharpshooting—Curry represents a new kind of NBA star. But his wholesome image and NBA roots have also sparked criticism, which Thompson explores through the lenses of class, race, and identity in modern basketball. Featuring exclusive interviews with Curry, his family, teammates, Coach Kerr, and Warriors leadership, *Golden* offers an all-access pass to the man behind the myth.

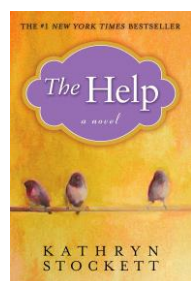
Entering **Grade 11** Summer Reading Titles



Holly Jackson

The case is closed. Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it.

But having grown up in the same small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Amobi isn't so sure. When she chooses the case as the topic for her final project, she starts to uncover secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden. And if the real killer is still out there, how far will they go to keep Pip from the truth...?



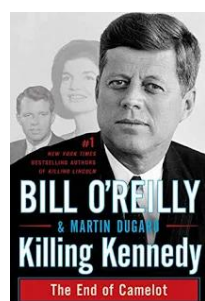
Kathryn Stockett

Three ordinary women are about to take one extraordinary step. Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone.

Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken.

Minnie, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets of her own.

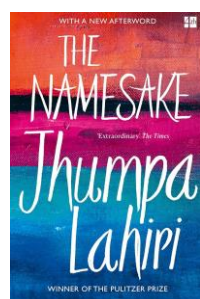
Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed.



Bill O'Reilly

In January 1961, as the cold war escalates, John F. Kennedy struggles to contain the growth of communism while he learns the hardships of solitude, and temptations of what it means to be president of the United States. His beautiful young wife, Jackie, must also adjust to a life of constant scrutiny. Despite personal and political trials, Kennedy's approval ratings soared. At the same time, JFK acquires several formidable enemies, among them Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, and Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency. When his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, cracks down on powerful elements of organized crime, the list of those who have it in for the president grows.

Then, during a 1963 campaign trip to Texas, Kennedy is gunned down, resulting in national chaos. Jackie and the nation mourn while the hunt for the perpetrators commences. The events leading up to the most notorious crime of the twentieth century are almost as shocking as the assassination itself. A page-turner from beginning to end, *Killing Kennedy* chronicles both the heroism and deceit of Camelot, bringing history to life in ways that will profoundly move the reader.



The Namesake takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd, antic name.

Lahiri brings great empathy to Gogol as he stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. With penetrating insight, she reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents, but also how we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves.

Literature Review Document



Title	Author
Protagonist(s)	Antagonist(s)
Round Characters <i>and their traits</i>	
Genre	Point of View <i>(1st, 3rd, or Omniscient?)</i>
Setting <i>(Time and Place)</i>	Conflict(s) <i>(Internal and External) w/ examples</i>
Literary Techniques Used	
Theme- <i>(The author's message) There may be more than one!</i>	

Glossary of Literary Elements and Devices

Alliteration	The repetition of consonant sounds, especially at the beginning of words.
Assonance	The repetition of similar vowel sounds in a sentence or a line of poetry or prose, as in "I rose and told him of my woe."
Character	An imaginary person that inhabits a literary work. Literary characters may be <i>major</i> or <i>minor</i> , <i>static</i> (unchanging) or <i>dynamic</i> (capable of change). Protagonist - The main character in a literary work. Antagonist - The character that goes against the main character. Round Character - A character that is well developed in the work. Flat Character - A character that is not as well developed but is included to move the story along.
Conflict	The struggle or problem in a literary work.
Internal Conflict	Inside a person: <i>Man v himself</i>
External Conflict	Outside of a person: <i>Man v man, Man v nature, Man v society, Man v machine, Man v supernatural</i>
Flashback	A flashback takes the reader to an earlier part of the story.
Foreshadowing	Hints about an event to come.
Hyperbole	A figure of speech involving exaggeration.
Image	A word or phrase that names something that can be seen, heard, touched, tasted, or smelled.
Irony	The difference between what is expected and reality.
Dramatic Irony	When the audience knows something that a character does not.
Verbal Irony	When a character says one thing and means the opposite.
Metaphor	A figure of speech in which one thing is described as if it were another. Example: <i>Life is a bowl of cherries.</i>
Microcosm	A smaller representation of what transpires in society.
Mood	The emotional quality of a literary work. Examples of mood include: gloomy, sad, joyful, suspenseful, and frightening.
Onomatopoeia	The use of words to imitate the sounds they describe.
Personification	A figure of speech in which a non-human thing is described as though it were human.
Point of View (First Person)	From the point of view of the character telling the story.
Point of View (Second Person)	From the point of view of the reader.
Point of View (Third Person)	<i>Objective</i> : Only what can be observed by a non-participant. <i>Limited</i> : Non-participant who knows a character's thoughts. <i>Omniscient</i> : Non-participant who knows multiple characters' thoughts
Repetition	A literary device that repeats the same words or phrases a few times to make an idea clearer and to emphasize its significance in the entire text.
Satire	A literary work that criticizes human misconduct and ridicules vices, stupidities, and follies.
Setting	The time or place in which a literary work occurs.
Simile	A type of metaphor, a comparison using words like or as .

	Example: <i>Life is like a box of chocolates.</i>
Style	The way an author chooses words, arranges them in sentences or in lines of dialogue or verse, and develops ideas and actions with description, imagery, and other literary techniques.
Suspense	A feeling of curiosity or expectation combined with anxiousness about the outcome of events.
Symbol	Something that stands for both itself and something beyond itself.
Theme	The idea of a literary work abstracted from its details of language, character, and action, and cast in the form of a generalization.
Tone	The attitude adopted by the speaker, narrator or author of a literary work or by a character in a literary work.
Plot	Sequence of events in a literary work. Exposition- The setting, character, and social milieu (environment or setting) of a literary work. Rising Action- A conflict develops and/or something occurs that gets the action moving. Rising action continues to build leading toward the climax/turning point. Climax- The high turning point of action in a story. The main character is faced with a decision that affects his life as well as others in the story. Turning Point- The choice the main character makes. Falling Action- Occurs after the climax when the conflict either begins to resolve itself or the conflict worsens, and things fall apart. Resolution/Denouement- How does everything turn out? How are the problems resolved? What conclusion does the main character make about life?