

**Easton Public Schools  
English Department**

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**Summer Reading 2024  
For students entering grades 6, 7 and 8**

This summer, Easton Middle School is continuing the “One School, One Theme” summer reading initiative. In an effort to cultivate independent readers, and to promote school wide efforts against bullying at EMS, each student is asked to choose one book from those recommended at each grade level, and to complete the attached task. During the first few weeks of school, students will engage in discussion and other activities about their reading.

**Parents/guardians are encouraged to preview your student’s selection to ensure it is an appropriate choice for your reader.**

**Entering Grade 6: (Choose one title from the list below and [complete this task.](#))**

- ***Restart* by Gordon Korman:** When Chase loses his memory after falling out of a window, he realizes he has to re-learn who he is. But as he returns to school, he notices that some classmates treat him like a hero, while others keep their distance and seem afraid of him. Chase has to solve the mystery of who he used to be, while he faces tough choices about who he wants to be in the future, after being given a restart.
- ***Sunnyside Plaza*, by Scott Simon:** Sally Miyake works in the kitchen at Sunnyside Plaza, a community center for other adults with developmental disabilities. A string of tragic events has detectives asking whether the mishaps were accidental. Sally and the other residents decide to start their own investigation, even if they have to fight to be heard. Sunnyside Plaza is a human story of empowerment, empathy, hope, and generosity that shines a light on this very special world.
- ***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor:** Mason Buttle can barely read or write, but is the sweetest, most honest kid in his grade. After Mason’s best friend is found dead in Mason’s family orchard, investigators won’t believe Mason’s version of what happened. Mason and his friend Calvin are both bullied by other boys in their neighborhood, but when Calvin goes missing, only Mason can figure out what happened to him.
- ***Sidetracked* by Diana Harmon Asher:** Joseph Friedman has many fears, and struggles to understand the people in his life. He spends most of his life on the sidelines, trying to avoid the school bully, until his Resource Room teacher convinces him to join the school track team. Along the way, he meets a friend who doesn’t let anyone push her around, and Joseph finds himself in the race--both on and off the track-- for the first time.

## Entering Grade 7: (Choose one title from the list below and [complete this task.](#))

- ***Twerp* by Mark Goldblatt:** Julian Twerski doesn't think he's a bully. But after a week-long suspension for what describes as a mistake, Julian is given a deal by his English teacher: writing a journal about his actions can get him out of writing a report on Shakespeare. Julian's journal describes homemade fireworks, his attempts to play matchmaker for his friend, and challenging other kids to race him. But will Julian finally open up about what really happened to get him suspended?
- ***Schooled* by Gordon Korman:** Capricorn (Cap for short) lived every day of his life on Garland Farm growing fruits and vegetables. He was homeschooled by Rain, the only person he knew in the world. Life was simple for Cap. But when Rain falls out of a tree while picking plums and is hospital-ridden, he has to attend the local middle school and live with his new guidance counselor and her irritable daughter. While Cap knew a lot about Zen Buddhism, no amount of formal education could prepare him for public middle school.
- ***Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed:** Amal's dreams of being a teacher are put on hold when she has to stay home to watch her siblings. She vows to keep learning, until she has a run-in with the son of a corrupt landlord in their Pakistani village, forcing her to work as a servant for the wealthy family. Despite being picked on by others in the house, Amal hangs on to her hope of becoming a teacher, and finding ways to change the system that stands in the way of her dreams.
- ***If I Ever Get Out of Here* by Eric Gainsworth:** Lewis "Shoe" Blake is used to the joys and difficulties of life on the Tuscarora Indian reservation in 1975: the joking, the Fireball games, the snow blowing through his roof. What he's not used to is white people being nice to him -- people like George Haddonfield, whose family recently moved to town with the Air Force. As the boys connect through their mutual passion for music, especially the Beatles, Lewis has to lie more and more to hide the reality of his family's poverty from George. He also has to deal with the vicious Evan Reininger, who makes Lewis the special target of his wrath. But when everyone else is on Evan's side, how can he be defeated? And if George finds out the truth about Lewis's home -- will he still be his friend?

## Entering Grade 8 : (Choose one title from the list below and [complete this task.](#))

- ***24 Hours in Nowhere* by Dusti Bowling:** Gus is a bright 13-year-old with big dreams, despite living in Nowhere, Arizona with his grandmother. When Bo Taylor bullies Gus, trying to force him to eat a spiny cactus. Rossi Scott, one of the best racers in town, trades her dirt bike for Gus's safety. The only way Gus can get Rossi's bike back is by finding gold in Dead Frenchman Mine, with Rossi and his childhood friends Jessie and Matthew. They survive mountain lions and mine collapses, and discover how far determination can get you, even in the middle of Nowhere.
- ***Booked* by Kwame Alexander:** Nick Hall is a soccer star, and feeling confident enough to ask out a girl at school when changes at home take him off his game. Through his best friend, his dad and a librarian at school, Nick harnesses the power of words to stand up to a bully and navigate middle school both on and off the soccer field (novel in verse).
- ***The Way Between* by Rivera Sun** (book 1 of 4 in a series) Ari Ara, an orphan whose name means "not this, not that," was a mysterious shepherdess until a great warrior Shulen chose her as his apprentice. Ari Ara learns about secrets, prophecies and the mysterious Lost Heir. She must overcome bullies and find her courage as two nations prepare to go to war in this action-adventure novel.
- ***It Wasn't Me* by Dana Alison Levy:** After Theo's photography project is vandalized at school, a well-meaning teacher has Theo and five suspected students come into school during vacation for a "justice circle." In this middle school nod to *The Breakfast Club*, the six students - the Nerd, the Princess, the Jock, the Screw Up, the Weirdo, and the Nobody - all see it as punishment. The more they learn about what they have in common, the more it changes each one of them.

*\*It is not required that students purchase copies for summer reading. Students may purchase at a local bookstore, borrow from a library, or download to an electronic device. Contact the middle school if you are unable to obtain a copy.\**