

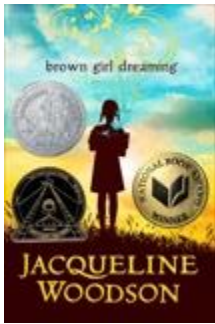
Stemmers Run Middle School  
**Recommended Summer Reading List**

Books are available at the SRMS School Library, Essex Public Library, and area book stores.

**Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Recommendations:**

Jacqueline Woodson – *Brown Girl Dreaming*

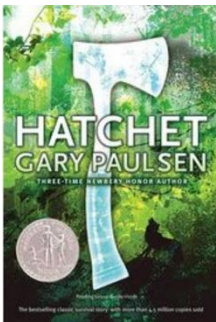
990L GR Level U



Jacqueline Woodson, the acclaimed author of *Red at the Bone*, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, even though she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

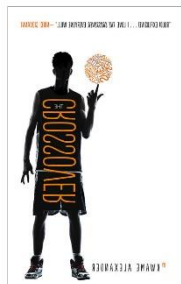
Gary Paulsen – *Hatchet*

1020L GR Level R



Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Thirteen-year-old Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure. Brian had been distraught over his parents' impending divorce and the secret he carries about his mother, but now he is truly desolate and alone. Exhausted, terrified, and hungry, Brian struggles to find food and make a shelter for himself. He has no special knowledge of the woods, and he must find a new kind of awareness and patience as he meets each day's challenges.

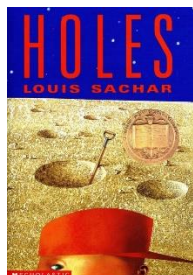
## Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Recommendations:



Kwame Alexander – *The Crossover*

750L GR Level Z

“The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I’m delivering,” announces dreadlocked 12-year-old Josh Bell. In this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from award-winning author Kwame Alexander, Josh and his twin brother, Jordan, must come to grips with growing up, on and off the court. As they realize that breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, their story’s heart-stopping climax proves a game changer for the entire family.

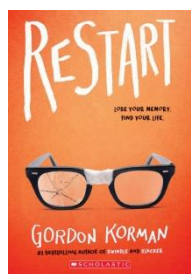


Louis Sachar – *Holes*

660L GR Level V

Welcome to Camp Green Lake, where Stanley, who has been wrongly accused of stealing, will be serving a juvenile detention sentence. Not only is the place not a camp, but it's not green and there's no lake: it's in the middle of the Texas desert! Stanley's suspicious when the warden tells him the punishment task of digging holes in the sand all day is for "building character." What's the warden hiding? Stanley is determined to dig up the truth.

## Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Recommendations:

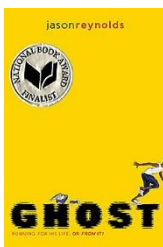


Gordon Korman – *Restart*

730L GR Level W

A boy who's been a bully and hanging out with the wrong friends gets a new start after a memory-loss-inducing accident. But can someone really change who he is, or will the old him merely come back over time?

#1 New York Times bestselling author Gordon Korman harkens back to his *No More Dead Dogs* days in this stand-alone that takes a tone more serious than you've ever seen from him before.



Jason Reynolds – *Ghost*

730 L GR Level Z

Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter in the city, but his past is slowing him down in this electrifying novel about a kid trying to run away from his past.

**GR** = Guided Reading

**Lex** = Lexile Level

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