

June 2021

Dear Computer School Families,

Reading is an essential part of learning. In addition to supporting student growth throughout the year, reading helps us find our shared human experiences and broadens our worlds. As author Malorie Blackman reminds us, "Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while." This summer, students will examine new worlds and develop empathy by reading three books: *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, and two other books of their choice.

During the first days of school, students will engage in making connections to our 2021-2022 school-wide theme of *Empowerment*. Below are the steps to complete the Summer Reading Assignment.

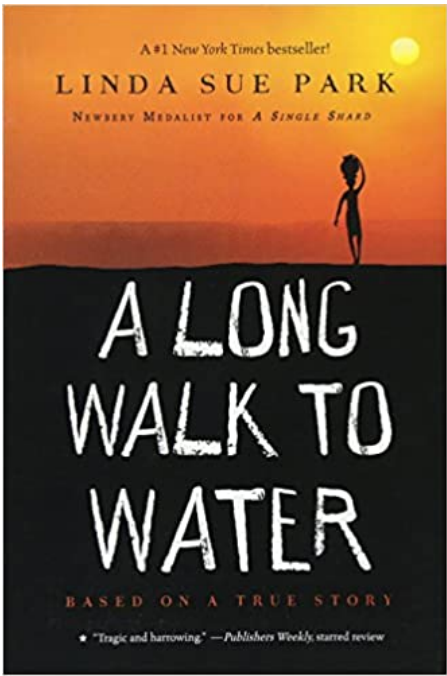
**1. All Community Read – *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park**

We ask that ***all*** members of The Computer School community—students, parents/guardians, families, teachers and staff—read this young adult book that centers around the theme of empowerment.

**2. Choice Books:** Students must read at least TWO other books of their choice (see recommendations below).

**3. Creative Response:** Students choose ONE of three options listed at the end of this letter to reflect on and respond to ONE of the three books they read. This assignment must be completed and presented on the first day of school.

## ALL COMMUNITY READ

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park</b></p> <p><i>A Long Walk to Water</i> begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Here's the link to buy our All Community Read on Amazon!</u></a></p> <p><b>**Post-Reading Bonus**</b></p> <p>After reading <i>A Long Walk to Water</i>, we encourage you and your family to watch Linda Sue Park's TED Talk: "Can a Children's Book Change the World?" (2015) and Salva Dut's TED Talk "I Kept Walking" (2016). Available free online!</p>
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# CHOICE BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

You have a choice of TWO other books to read. You may choose books from the list below, or any other book that interests you. The books in this list represent the diversity of reading levels in a middle school. Starred books are for advanced readers and may contain mature content.

- ★ Please note that you can check out most of these books for free by downloading the NYPL's app: [SimplyE](#). Once you download the app, you will need to sign up for a library card if you don't have one already.

~ Book descriptions adapted from [amazon.com](#) and [goodreads.com](#)~

\*\*For advanced readers and/or mature content

--Helpful sites to find great books: [teenreads.com](#), [goodreads.com](#), [booklists.yalsa.net](#), [bookriot.com](#)

## REALISTIC FICTION

*Planet Earth is Blue* by Nicole Panteleakos

*Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds

*Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

*Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen

*Pax* by Sara Pennypacker

\*\* *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

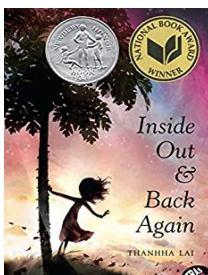
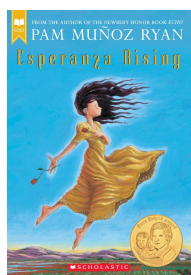
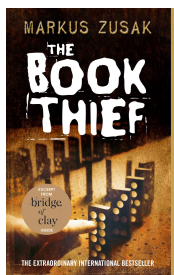
\*\* *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time*

*Indian* by Sherman Alexie

\*\* *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

\*\* *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

#1 New York Times Bestseller  
ANGIE THOMAS



## HISTORICAL FICTION

*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

*I Lived on Butterfly Hill* by Marjorie Agosin

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

*How I Became a Ghost* by Tim Tingle

*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai

*The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

\*\**Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys

## GRAPHIC NOVELS

*American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

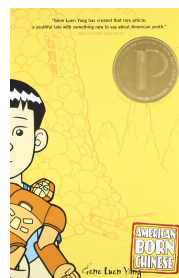
*March* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell

*Smile* by Raina Telgemeier



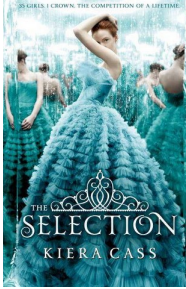
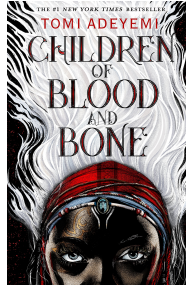
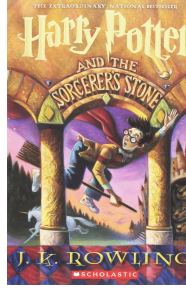

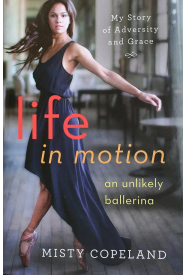
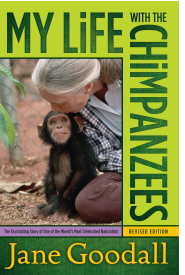
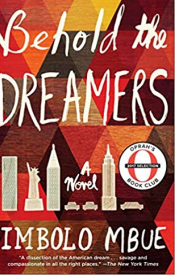
*El Deafo* by Cece Bell

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft

\*\**Persepolis* by Marjana Satrapi





  	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCIENCE FICTION</b></p> <p><i>The Hunger Games Trilogy</i> by Suzanne Collins  <i>The Selection Trilogy</i> by Kiera Cass  <i>Ready Player One</i> by Ernest Cline  <i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card  <i>Legend</i> by Marie Lu  <i>Feed</i> by M.T. Anderson  <i>**Scythe Series</i> by Neil Shusterman</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FANTASY</b></p> <p><i>Harry Potter Series</i> by J.K. Rowling  <i>Percy Jackson Series</i> by Rick Riordan  <i>Miles Morales: Spiderman (A Marvel YA Novel)</i> by Jason Reynolds  <i>The Children of Blood and Bone</i> by Tomi Adeyemi  <i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkein  <i>His Dark Materials Series</i> by Philip Pullman</p>	  
  	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NONFICTION/MEMOIR</b></p> <p><i>Knucklehead</i> by Jon Scieszka  <i>My Life With Chimpanzees</i> by Jane Goodall  <i>The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor</i> by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor  <i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson  <i>Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star</i>  <i>Ballerina</i> by Michaela DePrince  <i>Life in Motion</i> by Misty Copeland  <i>Unbroken (the young adult adaptation)</i> by Laura Hillenbrand  <i>** Behold the Dreamers</i> by Imbolo Mbue  <i>** Educated</i> by Tara Westover</p>

## Other Recommendations from Your Teachers:

**Ms. E. Butler:** First Born by Tor Seidler and Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town by Warren St. John

**Ms. K. Butler:** Blended by Sharon M. Draper and Bloodchild and Other Stories by Octavia Butler

**Ms. Cappiello:** Dear Martin by Nic Stone, Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell, and Becoming by Michelle Obama

**Ms. Furr:** Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

**Mr. Geraci:** Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

**Ms. Hodges:** A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America by Rebecca Steffoff

**Ms. Jackson-Vásquez:** Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi and All the Stars Denied by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

**Ms. Kissoon:** Count Me In by Varsha Bajaj, New Kid by Jerry Craft, Ship of Souls by Zetta Elliott, Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes, Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah, and Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

**Ms. Melachrinos:** The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams, and Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

**Ms. Nigro:** Educated by Tara Westover and The Curious Incident of the Dog in Night-Time by Mark Haddon

**Mr. Novick:** The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon and Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverts by Susan Cain

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Miles Morales: Spider-Man by Jason Reynolds, Wonder Woman: Warbringer by Leigh Bardugo, Superman: Dawnbreaker by Matt De La Pena, and Dread Nation by Justina Ireland

**Ms. Rotelli:** Scythe by Neal Shusterman

**Ms. Schoen:** All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

**Ms. Seuling:** Delirium by Lauren Oliver

**Ms. Shalom:** The Miracle & Tragedy of the Dionne Quintuplets by Sarah Miller

**Ms. Sloves:** We Need New Names by NoViolet Bulawayo; Born a Crime by Trevor Noah; The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer; Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years: by Amy Hill Hearth, Annie Elizabeth Delany, and Sarah Louise Delany; The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky; and Hero by Perry Moore

**Ms. Skinner:** Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

**Ms. Thompson:** Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

**Ms. Wang:** A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

**Ms. Weiss:** Sing Unburied Sing by Jesmyn Ward

**Mr. Weissberg:** Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Li Jiang

**Mr. Zafiriadis:** Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Summer Reading Creative Response Assignment

Directions: After you have completed your summer reading books, fill out the information below and choose one of the options (A, B or C) to show your knowledge of one of the books you read this summer. *Please bring this signed sheet and your project on the first day of school.* Happy reading!

<i>All Community Read:</i> <b><i>A Long Walk to Water</i></b>	<i>Author:</i> <b>Linda Sue Park</b>	<i>Date Completed:</i>	<i>Parent Signature:</i>
<i>Choice Book 1:</i>	<i>Author:</i>	<i>Date Completed:</i>	<i>Parent Signature:</i>
<i>Choice Book 2:</i>	<i>Author:</i>	<i>Date Completed:</i>	<i>Parent Signature:</i>

#### Option A: Map

Look closely at the places that were important in your book and illustrate a map that shows where they are in relation to one another. Then, create a key in which you explain why each place is important to the story.

#### Option B: Empowerment Poster

Create a poster that represents the theme of EMPOWERMENT in your book. Your poster must include image, color, and text. Be sure to include the title and author of the book.

#### Option C: Character Correspondence

Write an email or letter correspondence between two characters from your book OR between a character from your book and another person from literature or history. Include important details from the story and be sure to address the theme of EMPOWERMENT.