

June 2022

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: *My Brigadista Year* by Katherine Paterson, and two other books of their choice.

During the first days of school, students will engage in making connections to our 2022-2023 school-wide theme of *Community*. Below are the steps to complete the Summer Reading Assignment.

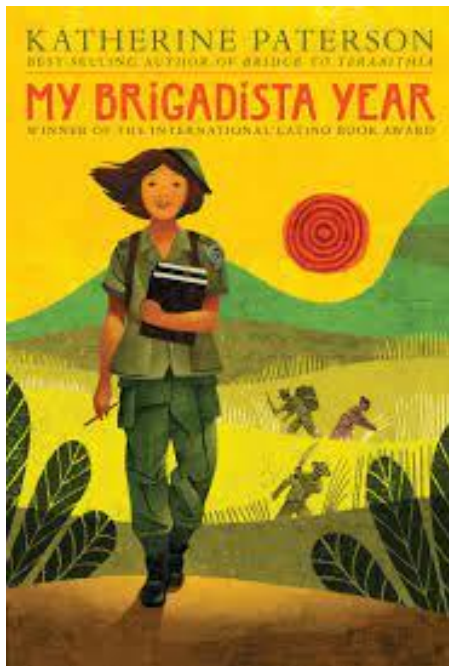
1. All Community Read – *My Brigadista Year* by Katherine Paterson

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 community.

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



***My Brigadista Year* by Katherine Paterson**

When thirteen-year-old Lora tells her parents that she wants to join Premier Castro’s army of young literacy teachers, her mother screeches to high heaven, and her father roars like a lion. Nora has barely been outside of Havana — why would she throw away her life in a remote shack with no electricity, sleeping on a hammock in somebody’s kitchen? But Nora is stubborn: didn’t her parents teach her to share what she has with someone in need? Surprisingly, Nora’s abuela takes her side, even as she makes Nora promise to come home if things get too hard. But how will Nora know for sure when that time has come? Shining light on a little-known moment in history, Katherine Paterson traces a young teen’s coming-of-age journey from a sheltered life to a singular mission: teaching fellow Cubans of all ages to read and write, while helping with the work of their daily lives and sharing the dangers posed by counterrevolutionaries hiding in the hills nearby. Inspired by true accounts, the novel includes an author’s note and a timeline of Cuban history.

[Here's the link to buy our All Community Read on Amazon!](#)

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 on this list represent the diversity of reading levels in 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**



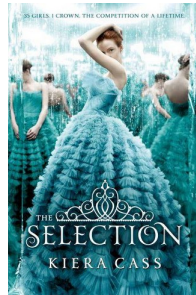
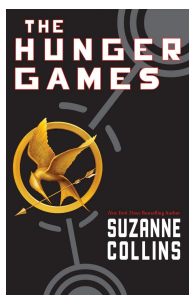
HISTORICAL FICTION

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
I Lived on Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosin
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
Refugee by Alan Gratz
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**





SCIENCE FICTION

The Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins

The Selection Trilogy by Kiera Cass

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Legend by Marie Lu

Feed by M.T. Anderson

** *Scythe Series* by Neil Shusterman

FANTASY

Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling

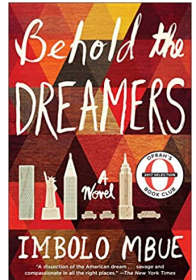
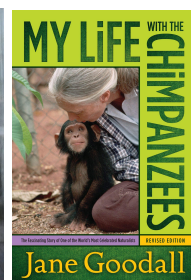
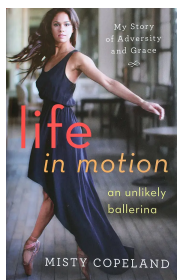
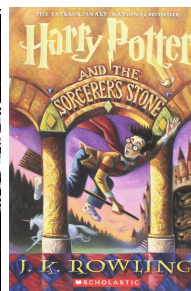
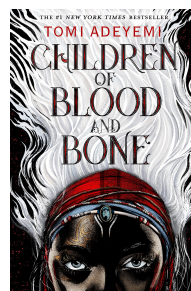
Percy Jackson Series by Rick Riordan

Miles Morales: Spiderman (A Marvel YA Novel)
by Jason Reynolds

The Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi
Adeyemi

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkein

His Dark Materials Series by Philip Pullman



NONFICTION/MEMOIR

Knucklehead by Jon Scieszka

My Life With Chimpanzees by Jane Goodall

The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor by

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star

Ballerina by Michaela DePrince

Life in Motion by Misty Copeland

Unbroken (the young adult adaptation) by Laura
Hillenbrand

Born a Crime (Adapted for Young Readers) by
Trevor Noah

** *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue

** *Educated* by Tara Westover

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> <i>My Brigadista Year</i> | <i>Author:</i> Katherine Paterson | <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.

**Bonus: explain how these places relate to community!*

Option B: Community Poster

Create a poster that represents the theme of COMMUNITY 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 COMMUNITY.