

June 2023

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: *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper, and two other books of their choice.

During the first days of school, students will engage in making connections to our 2023-2024 school-wide theme of *Resilience*. **Resilience means the ability to bounce back from adversity or conflict.**

Below are the steps to complete the Summer Reading Assignment.

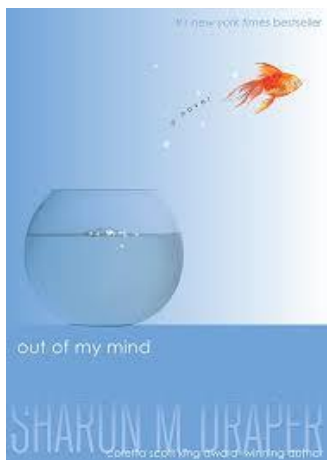
1. All Community Read – *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper

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 resilience.

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

3. Creative Response Assignment: 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



***Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper**

Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can’t walk. She can’t talk. She can’t write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She’s the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can’t tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she’s determined to let everyone know it... somehow.

[Link to book on Amazon](#)

CHOICE BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

You must choose TWO other books to read. You may choose books from the list below, or any other books that interest 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.**

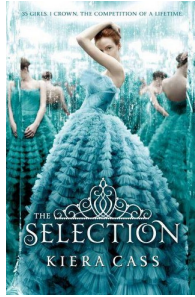
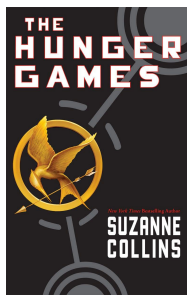
★ Please note that you can check out most of these books for free by downloading the NYPL's app: [SimplyE](#), Libby, or Overdrive. Once you download the app, you will need to sign up for a library card if you don't have one already.

~ 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](#)

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>REALISTIC FICTION</u></p> <p><i>Planet Earth is Blue</i> by Nicole Panteleakos <i>Ghost</i> by Jason Reynolds <i>Flipped</i> by Wendelin Van Draanen <i>Pax</i> by Sara Pennypacker <i>On the Come Up</i> by Angie Thomas <i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio ** <i>Speak</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson</p>	 <p>Book covers for <i>Ghost</i> by Jason Reynolds, <i>Flipped</i> by Wendelin Van Draanen, and <i>On the Come Up</i> by Angie Thomas.</p>
 <p>Book covers for <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak, <i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Muñoz Ryan, and <i>Inside Out & Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HISTORICAL FICTION</u></p> <p><i>Number the Stars</i> by Lois Lowry <i>I Lived on Butterfly Hill</i> by Marjorie Agosin <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak <i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Munoz Ryan <i>How I Became a Ghost</i> by Tim Tingle <i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai <i>The War that Saved My Life</i> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley ** <i>Salt to the Sea</i> by Ruta Sepetys</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GRAPHIC NOVELS</u></p> <p><i>American Born Chinese</i> by Gene Luen Yang <i>March</i> by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell <i>Smile Series</i> by Raina Telgemeier <i>Awkward Series</i> by Svetlana Chmakova <i>Amulet Series</i> by Kazu Kibuishi <i>El Deafo</i> by Cece Bell <i>New Kid</i> by Jerry Craft ** <i>Persepolis</i> by Marjana Satrapi</p>	 <p>Book covers for <i>American Born Chinese</i> by Gene Luen Yang, <i>March: Book One</i> by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell, and <i>El Deafo</i> by Cece Bell.</p>

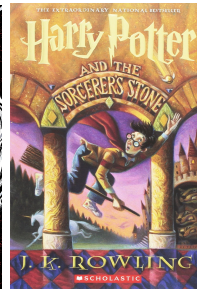


SCIENCE FICTION

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

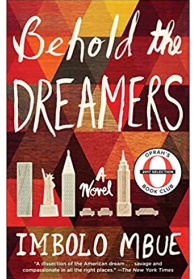
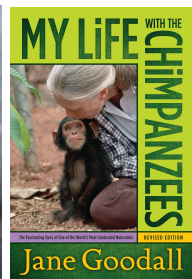
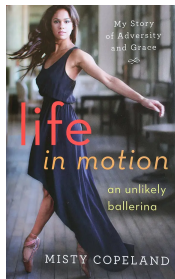
FANTASY

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
Legendborn by Tracy Deonn



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
Everything Sad is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri
*All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the
Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina
Soontornvat
Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip
Hoose
** *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue
** *Educated* by Tara Westover



Name: _____

Summer Reading - Creative Response Assignment

Our CS school-wide theme for the 2023-2024 school year is **Resilience**.

Resilience means the ability to bounce back from adversity or conflict.

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. **Choose any book** you read this summer to complete this project. **ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED ON 8 ½ X 11 PAPER - NO OVERSIZED POSTERS, PLEASE.** Bring this signed sheet and your project on the first day of school. Happy reading!

<i>All Community Read:</i> <i>Out of My Mind</i>	<i>Author:</i> Sharon Draper	<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: Comic Representation

Pick a scene from your book where a character showed RESILIENCE, and present it as a comic. Be sure to include illustrations as well as text.

Option B: Resilience Poster

Create a poster that represents the way a character or characters showed RESILIENCE 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 from a character in your book to another character or person from literature or history, and that person's response. Your letters should address the way the character or characters SHOW or NEED to SHOW resilience. Be sure to include important details from the story.