Roy Cloud recognizes that all readers need a variety of books from which to choose. Some books may contain mature subject matter. We encourage parents to have conversations with their child about book choices. If you lose your assignment or book list over the summer, go to Mrs. Gaston’s webpage (http://www.rcsd.k12.ca.us/Page/7403) to see the list. Enjoy your books, and remember you can read as many books as you want this summer, and you must read one from the list.

Abbott, Tony: **Firegirl** (realistic fiction) Tom, a seventh grader, tells about the arrival of Jessica, a new student who was badly burned in a fire and is attending St. Catherine’s while she gets treatments at a local hospital. The students in Tom’s class are afraid of her because of her appearance but little by little he develops a friendship with her that changes his life.

Angleberger, Tom: **The Strange Case of Origami Yoda** (realistic fiction, humor) Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.

Auch, Mary Jane: **One Handed Catch** (sports fiction) It is 1946 and 6th grader Norman has lost his hand in a terrible accident. On the advice of his doctor, he struggles to learn to do things he never thought he would be able to do. Based on a true story.

Byars, Betsy: **The Dark Stairs** (mystery) With help from her police officer father Herculeah Jones helps her mother, a private detective, solve a puzzling and frightening case. While investigating a creepy house, she falls down the stairs and discovers a dead body at the bottom. This book is both funny and a great mystery.

Creech, Sharon: **Ruby Holler** (adventure) Thirteen-year-old twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage. Their lives change forever when an unusual but sweet older couple invite them on an adventure that begins in Ruby Holler.

DiCamillo, Kate: **Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures** (fantasy, humor) A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses’ superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak.

Ferris, Jean: **Once Upon a Marigold** (fantasy) The protagonist, Christian, has been raised in the forest by a troll named Edric. As he nears manhood, Christian decides it is time to see the world—or at least the section across the river, where the lovely Princess Marigold resides.

Ferris, Jeri: **Go Free or Die** (biography) The story of a black woman whose cruel experiences as a slave in the South led her to seek freedom in the North for herself and for others through the Underground Railroad.
Green, Michelle: *A Strong Right Arm The Story of Mamie “Peanut” Johnson* (sports)  
The story of Mamie Johnson. She was a Negro league pitcher, and the first woman to ever pitch during the regular season for a men's team. Johnson is a true American hero.

Haddix, Margaret: *Running Out of Time* (historical fiction, fantasy)  
Thirteen-year-old Jessie believes, as does the rest of her community, that she is living in the 1840's. In reality, her community is a reconstructed village that is a tourist attraction. Jessie is chosen to seek medical help for victims of a diphtheria epidemic, but is baffled by the conveniences of modern life.

Hahn, Mary Downing: *All the Lovely Bad Ones* (mystery)  
Twelve-year-old Travis and his younger sister, Corey, are spending the summer with their grandmother at her Vermont bed-and-breakfast. Born mischief makers, the siblings hear that the inn is rumored to be haunted and decide to manufacture some ghostly effects for the guests. Unfortunately, they arouse the real ghosts.

Han, Jenny: *Shug* (fiction)  
Twelve-year-old Annemarie (whose family calls her Shug) has a beautiful, popular older sister; a gorgeous, alcoholic mother who doesn't fit in their small Southern town; and a father who's always away on business. Annemarie learns about life, love, and friendship in her small town.

Korman, Gordon: *Swindle* (humor)  
After a mean collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing must put together a band of misfits to break into Swindle's compound and recapture the card.

Lord, Cynthia: *Rules* (realistic fiction)  
Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him. For example, it's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store.

Magoon, Kekla: *Camo Girl* (realistic fiction)  
Ella has always been friends with a boy known as Z, despite his reputation as the weird kid, but when a new boy, Bailey, moves to town and befriends Ella because they are the only two African American students in the class, she must choose between the popularity Bailey will bring to her life and her lifelong friendship with Z.

Park, Barbara: *Skinnybones* (sports)  
Life looks hopeless when Alex’s losing team has to play baseball against T.J.’s winning team. Alex has a hidden talent that could save the day, unless it ruins his life first!

Patterson, James & Chris Tebbetts: *Middle School: The Worst Years of my Life* (realistic fiction, humor)  
When Rafe Kane enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.

Paulsen, Gary: *Lawn Boy* (realistic fiction)  
This short and hilarious tale pitches an ordinary preteen with a riding lawn mower into an ascent up the financial ladder.

Riordan, Rick: *The Red Pyramid* (fantasy)  
Sadie Kane has lived in London with her
maternal grandparents while her brother, Carter, has traveled the world with their father, a renowned African American Egyptologist. In London on Christmas Eve, Carter and Sadie accompany their dad to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone in summoning an Egyptian god. Another great one by the author of the Lightning thief!

Roberts, Willo Davis: The View From the Cherry Tree (mystery) Everyone in Rob’s family is busy with preparations for his sister’s wedding. They don’t listen when he tells them he has witnessed, from his perch in the cherry tree, the murder of an old lady who lives next door. His willingness to talk to everyone about the murder puts him in danger.

Smith, Roland: I.Q. (adventure) When Quest (Q for short) Munoz’s songwriting mom marries rock star Roger Tucker, he and new stepsister Angela join the sensational duo on the road for a national concert tour. Life on the bus goes from boring to bedlam as an old roadie named Boone and his dog, Croc, come aboard. A tale of secrets, adventure, and espionage!

Weeks, Sarah: Regular Guy (fiction, humor) Eleven-year-old Guy Strang is convinced that he was switched at birth with some other baby. How else can he explain how he ended up with his weird parents? So when his best friend Buzz comes up with a plan to search the school records to see if any of the other sixth graders share Guys birthday, he agrees to go along with it.