SUMMER 2016 READING RECOMMENDATIONS

During the summer you need to keep reading. Included in this packet is the Summer Reading List for incoming middle schoolers. You should choose ONE (1) title from the list to read over the summer.

We are asking that you read at least two books this summer, additional books should be of your person choosing and do not need to be from this list.

Hints:

- Choose your book early to avoid being disappointed. There are limited copies of the books in the libraries.
- If you choose a book from the library, return it on time so others can also read it.
- Involve your parents! They will want to know what your assignment is and what book you have selected. They can also help you meet the deadline.
- Remember that reading is a great “everyday” activity!

Roy Cloud School Sixth Grade
Summer 2016
Reading List

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.

Roy Cloud School Seventh Grade
Summer 2016
Reading List
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.

Anderson, Laurie Halse: Fever 1793  (historical fiction)  Fever 1793 is based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that wiped out 5,000 people—or 10 percent of the city’s population—in three months. It is the story of 16-year-old Mattie Cook, whose life is shattered by the epidemic, as her mother is felled, and the girl and her grandfather must flee for their lives. Later, after much hardship and terror, they return to the deserted town.

Berk, Josh: Strike three, You’re Dead (mystery)  Lenny Norbeck and his friends The Mikes set out to investigate the suspicious death of a young pitcher at a Phillies game.

Colfer, Eoin: Artemis Fowl (fantasy)  This book has magic, intrigue, deception, kidnapping, blackmail, computers, weapons, code-breaking, violence, and projectile flatulence, and can't be faulted for the sheer brilliance of the scheming.

Fitzgerald, Dawn: Soccer Chick Rules (sports fiction)  Tess Munro, 13, loves soccer. When school sports funding hinges on getting a tax levy voted in, she works hard to make it happen, but her fundraising activities go awry. It’s hopeful but realistic ending sends an important message to any girl with a passion or a cause.

Fleischman, John: Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science (non-fiction)  This is the true story of Phineas Gage, a railroad construction foreman, whose brain was pierced by a thirteen-pound iron rod in
1848. Phineas not only survived, but became a case study in how the brain functions.

**Green, Tim: Unstoppable (sports fiction)** Harrison’s luck changes when he is finally placed in a loving foster home, where the husband is a football coach! He has always wanted to play, and with his build and determination, soon becomes “unstoppable”, until something occurs that changes everything. Another great book by a former football player.

**Haddix, Margaret: Among the Hidden (fantasy)** In a future world, Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children. Luke has lived all his 12 years in isolation and fear on his family’s farm, until another “third” convinces him that the government is wrong.

**Hart, Philip: Up in the Air The Story of Bessie Coleman (biography)** The first African American woman to become an airplane pilot, Coleman overcame many obstacles in pursuit of her goal. She grew up in poverty but was determined not to spend the rest of her life picking cotton in Waxahachie, Texas. When American flying schools refused to train an African American woman, she enrolled in an aviation school in France, where she became a pilot in 1921.

**Hautman, Pete: Snatched (mystery)** Eleventh-grader Roni Delicata is the sometimes pushy but always dedicated reporter for the school paper, Bloodwater Pump. She meets science geek Brian Bain, 14, when both are in trouble with the principal. They discover that Alicia Camden, the snooty new kid who lives in a mansion with her cold mother and bland stepfather, has been kidnapped. A story follows with a mix of suspense and humor.

**Hunter, Erin: Warriors: Into the Wild (fantasy)** Rusty, a young house cat, yearns for adventure. When he's offered the chance to join the Thunder Clan, one of the gangs of feral cats in the area; he doesn't hesitate. Renamed Firepaw, he becomes an apprentice and begins to train as a warrior.

**Klages, Ellen: Green Glass Sea (historical fiction)** Two girls spend a year in Los Alamos as their parents work on the secret gadget that will end World War II. Dewey is a mechanically minded 10-year-old who gets along fine with the scientists at the site, but is teased by girls her own age. As the story unfolds, Dewey is forced into a situation beyond her control involving another girl her age.

**Korman, Gordon: Ungifted (realistic fiction)** Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

**Law, Ingrid: Savvy (fantasy)** Beaumont family members all receive their “savvy” on their thirteenth birthdays. A “savvy” can be creating electricity, storms, or other types of world changing talents! Mibs is about to turn thirteen and dreaming of
her “savvy” and her delicious birthday cake, when her father is seriously injured in an accident and all plans are changed. Savvy is full of great adventures and characters!

Lupica, Mike: Heat (sports fiction) Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Miller, Sarah: Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller (historical fiction) This is Anne Sullivan’s story, told in first person, including excerpts of Annie Sullivan’s letters at the beginning of chapters. Annie was a teenager who traveled to Alabama to work with Helen, who was blind, deaf, and completely wild when Annie first came into her life. Little did either of them know then that they would have a breakthrough within weeks of Annie's arrival, and that they would remain friends for the rest of Annie's life.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds: Blizzard’s Wake (historical fiction) In 1941, when a severe blizzard hits Bismarck, North Dakota, a girl tries to save her stranded father and brother. During the storm she inadvertently helps the man who killed her mother in an accident four years before.

Nix, Garth: Mister Monday (fantasy) Arthur Penhaligon’s school year is not off to a good start. On his first day, he suffers an asthma attack while running cross country and dreams that a mysterious figure hands him a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock. However, when he wakes up, he still has the key. That's when strange things begin to happen.

Nixon, Joan Lowery: The Séance (mystery) Lauren is reluctant to participate in the séance, and she feels the first foreboding of evil shortly after the room is darkened. When the lights come back on, her fear turns to shock: Sara Martin is missing, even though all the doors and windows are locked from the inside.

Paulsen, Gary: Guts (biography) The author relates how specific incidents in his life inspired parts of his books about Brian Robeson. (Hatchet series)

Pearson, Ridley: Steel Trapp The Challenge (adventure) Steven Steel Trapp, so nicknamed for a photographic memory tight as a steel strap, is aboard a train on his way to the National Science Challenge in Washington, D.C., when he unwittingly runs afoul of a gangster with ties to overseas terrorist organizations.
Oppel, Kenneth: **The Nest (Horror)** When wasps come to Steve in a dream offering to fix his sick baby brother, he thinks all he has to do is say yes. But yes may not mean what Steve thinks it means.

Sloan, Holly: **Counting by 7s (realistic fiction)** Willow lives with her adoptive parents, and is extremely gifted. She is also obsessed with counting by 7’s, nature, and medical conditions. When Willow’s adoptive parents are killed in a car accident, her new friend Mai convinces her mother to take Willow in. This book is full of interesting characters!

Stead, Rebecca: **When You Reach Me (fantasy)** Sixth-grader Miranda and her best friend Sal live in 1978 New York City with her mother. Her life *compass* is Madeleine L'Engle's book *A Wrinkle in Time*. When she receives a series of mysterious notes that claim to want to save her life, she comes to believe that they are from someone who knows the future.

Stephens, John: **The Emerald Atlas (fantasy)** When Kate, Michael and Emma’s parents suddenly disappear, they are shuffled to various foster homes until being transported to a land ruled by an evil Countess and her army of Screechers. The children find themselves on an adventure that takes them to other worlds where they battle all kinds of creatures and people! The power of the Atlas, one of three magical books, has been unleashed and the three children are in the midst of it all with only a few allies to help save them.

Williams-Garcia, Rita: **One Crazy Summer (historical fiction)** Eleven-year-old Delphine has only a few fragmented memories of her mother, Cecile, a poet who abandoned the family in Brooklyn after giving birth to her third daughter. In the summer of 1968, Delphine’s father decides that seeing Cecile is “something whose time had come,” and Delphine boards a plane with her sisters to Cecile’s home in Oakland. What they find there is far from their California dreams of Disneyland and movie stars.

**Roy Cloud School Eighth Grade Summer 2016 Reading List**

**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.

Doyle, Sir Conan: **The Hound of the Baskervilles (mystery)** The death of Sir Charles Baskerville stirs up danger for Sherlock Holmes as the hound of the family legend is seen roaming the moors at night.
Ellis, Deborah: **The Breadwinner** (historical fiction) The Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women’s freedom and behavior. Eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father’s arrest.

Farmer, Nancy: **House of the Scorpion** (fantasy) In this futuristic novel, the United States and Mexico have dealt with continuing border disputes by forming a new country between them. Matt grows up as one of many clones of the powerful El Patron, but is different because he is so intelligent.

Feinstein, John: **Cover-Up** (sports fiction) A sports mystery that takes readers behind the scenes of the Super Bowl and reveals the big money and even bigger egos!

Ferguson, Alane: **The Christopher Killer** (mystery) On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.

Flake, Sharon: **Pinned** (realistic fiction) Adonis and Autumn tell this story in alternating chapters. Adonis was born without legs, but is a great student. Autumn is the only girl on the wrestling team and loves to cook, but has a lot of trouble reading and doing her schoolwork. Adonis can’t stand her, but she insists on trying to be friends, which he resists at every opportunity. This is the story of the two of them, how they cope with each other, and interact with their parents, teachers, friends and coaches.

Haddix, Margaret: **Found** (science fiction) A plane arrives at an airline gate unnoticed by radar and with no flight attendants, no pilot, in fact no adults at all, but there are 36 passengers—each seat is inhabited by an infant. Thirteen years later, Jonah and his friend Chip begin receiving ominous messages declaring that they are among “the missing” and that someone is coming to find them.

Hiaasen, Carl: **Skink -- No Surrender** (mystery) When your cousin goes missing under suspicious circumstances, who do you call? There’s only one man for the job: a half-crazed, half-feral, one-eyed ex-governor named Skink. Skink joins 14-year-old Richard on a breakneck chase across Florida, undaunted by lightning storms, poisonous snakes, flying bullets, and giant gators. There are a million places cousin Malley could be, a million unpleasant fates that might have befallen her, but one thing is certain: in the Florida swamp, justice is best served wild.

Hesse, Karen: **Safekeeping** (science fiction) Imagine that you are out of the country volunteering in Haiti, and when you return your cell phone no longer works, your parents’ credit card doesn’t work, and transportation is difficult to find to get home, but when you get there, your parents are gone. Radley starts
walking to Canada, meeting an unusual girl along the way. Is this what the future holds?

Meyer, Marissa: *Cinder* (science fiction) Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

Murdock, Catherine: *Dairy Queen* (sports fiction) Fifteen-year-old D.J. lives in Red Bend, Wisconsin, in a family in which all the boys play football. She's a basketball star. When her father breaks his hip, D.J. must give up sports and do all the milking and mowing on their farm. D.J. trains the quarterback from rival Hawley High and discovers that football is her passion after all.

Myers, Walter Dean: *Sunrise Over Fallujah* (realistic fiction) Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR.

Nixon, Joan Lowery: *The Kidnapping of Christina Lattimore* (mystery) A teenage girl is kidnapped, and when she is freed is accused of masterminding the scheme to bribe her wealthy grandmother for money.

Older, Daniel Jose: *Shadowshaper* (fantasy) When the murals painted on the walls of her Brooklyn neighborhood start to change and fade in front of her, Sierra Santiago realizes that something strange is going on--then she discovers her Puerto Rican family are shadowshapers and finds herself in a battle with an evil anthropologist for the lives of her family and friends.

Patterson, James: *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment* (fantasy) Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock"--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel--are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. Follow their fight for freedom and survival.

Roy, Jennifer: *Yellow Star* (historical fiction) This is taken from the memoirs of Ms. Roy's Aunt Sylvia, who actually lived in Rochester for many years. It is written in verse, and covers the time period from fall 1939, when Sylvia was four, until January 1945. Each verse tells of a different memory in her life and also gives historical details of the time period.
Schmidt, Gary: **Okay for Now** (historical fiction) Doug is stuck in a family with a dad who is abusive, a sweet but put upon mom, one brother in Vietnam, and another making his life terrible by bullying him. His family moves to a new town and things begin to change a little, when he finds a second home in the town library. It is there that he discovers a book by Audubon about birds, learns to draw, and finds some friends. His big disappointment surfaces when he finds out the town is selling the prints of the birds he loves to make money they desperately need!

Spinelli, Jerry: **Stargirl** (realistic fiction) When Stargirl first appears at Mica High School, everything that is different about her is appealing to many of the students, especially Leo. When her unusual characteristics begin to create problems for the other students, her popularity disappears.

Stevenson, Noelle: **Nimona** (Fantasy) Lord Ballister Blackheart seeks to bring down the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics with the aid of his new shapeshifting sidekick Nimona.

Wayland, April Halprin: **Girl Coming in for a Landing** (realistic fiction) This "novel in poems" covers the school year of a girl who is young enough to be shaving her legs for the first time but old enough to be learning how to kiss. Between fall and spring, she goes from an imaginary boyfriend to a real one to the loss of that boyfriend.

Woodson, Jacqueline: **Brown Girl Dreaming** (autobiography) The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.

Wulfson, Don L.: **Soldier X** (historical fiction) In this gritty novel of World War II, 16-year-old Erik is forced to fight for the German army, and because of his knowledge of the Russian language, he is sent to the Russian front. The train trip that Erik and the other young men take is symbolic of their transition from children to men.

Yee, Lisa: **The Kidney Hypothetical, or, how to ruin your life in seven days** (realistic fiction) A week before high school graduation, Harvard-bound Higgs suddenly finds his life falling apart and the other students turning against him, and somehow it all started with a hypothetical question about donating a kidney--but really it goes much deeper, all the way back to the death of his older brother.