



June 15, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

If you are new to Crefeld, we welcome you to the Middle School!

Summer is here, and no better time to read a book! Please have your child read the required reading.

**All students are required to read *The Other Side of the Island* by Allegra Goodman.**

Additionally, all students **MUST read another book of their choosing at the middle grade level or up or** have your child take a look at the list below for possibilities and pick a book that interests him/her/them. The books range in content, genre, length, and reading level. This should not be a book that students have read before.

Also, the list will be posted on The Crefeld School website for your convenience. Who knows—perhaps you will even read along! Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,  
The MS Team



## ***Middle School Summer Reading List***

### **Reading List Instructions**

Here is our first assignment for the 2023 - 2024 school year: **Read *The Other Side of the Island* by Allegra Goodman and read one more book. Find some suggestions below.**

**THIS MEANS TWO BOOKS IN TOTAL!**

Make sure you finish **both** books before the beginning of the school year. In the first few weeks, you will be evaluated on ***The Other Side of The Island***, and you will also complete a project based on the second book.

This year's theme in middle school is “Adaptation.” As you read ***The Other Side of The Island***, think about how this theme relates to this book.

### ***Required Book***

***All middle school students must read this book***

### ***The Other Side of the Island***

A gripping and beautifully written dystopian page-turner from *New York Times* bestselling author and National Book Award finalist **ALLEGRA GOODMAN**.

In the eighteenth glorious year of Enclosure, long after The Flood, a young girl named Honor moves with her parents to Island 365 in the Tranquil Sea. Life on the tropical island is peaceful—there is no sadness and no visible violence in this world. Earth Mother and her Corporation have created New Weather. The sky is always blue and it almost never rains. Every family fits into its rightful, orderly, and predictable place...

Except Honor's. Her family does not follow the rules. They ignore curfew, sing songs, and do not pray to Earth Mother. Honor doesn't fit in with the other children at the Old Colony School. Then she meets Helix, a boy with a big heart who slowly helps her uncover a terrible secret about the Island: Sooner or later, those who do not fit *disappear*, and they don't ever come back.

Honor knows her family could be next, and when the unthinkable happens, she must make the dangerous journey to the Other Side of the Island—before Earth Mother comes for her too...(Source: amazon.com).

### **How to Interact with the Text**

- Circle new characters.
- Underline moments you find interesting or important in the story. A few items per chapter is a good guideline.
- At the end of a chapter, write 2-3 bullet points of important plot points that occurred in that chapter.
- This skill is called annotating and it is something you will be doing more of this year. It helps you remember the book and will be used to start conversations about the book when you return.

### **Some Choices for Second Book**

\* *More accessible reading level*

\*\* *More of a reach for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade reader*

*No asterisk means that the book is written for the middle years*

#### ***A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials***

**by Ann Rinaldi**

Susanna desperately wants to join the circle of girls who meet every week at the parsonage. What she doesn't realize is that the leader of the group, the malicious Ann Putnam, is about to set off a torrent of false accusations leading to the imprisonment and execution of countless of innocent people. When Susanna puts the pieces together, she faces a painful choice. She can keep quiet and let the witch-hunt panic continue, or she can “break charity” with the group—and risk having her family named as witches. (Source: book jacket)

\* ***Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko**

Murderers, mob bosses, and convicts . . . these guys are not your average neighbors. Not unless you live on Alcatraz. It's 1935 and twelve-year-old Moose Flanagan and his family have just

moved to the infamous island that's home to criminals like notorious escapee Roy Gardner, Machine Gun Kelly, and of course, Al Capone. Now Moose has to try to fit in at his new school, avoid getting caught up in one of the warden's daughter's countless plots, and keep an eye on his sister Natalie, who's not like other kids. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away. (Source: book jacket)

**\* *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

Born third at a time when having more than two children per family is illegal and subject to seizure and punishment by the Population Police, Luke has spent all of his 12 years in hiding. His parents disobeyed once by having him and are determined not to do anything unlawful again. At first, the woods around his family's farm are thick enough to conceal him when he plays and works outdoors, but when the government develops some of that land for housing, his world narrows to just the attic. Gazing through an air vent at new homes, he spies a child's face at a window after the family of four has already left for the day. Is it possible that he is not the only hidden child? (Source: excerpted from *School Library Journal* on amazon.com, Susan L. Rogers, Chestnut Hill Academy, PA)

***From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun* by Jacqueline Woodson**

At age 13, Melanin Sun, an African American boy growing up in Brooklyn with his single mother, sometimes longs for the days when life was as “simple as chocolate cakes and Lego sets.” Instead, his feelings grow more complicated after his mother explains that she is gay and in love with Kristin, the white woman whom she has recently invited home. “You're a dyke! A dyke!” he screams at her, enraged. His shock and sense of alienation are quickly exacerbated when the neighbors begin to gossip and he becomes the object of cruel taunts. Through Melanin's voice, Woodson frankly expresses the resentment and confusion of an adolescent desperately struggling to reestablish normalcy. She shatters stereotypes even as she evokes the tenderness of a mother/son relationship. Offering no easy answers, Woodson teaches the reader that love can lead to acceptance of all manner of differences. (Source: excerpted from *Publishers Weekly* on Amazon.com)

***The Moon Within* by Aida Salazar**

Rivera's life swirls with questions. About her changing body. Her first attraction to a boy. And her best friend's exploration of what it means to be genderfluid. But most of all, her mother's insistence she have a moon ceremony when her first period arrives. It's an ancestral Mexica ritual that Mima and her community have reclaimed, but Celi promises she will NOT be participating.

Can she find the power within herself to take a stand for who she wants to be? A dazzling story told with the sensitivity, humor, and brilliant verse of debut talent Aida Salazar. (Source: book jacket)

***Peak* by Roland Smith**

After Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. He wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit—and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life. Roland Smith has created an action-packed adventure about friendship, sacrifice, family, and the drive to take on Everest, despite the incredible risk. (Source: houghtonmifflinbooks.com)

**\* *Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez**

After Tyler's father is injured in a tractor accident, his family is forced to hire migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure. Tyler isn't sure what to make of these workers. Are they undocumented? And what about the three daughters, particularly Mari, the oldest, who is proud of her Mexican heritage but also increasingly connected her American life? Her family lives in constant fear of being discovered by the authorities and sent back to the poverty they left behind in Mexico. Can Tyler and Mari find a way to be friends despite their differences? (Source: randomhouse.com)

***The Greatest: Muhammad Ali* by Walter Dean Myers**

Award-winning author Walter Dean Myers presents the amazing story of Muhammad Ali's childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battles against Parkinson's disease. Packed with dramatic black-and-white photos, this critically acclaimed biography is the perfect choice for both young adult sports fans and fans of Walter Dean Myers in general. (Source: borders.com)

***The Ruins of Gorlan (The Ranger's Apprentice, Book 1)*  
by John Flanagan**

He had always wanted to be a warrior. The Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways, made him nervous. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to

ordinary people. And now fifteen year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't realize yet is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing. The exiled Morgarath, Lord of the Mountains of Rain and Night, is gathering his forces for an attack on the kingdom. This time, he will not be denied. (Source: book jacket)

### ***The Skin I'm In* by Sharon Flake**

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like. (Source: barnesandnobles.com)

### **\*\* *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells**

First published in 1895, the novel follows the adventures of a hypothetical Time Traveller who journeys into the future to find that humanity has evolved into two races: the peaceful Eloi — vegetarians who tire easily — and the carnivorous, predatory Morlocks. After narrowly escaping from the Morlocks, the Time Traveller undertakes another journey even further into the future where he finds the earth growing bitterly cold as the heat and energy of the sun wane. Horrified, he returns to the present, but soon departs again on his final journey. ... Sure to delight lovers of the fantastic and bizarre, *The Time Machine* is a book that belongs on the shelf of every science-fiction fan. (Source: amazon.com)

### ***Uglies* by Scott Westerfield**

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her license—for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. In just a few weeks Tally will be there. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world—and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she can imagine: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. The choice Tally makes changes her world forever. (Source: book jacket)

### ***When My Name Was Keoko* by Linda Sue Park**

Inspired by her own family's stories of living in South Korea during the Japanese occupation in the years preceding World War II, Newbery Medal-winning author Linda Sue Park chronicles the

compelling story of two siblings, ten-year-old Sun-hee and 13-year-old Tae-yul, and their battle to maintain their identity and dignity during one of Korea's most difficult and turbulent times. In alternating first-person chapters, they relate their family's troubles under the strict fascist regime. The Kim family is stripped of their cultural symbols, only permitted to learn Japanese history and language, and forced to convert their names to Japanese. Sun-hee, now Keoko, struggles to reconcile her Korean home life with her Japanese school and friends, while Tae-yul, now Nobuo, attempts to convert his growing anger into a more positive passion for flight and airplanes. Both are worried for their uncle, whom they discover is printing an underground Korean resistance paper. When Sun-hee inadvertently puts her uncle's life in danger, she sets in motion a chain of events that results in her brother volunteering as a pilot for the Japanese near the end of WWII. (Source: amazon.com book review, Jennifer Hubert)

\* ***When Stars Scatter* by Victoria Jamieson**

Graphic Novel: Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future... but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day. Heartbreak, hope, and gentle humor exist together in this nonfiction graphic novel about a childhood spent waiting, and a young man who is able to create a sense of family and home in the most difficult of settings. (Source: book jacket)