GARDEN CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
SUMMER READING SELECTIONS
GRADE 6

Directions: **Choose ONE of the following novels to read over the summer vacation. Complete the graphic organizers *in the accompanying document* as you read. Be prepared to take an essay test on the novel in your 6th grade English Language Arts class in September. You will have a chance to ask questions when you return to school in the fall. The graphic organizers are due the first week you return to school.**

Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech

Mary Lou Finney is less than excited about her assignment to keep a journal over the summer. Boring! Then cousin Carl Ray comes to stay with her family, and what starts out as the dull dog days of summer quickly turns into the wildest roller-coaster ride of all time. How was Mary Lou supposed to know what would happen with Carl Ray and the ring? Or with her boy-crazy best friend Beth Ann? Or with (sigh) the permanently pink Alex Cheevey? Suddenly a boring school project becomes a record of the most exciting, incredible, *unbelievable* summer of Mary Lou's life.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay are both in Ms. Hussey's sixth-grade class. When they strike up an unlikely friendship they discover they have a lot more in common than their age (11) and their deep appreciation for their sixth-grade teacher. They both love art, museums, and blue M & M's for starters. When a thief steals a pricey Vermeer painting en route to Chicago, Petra and Calder team up to solve the mystery and recover the painting. As the thief leaves clues in the local newspaper, Petra and Calder use all their resources before the painting is destroyed as the thief has indicated. With the help of a set of mysterious books about unexplained phenomena, Calder and Petra race against the clock to chase down the painting and catch a thief.

Heat by Mike Lupica

Michael Arroyo grows up in the shadows of hallowed Yankee Stadium, a boy forever on the outside looking in. He realized that he would have his only chance to see his field of dreams, pitch his Bronx all-star team to the district finals, and take a shot at the Little League World Series. But there is a problem. Michel is good-too good. Rival coaches and players can't believe a boy could be this good and be only 12 years old, and Michael has no way to prove it-no mother, no father, and a birth certificate that is stuck at home in his native Cuba.

I Funny: A Middle School Story by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein

Jamie Grimm is a middle schooler on a mission: he wants to become the world's greatest stand-up comedian--even if he doesn't have a lot to laugh about these days. He's new in town and stuck living with his aunt, uncle, and their evil son Stevie, a bully who doesn't let Jamie's wheelchair stop him from messing with Jamie as much as possible. But Jamie doesn't let his situation get him down. When his Uncle Frankie mentions a contest called "The Planet's Funniest Kid Comic," Jamie knows he has to enter.

The Storm Runner by J.C. Cervantes

A contemporary adventure based on Maya mythology from Rick Riordan Presents! Zane has always enjoyed exploring the dormant volcano near his home in New Mexico, even though hiking is challenging. He'd much rather hang out there with his dog, Rosie than go to middle school, where kids call him Sir Limps a Lot, McGimpster, or Uno—for his one good leg. What Zane doesn't know is that the volcano is a gateway to another world and he is at the center of a powerful prophecy. A new girl at school, Brooks, informs him that he's destined to release an evil god from the ancient Maya relic he is imprisoned in—unless she can find and remove it first. Together they return to the volcano, where all kinds of crazy happens. Brooks turns into a hawk, a demon attacks them in a cave, and Rosie gives her all while trying to protect Zane. When Zane decides to save his dog no matter the cost, he is thrust into an adventure full of surprising discoveries, dangerous secrets, and an all-out war between the gods, one of whom happens to be his father. To survive, Zane will have to become the Storm Runner. But how can he run when he can't even walk well without a cane?

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Parents need to know that *The War That Saved My Life*, which was named a 2016 Newbery Honor book, is a standout coming-of-age story set in the English countryside during World War II. Wartime brings new, scary things into the characters' lives, from bomb shelters and destroyed homes to the plane crashes that kill the pilots at the nearby airbase. Far more troubling, especially to sensitive readers, is the character of Ada and Jamie's abusive mother, who regularly smacks the kids around and has kept Ada, born with a clubfoot, locked up in one room her whole life -- and who hangs ominously in the background when the kids land in the country, where they experience care and kindness for the first time in their lives. Kids and adults will cheer for Ada as she discovers she has value and learns to stand up for herself -- but will her mother take the kids back and destroy it all? There's lots of historical detail about World War II in England, from the evacuation of kids to the countryside to details about British military planes.