



WES

Kind. Confident. Prepared.

June 2026

Dear Middle School Student,

This summer you will both embark upon a very intentional reading experience and do some completely free reading. Middle School Summer reading is set up with a three year cycle of topics. This year and next we are focusing on Identity. The third year will focus on Genre. This letter will explain the way we have organized your reading, what our expectations are, and how you will share your reading experiences in the fall.

Preparing for Summer Reading

In your English classes and Library, you reflected on your experiences this past year, thinking about who you are and how you have changed. You also began thinking about the people with whom you will be blogging this summer, focusing on how you will share your responses to the books you read this summer in ways that consider your peers.

Required Reading: Genre

This summer's reading requires you to choose **two books** that fall within the larger theme of Identity. One of the books must be chosen from the list of **books highlighted in blue**. The second book can be any book on the list. Mr. Pané, Ms. Hopper, and Ms. Patrino have created a list of fiction and nonfiction books. (*The list can be found on the [Middle School Summer Reading 2026 page](#) of the WES website.*) The books are listed with recommendations for grade level readers. You may certainly choose to reach above your grade level, but you should not be an eighth-grade student reading a sixth-grade book.

During the Spring, you joined the [WES Middle School Summer Reading Blog](#) and made your first post. On Step Up Day, you previewed the books on the list. This summer, you will read prompts for the topics you have chosen, post your own responses, and also respond to peers. You are expected to respond to all prompts for each book's genre and to respond to two classmates. In the fall, in the first week of school, we will be gathering in groups to discuss your reading. In addition to students, each group will have middle school faculty joining in. We will also continue doing work around Identity.

Our goal for this summer is to continue conversations about literature, what it means to you and what you enjoy, with both your peers and with other members of the Middle School.

Once you have chosen and read the two required books, you may also read more books from the list.

Free Choice Reading

We hope that you will also read many more books over the summer. The summer blog will have a strand where you can share what you are reading, make recommendations, and share some thoughts about that reading.

As always, if you have any questions during the summer, you should reach out to us by email.

Happy reading!

Ms. Hopper, Ms. Patruno, and Mr. Pané