

GARDEN CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
SUMMER READING SELECTIONS
GRADE 7

Directions: Choose ONE of the following books to read over summer break. Then complete the graphic organizers *in the accompanying document*. **The graphic organizers are due the first week you return to school.**

The Retake by Jen Calonita: In this fast-paced and funny novel, seventh grader Zoe is anxious about starting school without reconnecting with her best friend Laura, who seems to have moved on with new interests and new friends. After a rough first day, complete with a stain on her jeans, a lost phone, and missed volleyball tryouts, Zoe discovers a mysterious app on her phone that lets her travel back in time. Hoping to fix her friendship and redo embarrassing moments, she keeps jumping to the past, but each change only makes things messier. Along the way, Zoe learns that it's okay to grow apart from old friends, that new friendships can be even better, and that accepting herself might be the biggest win of all.

Lines of Courage by Jennifer A. Nielsen, the award-winning author of *A Night Divided* and *Rescue*, dives into the chaos of World War I through the eyes of five young people from different countries: Felix, a Jewish boy from Austria-Hungary; Kara, a determined British girl who dreams of becoming a nurse; Juliette, a French girl struggling to keep her family together; Elsa, a German girl who finds hope in a homing pigeon; and Dimitri, a Russian peasant sent to the front lines with no weapon. Though their lives seem worlds apart, fate begins to weave their stories together as they each face danger, heartbreak, and impossible choices. Through their journeys, they discover that even in the darkest times, courage, kindness, and unexpected friendships can shine through. This powerful novel shows how ordinary kids can rise to meet extraordinary challenges and how their choices might shape a better future.