

# MACLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 8TH GRADE SUMMER READING

### Summer Reading Assignments

Through hands-on learning experiences, classroom discussions, and written reflection we pose a challenge to our 8th graders --**Discover What You're Made Of**. This thematic unit crosses between classes, giving students the opportunities to consider what sparks their curiosity and to uncover the passions that make them who they are. We are kick-starting this conversation with our summer community novel, *MONSTER* by Walter Dean Myers. **Students are required to read *MONSTER* and then select two free-choice novels that they have not read before.**

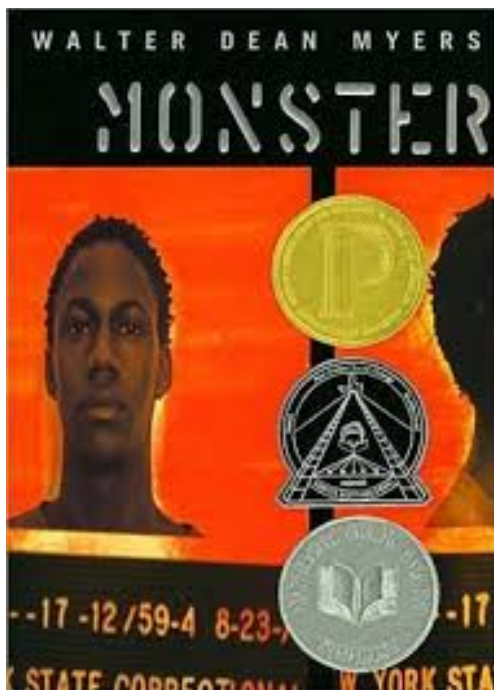
*Students should be prepared to take a test or participate in a project for the summer reading upon their return.*

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Overstreet ([roverstreet@maclay.org](mailto:roverstreet@maclay.org)) or Ms. Rubio-Gomez ([brubio-gomez@maclay.org](mailto:brubio-gomez@maclay.org)).

## COMMUNITY NOVEL



### **MONSTER** by Walter Dean Myers



Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout.

Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system," cluttered with cynical authority figures and unscrupulous inmates, who will turn in anyone to shorten their own sentences. For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life.

As a way of coping with the horrific events that entangle him, Steve, an amateur filmmaker, decides to transcribe his trial into a script, just like in the movies. He writes it all down, scene by scene, the story of how his whole life was turned around in an instant. But despite his efforts, reality is blurred and his vision obscured until he can no longer tell who he is or what is the truth.

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### FREE CHOICE

Choose two novels from the list below

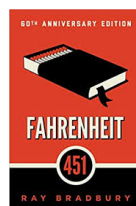
### Fantasy and Science Fiction



**Dune**  
Frank Herbert



**\*The Cruel Prince**  
Holly Black



**\*Fahrenheit 451**  
Ray Bradbury



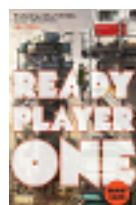
**\*War of the Worlds**  
H.G. Wells



**\*Life As We Knew It**  
Susan B. Pfeffer



**The Golden Compass**  
Phillip Pullman



**\*Ready Player One**  
Ernest



**Skyward**  
Brandon Sanderson



**Renegades**  
Marissa Meyer



**Strange the Dreamer**  
Laini Taylor



**Six of Crows**  
Leigh Bardugo



**\*Touching Spirit Bear**  
Ben Mikaelson

### Nonfiction



**\*A Brief History of Time**  
Stephen Hawking

**Life in Motion**  
Misty Copeland



**\*Elon Musk and the Quest (YR)**  
Ashlee Vance

**\*Unbroken (YR)**  
Laura Hillenbrand



**\*The Boys on the Boat (YR)**  
Daniel James Brown

**Undeclared**  
Steve Sheinkin



### Historical Fiction



**Forge**  
Laurie R. King

**The Fountains of Silence**  
Ruta Sepetys



**Milkweed**  
Jerry Spinelli

**Sophia's War**  
Avi



**Orphan Train**  
Christina Baker Kline

**\*The Wednesday Wars**  
Gary D. Schmidt



**\*Salt to the Sea**  
Ruta Sepetys

**Woods Runner**  
Gary Paulsen



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### Mysteries and Classics



**\*Murder on the Orient Express**  
Agatha Christie



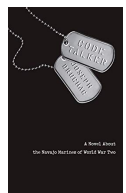
**\*The Count of Monte Cristo**  
Alexandre Dumas



**\*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**  
Arthur Conan Doyle



**\*Life of Pi**  
Yann Martell



**\*Code Talkers**  
Joseph Bruchac



**\*Sense and Sensibility**  
Jane Austen

### Realistic Fiction



**\*All We Have Left**  
Wendy Mills



**\*The Hate U Give**  
Angie Thomas



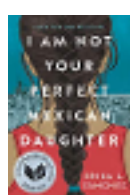
**\*Challenger**  
Deep Neal Shusterman



**Dear Martin**  
Nic Stone



**Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie**  
Jordan Sonnenblick



**I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter**  
Erika Sanchez



**Long Way Down**  
Jason Reynolds



**Unstoppable**  
Tim Green



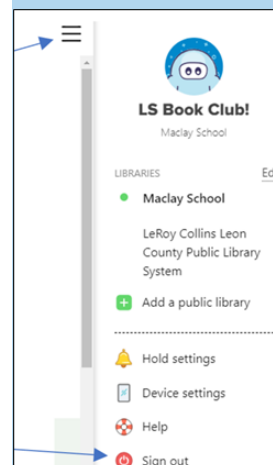
### Free E-Books and Audio Books

Your community novel, MONSTER, as well as several of your reading choices are available on Maclay's digital library, Sora, for no additional cost! Read or listen on a phone, tablet, or computer!

**Titles that have a \* are available for free on the Maclay digital library, Sora!**

Download the Sora app or go to <http://soraapp.com> and enter "**Maclay**" as your school. Then enter the User ID "**eighth**" to log in. The books in this community account will be available over the whole summer!

There are lots of other great books for you to discover and enjoy on Sora; you will need to switch to your personal account, which is your 5-digit student ID number.



To switch accounts, click on the three bars on the top left and then click "sign out." You can then log in again. Checkouts on your personal account last 2 weeks before they are automatically returned.

E-Books have lots of neat features. You can change the font, text size, background color to make the book feel right for you. There's a built-in dictionary too, so if you don't know a word, just tap and hold the word to get it's definition.

Also, the E-Book library is always open and available anywhere in the world.

If you need any help, please contact your librarian, Mr. Low ([dlow@maclay.org](mailto:dlow@maclay.org)), who is happy to help you!

Have a great summer and happy reading!