Incoming 7th Grade
Summer Reading List
(SY 21-22)

In order to maintain comprehension and vocabulary over the summer, below are a list of recommended books for students to read over the summer.

**Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio**
By Peg Kehret

(Grades 3-8/Lexile Level 890L)

From the Online Overview at [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)
In a riveting story of courage and hope, Peg Kehret writes about months spent in a hospital when she was twelve, first struggling to survive a severe case of polio, then slowly learning to walk again. The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

**No More Dead Dogs**
By Gordon Korman

(Grades 6-8/Lexile Level 610L)

From Card Catalog Description—
Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.
**Millicent Min Girl Genius**  
By Lisa Yee  
(Grades 3-8/Lexile Level 800L)

Review taken from Amazon.com—  
Millie, an 11-year-old with a genius IQ, is taking a college poetry class and waiting for her high school senior year. Against her will, she is enrolled in summer volleyball and enlisted to tutor Stanford Wong, a friend of the family. Into this mix enters Emily, a volleyball teammate and typical preteen. The girls become friends, but Millie neglects to tell Emily about her genius status which leads to feelings of betrayal.

**Chasing Vermeer** (This is the 1st book in a series.)  
By Blue Balliett  
(Grades 3-8/Lexile Level 770L)

Blurb taken from Scholastic—  
When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay together, strange things start to happen: seemingly unrelated events connect, an eccentric old woman seeks their company, and an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal, where no one—neighbors, parents, teachers—is spared from suspicion. As Petra and Calder are drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth, they must draw on their powers of intuition, their problem-solving skills, and their knowledge of Vermeer. Can they decipher a crime that has left even the FBI baffled?

**Pet Wars**  
By Allan Woodrow  
(Grades 3-8/Lexile Level 580L)

Review taken from Scholastic.com—  
The Pet War is a hilarious story about the timeless battles of dog vs. cat, brother vs. sister, know-it-all vs. know-nothing. Eleven-year-old Otto wants a dog. His twelve-year-old perfect sister, Lexi, wants a cat. Their mother, who works very long hours as a nurse, wants neither. Pets are expensive, so who's going to pay for everything? And what happens to the pet when the siblings are at their dad's for the weekend? Otto has an idea. What if he got a job and earned enough money to pay for the dog? Then Lexi has to open her big mouth. She proposes that whichever sibling can raise enough money first will decide which pet they get. Oddly enough, their mom and dad agree. With Otto and Lexi each out to defeat the other, their business plans become more elaborate and involved. As the competition get fiercer, the stakes get higher, and the battle lines have been drawn, so let the Pet War begin...

**I Funny** (This is the 1st book in a series.)  
By James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein  
(Grades 3-8/Lexile Level 610L)

Blurb taken from James Patterson's website  
Jamie Grimm is a middle schooler on a mission: he wants to become the world's greatest standup 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. He practices the craft of stand-up every day on friends, family, and the willing customers at his Uncle Frankie's diner. When Uncle Frankie mentions a contest called The Planet's Funniest Kid Comic, Jamie knows he has to enter. But are the judges only rewarding him out of pity because of his wheelchair, like Stevie suggests? Will Jamie ever share the secret of his troubled past instead of hiding behind his comedy act?