William Allen Middle School Summer Reading

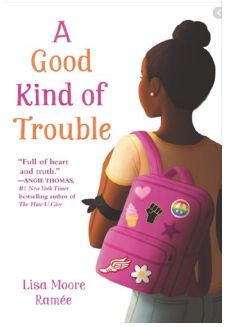
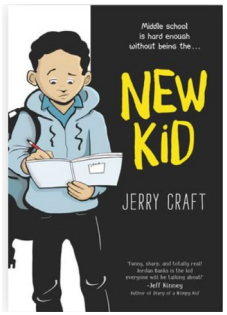
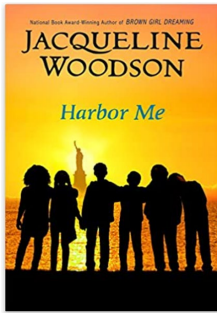
New Phase of One Book One School

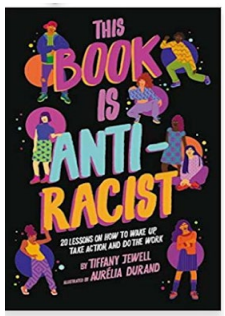
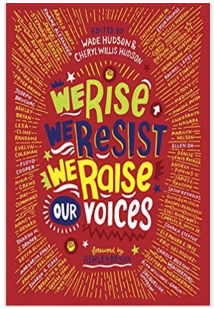
One Book One School has served WAMS well. Recently, we've entered a period of growth and challenge that has encouraged us to make some dynamic changes in the way we share quality literature with staff, students, and the community at large. For this reason, we are excited to share our new initiative.

Please join us in our thematic approach to summer reading! Each book aligns with themes and topics that are most relevant at this time. When we return we will have various opportunities planned for students to share and discuss books and themes together.

Please choose at least one book from the list below to read throughout the summer. There are various formats and reading levels to meet students' needs so we encourage students to pick the book that is just right for them. Click on the links to view book reviews from Goodreads.com.

Choose one of the books below and read throughout the summer. Be prepared to discuss and share ideas about the texts when we return to school in September.

Title	Author	Age Group	Format	Description
A Good Kind of Trouble 	Lisa Ramee	Middle Grades	Novel	Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. (Oh, and she'd also like to make it through seventh grade with her best friendships intact, learn to run track, and have a cute boy see past her giant forehead.) But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Now she's suddenly questioning who her best friends are and some people at school are saying she's not black enough. Wait, *what*? Shay's sister, Hana, is involved in Black Lives Matter, but Shay doesn't think that's for her. After experiencing a powerful protest, though, Shay decides some rules are worth breaking. She starts wearing an armband to school in support of the Black Lives movement. Soon everyone is taking sides. And she is given an ultimatum. Shay is scared to do the wrong thing (and even more scared to do the right thing), but if she doesn't face her fear, she'll be forever tripping over the next hurdle. Now that's trouble, for real.
New Kid 	Jerry Craft	Middle Grades	Graphic novel	Seventh-grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?
Harbor Me 	Jaqueline Woodson	Middle Grades	Novel	It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

Title	Author	Age Group	Format	Description
This Book is Antiracist 	Tiffany Jewell	Middle Grades/ Young Adult	Nonfiction	After examining the **concepts of social identity, race, ethnicity, and racism**, learn about some of **the ways people of different races have been oppressed**, from indigenous Americans and Australians being sent to boarding school to be "civilized" to a generation of Caribbean immigrants once welcomed to the UK being threatened with deportation by strict immigration laws. **Find hope in stories of strength, love, joy, and revolution** that are part of our history, too, with such figures as the former slave Toussaint Louverture, who led a rebellion against white planters that eventually led to Haiti's independence, and Yuri Kochiyama, who, after spending time in an internment camp for Japanese Americans during WWII, dedicated her life to supporting political prisoners and advocating reparations for those wrongfully interned. **Learn language and phrases to interrupt and disrupt racism**. So, when you hear a microaggression or racial slur, you'll know how to act next time. This book is **written for EVERYONE who lives in this racialized society**—including the young person who doesn't know how to speak up to the racist adults in their life, the kid who has lost themself at times trying to fit into the dominant culture, the children who have been harmed (physically and emotionally) because no one stood up for them or they couldn't stand up for themselves, and also for their families, teachers, and administrators. With this book, **be empowered to actively defy racism and xenophobia** to create a community (large and small) that truly honors everyone.
We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices 	Wade Hudson	Grades 3-7	Verse, Lyrics, Short Stories	What do we tell our children when the world seems bleak, and prejudice and racism run rampant? With 96 lavishly designed pages of original art and prose, fifty diverse creators lend voice to young activists. Featuring poems, letters, personal essays, art, and other works from such industry leaders as Jacqueline Woodson *(Brown Girl Dreaming),* Jason Reynolds *(All American Boys),* Kwame Alexander *(The Crossover),* Andrea Pippins *(I Love My Hair),* Sharon Draper *(Out of My Mind),* Rita Williams-Garcia *(One Crazy Summer),* Ellen Oh (co-founder of We Need Diverse Books), and artists Ekua Holmes, Rafael Lopez, James Ransome, Javaka Steptoe, and more, this anthology empowers the nation's youth to listen, learn, and build a better tomorrow.