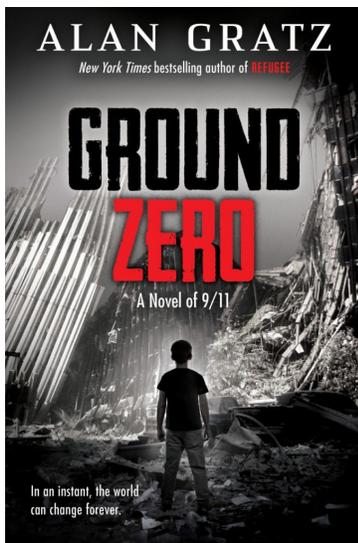


8th Grade Summer Reading 2021

Summer reading helps build fluency, background knowledge, and vocabulary. Summer break often means a break from reading, which can seriously hamper achievement in the classroom. There is a solid link between the amount of independent reading children do and their success in school. Research shows that kids who never crack open a book during the summer often fall behind in reading – the notorious “summer slide” – while kids who do read, maintain or improve their learning skills.

This year all 8th grade students will be reading a novel based on the 9/11 attacks. The selection chosen for you is the novel *Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz.



Released in time for the twentieth anniversary of 9/11, master storyteller Alan Gratz delivers a pulse-pounding and unforgettable take on history and hope, revenge and fear -- and the stunning links between the past and present. This new novel intertwines two stories:

September 11, 2001, New York City: Brandon is visiting his dad at work, on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere, an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion. And Brandon is in the middle of it all. Can he survive -- and escape?

September 11, 2019, Afghanistan: Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help Taz -- and put herself and her family in mortal danger?

Two kids. One devastating day. Nothing will ever be the same. [Click here](#) to see a trailer for the novel

This novel ties into multiple themes that will be covered over the course of the year in both the ELA and Literacy classes. We want students to read and enjoy the text. There is no required written assignment, instead there will be a novel test the first week of school. If you would like to take notes as you read, you will be allowed to use those notes while you take the test. (Notes will need to be either handwritten or printed out).

Books can be purchased at local bookstores, Target, or Amazon. It is available in print or eReader formats. The audiobook is also available through Audible. Mohr Library has been notified that this will be our assigned text for the summer, so copies will be available through the library. The RI online library has copies of both the text and audio book as well.