How to pick out a good book:

1. Ask, ask, ask! The staff at Russell Library are very knowledgeable people. Ask them for help. They know a lot about what books they have on the shelves. Bookstore people are also a great resource. Last, ask your friends what books they’ve enjoyed.

2. Use the computer! Lots of online bookstores tell you what other people who purchased a book also bought. Use that service to your advantage! Type in a book you know you liked, and see what comes up.

3. Check out bestseller lists and awards lists. You can just search for them on the computer. In addition, libraries and bookstores often have them posted.

4. Look for other books written by your favorite authors.


Students entering grade 6 are expected to read the book Wonder by R.J. Palacio and complete the following project:

1. Write a brief summary (one page, typed or neatly hand-written) of your book, including but not limited to characters, setting, plot, conflicts (problem), resolution and themes.

2. Create either a movie poster or new book cover for Wonder. Make sure whatever design elements you choose are representative of the book. Your artwork, photography or design MUST be original (don’t cut and paste, tracing, etc.). Don’t panic you are being assessed on your creativity and effort, not your artistic skill.

3. Write or present a book talk (under two minutes) in which you tell your audience why they should read Wonder. In your book talk, be sure to explain how the book affected you. Talk about what lessons and values you will carry with you into sixth grade. You are about to enter a school with seven other elementary schools included. As you make new friends, what characteristics will you be looking for? How do you want people to view you? Reference the book in your statements.
Realistic Fiction
The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman (Meg Wolitzer)
True Legend (Mike Lupica)
Endangered (Eliot Schrefer)
Saving Kabul Corner (N.H. Senzai)
Chomp (Carl Hiaasen)
Hot House:  A Novel (Chris Lynch)
Close to Famous (Joan Bauer)
Hidden (Helen Frost)
Kyle’s Island (Sally Derby)
Crackback (John Coy)
Trouble (Gary Schmidt)
Bystander (James Preller)
Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie (Jordan Sonnenblick)

Historical Fiction
City of Orphans (Avi)
Dead End in Norvelt (Jack Gantos)
Crow (Barbara Wright)
Fever 1792 (Laurie Halse Anderson)
Climbing the Stairs ((Padma Venkatraman)
House of the Red Fish (Graham Salisbury)
The Art of Keeping Cool (Janet Taylor Lisle)
Blood Moon Rider (Zach Waters)
The Accidental Hero (Matt Myklusch)
Alex Rider (series, Anthony Horowitz)
IQ:  Independence Hall (series, Roland Smith)
The Unsinkable Walker Bean (Aaron Renier)

Science Fiction/Fantasy
The Glass Sentence (S.E. Grove)
The Emerald Atlas (series, John Stephens)
Tesla’s Attic (Neal Shusterman)
Rapunzel’s Revenge (Shannon Hale)
The Last Book in the Universe (Nathaniel Philbrick)
The Amaranth Enchantment (Julie Berry)
The Grimm Legacy (Polly Shulman)

Nonfiction/Biography
Unbroken (Laura Hillenbrand)
Worlds Afire (Paul Janecako)
Escape: The Story of the Great Houdini (Sid Fleischman)

Chew On This:  Everything You Don’t Want to Know about Fast Food (Eric Scholosser, Charles Wilson)
Tutankhamun: The Mystery of the Boy King (Zahi Hawass)
Boys of Steel: the Creators of Superman by Marc Tyler Nobleman
Cleopatra Rules! The Amazing Life of the Original Teen Queen by Vicky Shecter

Nutmeg Nominees
The Nutmeg Award is an award given in the state of Connecticut for a favorite book. Every year, 10 books are nominated in three age groups: Intermediate (grades 4-6), Teen (grades 7-9) and High School. Please consider reading any or all of these titles! You can vote for your favorite at the end of the school year.

Plus
any book that interests YOU!

Once again, you have the opportunity to win a Kindle e-reader! Make sure you check out the district website at www.middletownschools.org for details.