



MONTCLAIR KIMBERLEY ACADEMY

Grade 8 Required Summer Reading

June 2025

Dear Entering Eighth Graders,

Welcome to the community of independent readers in the Upper House of MKA's Middle School. We are excited that you will be joining us next year and look forward to having you in our classes. As you know, we want you to read as much as possible over the summer because reading requires constant practice. You are required to read two books from the English Department list below before September, but we encourage you to read as many books as you like for pleasure.

Choose **two books** from this English Department list:

- *If You Come Softly* - Jacqueline Woodson
- *The Secret Life of Bees* - Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Book Thief* - Marcus Zusak
- *The Hate U Give* - Angie Thomas
- *Solo* - Kwame Alexander with Mary Rand Hess
- *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy* – Emmanuel Acho

The two required summer books will be assessed in September through individual reading conferences with your teacher, small group discussions in your classroom, or in-class writing evaluations. As you read these books, please consider the main characters and how they change, as well as some big ideas or themes that the writer is trying to convey.

For all of your independent reading choices, make sure to choose books that you think you will like and that are at a comfortable reading level. The [Summer Choices brochure](#) from the Middle School Library provides suggestions.

We look forward to talking with you about all of your summer book selections. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

The Middle School English Department