

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope you and your student are enjoying the conclusion to a productive year with the Braintree Public Schools. Throughout the year, students have many opportunities to read and listen to books read aloud during the school day. Your support for those same reading experiences at home will help your child continue to grow as a reader, writer, thinker, and learner.

As you plan for the summer, please consider the literacy experiences your child will have in these months away from the classroom. Faculty members at East and South Middle Schools have selected *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander for all incoming seventh graders to read over the summer. When school begins in the fall, all seventh grade English classes will participate in learning activities related to the novel. In addition to *The Crossover*, your student should read at least one other book. Any title you select together is a great choice!

The Crossover is readily available locally or via online booksellers, in paperback, hardcover or Kindle/Nook versions. In addition to local bookstores, the Thayer Public Library is a valuable (and free!) resource. If you need help in selecting more books, do not hesitate to ask the librarian!

For those of you planning travel this summer, consider going beyond the bookshelves and print pages to include audio books in your student's experience. While audio books are not a replacement for reading, they are a wonderful supplement, especially when experienced with a copy of the actual book. Audio books are available at the library on CD or on iTunes.

As you explore *The Crossover* and other books that interest your student, remember that summer reading is for pleasure! I hope you and your student find many enjoyable books and stories to be part of your summer. I look forward to working with you throughout your student's middle school experience.

Sincerely,
Rock Roberts
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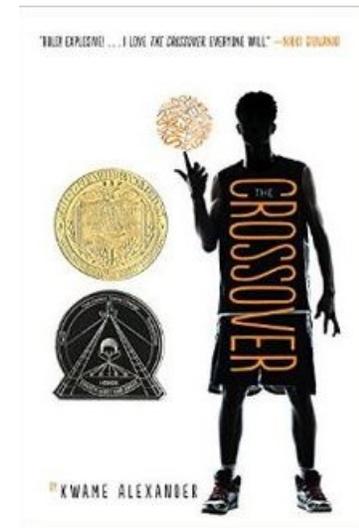
Braintree Public Schools Summer Reading
for
students
entering
grade 7

All students entering grade 7th
grade will read...

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences—Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks—both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart. With a former professional basketball player dad and an assistant principal mom, there is an intensely strong home front supporting sports and education in equal measures. When life intervenes in the form of a new girl, the balance shifts and growing apart proves painful. An accomplished author and poet, Alexander eloquently mashes up concrete poetry, hip-hop, a love of jazz, and a thriving family bond. *The Crossover* is the winner of The Newbery Medal and The Coretta Scott King Honor Award.

Students should also select a second book (with parent approval!) to read before the start of the year. The instructions for short written responses to each book are on the back of this page.



Steps to a complete summer reading assignment for students entering grade 7:

- Get your copy of *The Crossover*—from the library, a local bookseller, or an online store.
- Read it and answer The Crossover questions (at right) in your own handwriting on a separate sheet of paper. (Sheets available to fill in at www.braintreeschools.org/summer)
- Select a second book of your choice (with parent approval).
- Read it and complete the Choice Book questions (attached) in your own handwriting. (Also available to print at www.braintreeschools.org/summer)
- These assignments should be completed before your return to school and will be graded for effort and completeness.
- Turn in your written work to your English teacher in the fall.
- Participate in the summer reading class activity in your English class.
- Your passing or failing mark for summer reading will show via the Aspen X2 Student/Parent Portal.

As you read *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander, complete the written note-taking questions below on a separate piece of paper. All questions should be answered using *at least 3* complete sentences. Your work should be handwritten, not typed. This assignment should be completed before your return to school and will be graded for effort and completeness.

All students should complete the following questions:

1. Choose one word to describe Josh a.k.a. “Filthy” and explain why that word describes him best. Choose one word for Jordan, Dad, Mom, and Alexis and explain why the word describes each character best.
2. When talking about his twin brother Jordan, Josh says “If we didn’t love each other, we’d hate each other.” What do you think he means by this? Have you ever had the same feelings about a family member or friend? Explain.

In addition to numbers 1 & 2 (the questions for all students), students entering the PROFICIENT CLUSTER should answer the following question:

3. The relationship between Josh and Jordan goes through many changes throughout the story. In a well developed paragraph, describe how their relationship changes from the beginning of the story to the end.

In addition to numbers 1 & 2 (the questions for all students), students entering the ADVANCED CLUSTER should answer the following questions:

4. Throughout the book, Josh lists “10 Basketball Rules” that his father has taught him. Choose 1 basketball rule from the book and explain how it relates to the characters and what they are going through. Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.
5. This book might be described as just a book about basketball, but it could also be described as being about family, friendship, or loss. What do you think this book is about? Consider the story from your point of view. In a well developed paragraph using evidence to support your idea, what do you think it is about?

Choice Book Questions for Students Entering Grade 7 or 8

In addition to your required reading book, you will also read a book of your choice. *You may select either a work of fiction or a work of non-fiction, and your choice should be approved by your parent.* As you read your book, complete the written note-taking questions below on a separate piece of paper. Your work should be handwritten, not typed. This assignment should be completed before your return to school and will be graded for effort and completeness.

If you are entering a **Proficient Cluster** class next year, please complete #1-5.

If you are entering an **Advanced Cluster** class next year, please complete #1-4 & #6-7.

All students should complete the following questions:

1. List at least five important events and give a brief explanation of why each is important to the book.
2. What is the central conflict or major problem that characters/people face in the book? How is it resolved?
3. Discuss one choice one of the main characters or people made in the book. How did this choice change that character/person? How did it affect the story as a whole?
4. Choose a character or person from the book, pick a quality that describes him/her, and write one brief paragraph that includes an example of an event from the book that illustrates this quality.

In addition to numbers 1 through 4 (the questions for all students), students entering the **PROFICIENT CLUSTER** should answer the following questions:

5. Write a brief paragraph describing something you learned from the book. In other words, how did the author make you think; what is one idea, theme, or issue that you considered? What is the moral of the story or what is the book trying to teach its readers?

In addition to numbers 1 through 4 (the questions for all students), students entering the **ADVANCED CLUSTER** should answer the following questions:

6. Write a well-developed paragraph describing three things you learned from the book. In other words, how did the author make you think; what ideas, themes, and issues did you consider? What is the moral of the story or what lessons is the book trying to teach its readers?

7. Copy this chart and complete it to demonstrate connections you've made using your choice reading book.

Text-to-Self Connections: How does a moment, character, or part of this book relate to your own life?	Text-to-Text Connections: How can you connect this book to another book you've read?	Text-to-World Connections: How does this book connect to something that happened or is happening in the real world?
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.