

Middle School Summer Reading List
N.I.S.D. Honors English
Incoming Sixth Grade

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *My Louisiana Sky*.

Tiger Ann Parker is bright in school and good at baseball, but she is forever being teased about her family by the girls in her class. Tiger knows that her folks are different from the others in their small town, Saitter, Louisiana, and that she will have to make the most important decision of her life.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *When Zachary Beaver Came To Town*.

Nothing ever happens in Toby's small Texas town. Nothing much, that is, until this summer. This summer everyone seems to be leaving. Toby's mother leaves home to be a country singer. His best friend Cal's older brother goes off to fight in Vietnam. But their sleepy town is about to get a jolt with the arrival of Zachary Beaver, billed as the fattest boy in the world.

Paulsen, Gary. *The River*.

Because of his success surviving alone in the wilderness for fifty-four days, fifteen-year-old Brian, profoundly changed by his time in the wild, is asked to undergo a similar experience to help scientists learn more about the psychology of survival.

Sebestyen, Ouida. *Words By Heart*.

Lena can recite the Scriptures by heart. Hoping to make her adored Papa proud of her and to make her white classmates notice her "Magic Mind," not her black skin, Lena vows to win the Bible-quoting contest. But winning does not bring Lena what she expected. Instead of honor, violence and death erupt and strike the one she loves most dearly. Lena, who once believed in vengeance, must now learn how to forgive.

Voigt, Cynthia. --- *A Solitary Blue*.

Jeff's mother, who deserted the family years before, reenters his life and widens the gap between Jeff and his father, a gap that only truth, love, and friendship can heal.

Paterson, Katherine. *Jacob Have I Loved*.

Sara Louise Bradshaw knows that she should be proud of her beautiful twin sister Caroline. But how can she? Ever since they were born, Caroline has done nothing but take from Louise: their parents' love, Louise's hopes for an education, even her best—and only—friend.

Steinbeck, John. *The Red Pony*.

Raised on a ranch in northern California, Jody is well-schooled in the hard work and demands of a rancher's life. Still, Jody discovers there are lessons he must learn about the ways of nature and, particularly, the ways of man.