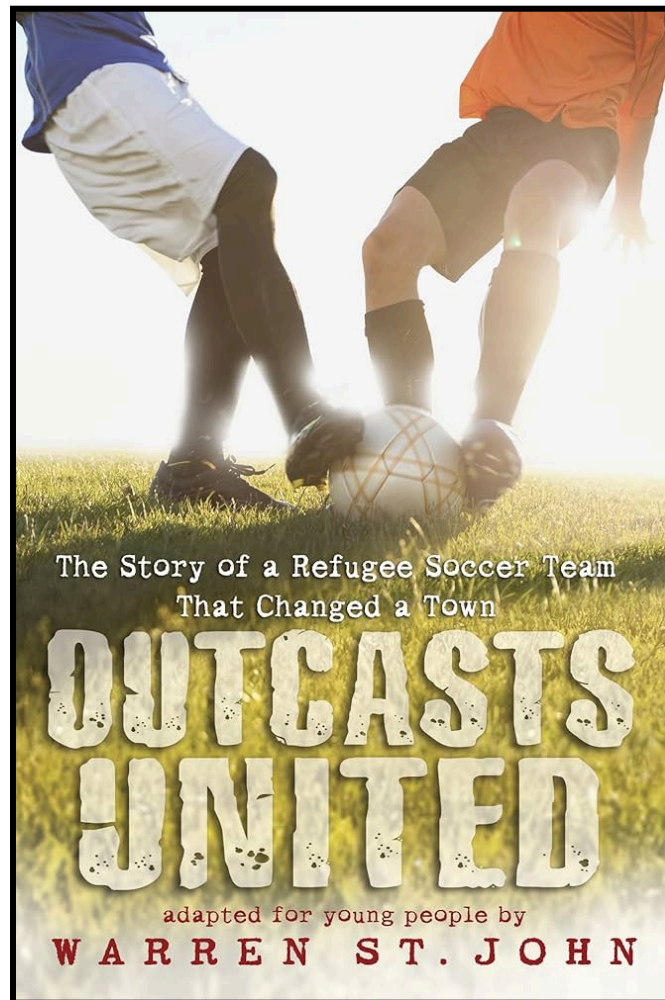


MS 447 School-Wide Book Clubs
Summer Reading 2024



This packet belongs to: _____

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1. Introduction to our School-Wide Book Clubs
2. Background information and Pre-Reading Activity
3. Summer Reading and Guiding Questions
4. Bring this packet to your book club meeting!

Introduction: MS 447 School-Wide Book Clubs

Since 2016, MS 447 has had a school community reading program each summer. The purpose of this program is to foster community and friendships, and focus on our school's values. The program was interrupted by the pandemic, but in 2022 it returned! This year we are reading the book ***Outcasts United: The story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town***. This is a true story about real



people, written by a journalist. When we meet in September's book clubs, we'll talk about the experiences of these refugees, and how we can take lessons from the book to motivate and inspire us. It will be a great way for students and teachers to return to MS 447 after a fun summer, and to *kick off* another successful school year!

Here is the schedule:

In June, incoming 6th graders and our current 6th and 7th graders will have an introduction to *Outcasts United* and will receive a book to buy (with a \$10 donation) or to borrow for the summer.

Summer Break is the time to read the book and use this packet as a place to write your thoughts about it. If you can, plan to read or review the book toward the end of the summer so it's fresh in your mind when we get back to school.

September 2024: On the 2nd or 3rd day of the school year, we'll come together in small, mixed-grade groups facilitated by teachers and staff for our Book Club Meetings!

Fall, 2024: Student groups will help organize a drive or community service project connected to the book's themes.

Spring, 2025: Looking ahead, we'll have an assembly or activity to build on our learning and strengthen our commitment to being an inclusive, equitable, and supportive community.

Background information and Pre-Reading Activity

Complete this section before you read the book.

1. What predictions do you have about this book based on the cover, looking at the title, subtitle, and photograph? Explain your answer.

2. Read these definitions.

Refugee: (*noun*) Someone who has been forced to leave their country. They are often driven from their homes by war or by persecution based on their race, religion, or political opinions. They go to a new country seeking asylum, or protection, often against their own government.

Outcast: (*noun*): A person who has been rejected by society or a social group.

- **What do you think it would be like to be a refugee or an outcast?**

3. Read each statement and circle **agree** or **disagree**.

- | | | |
|---|-------|----------|
| ● Everyone has a right to food, water, shelter, and also safety. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| ● Being a refugee is not the refugee's fault. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| ● People who come to the U.S. seeking asylum (safety from harm in their home country) are not "illegal." | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| ● Every kid deserves to feel like they belong. | AGREE | DISAGREE |

Summer Reading Tips

1. Think about the statements in #3 above as you read.
2. Write your thoughts on post-its or in a notebook to keep track of your ideas and questions as you read. This will help you participate in your book club discussion and our follow-up activities during the year.
3. As you read, notice the information the author, Warren St. John, offers. Ask yourself, "WHY is it important?"
 - What does he tell you about each person's story and struggle to come to America?
 - About the town of Clarkston?
 - About Luma's rules about language, attendance, etc.?
 - About belonging to a team?
 - Read the Epilogue to find out what happens to The Fugees after the story ends!






4. **Find and circle** the countries on the map where some of the central characters came from:

- Luma Mufleh: Coach of The Fugees—Jordan
- The Zaity family: Jeremiah, Mandela, Dalrington, Erich—Liberia
- The Ntwari family: Bienvenue, Alex, Ive—Burundi
- The Balegamire family (Grace)—Congo
- Peshawa Hamad— Iraq
- Yousph Woldeyesus— Ethiopia



MS447 BKLYN

In our community...

-  We act with INTEGRITY
-  We work for JUSTICE & EQUITY
-  We listen and learn with CURIOSITY & JOY
-  We take RESPONSIBILITY
-  We all BELONG here!

What is a **value**? ...Values are the beliefs that guide the way people live. The **Wolfpack Values** listed here are the beliefs that our community decided are important, and we are choosing to allow them to **guide how we live together**.

Your personal values might be influenced by your cultural background, family, religion, personal interests or hobbies. **Values are at the core of who we are and the communities we are a part of.**

As a school, we have many different values that make up our whole

community. We want to **celebrate all the different values** we have, and we want to live by **the values we think are most important for us** as a community.

Page 1 of this packet stated: The **purpose** of this [schoolwide book-club] is to foster community and friendships, and **focus on our school's values**. So let's focus a bit more on the **connections we can make between the themes and messages in Outcasts United and our Wolfpack Values**.

In your **own words** (you may use resources, ie. a dictionary, a google word search, a parent, a friend, etc. to help you) **define** each of the values listed below. Then choose one of the values and **discuss, citing evidence from the book, how it connects** to the story or to a theme or message of **Outcasts United**. Then explain why you think this value is **important to the MS447 Wolfpack Community**.

Define:

INTEGRITY:	JUSTICE:	EQUITY:
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