

- Will Fassbender: This podcast is brought to you by *Voices from the Middle*, a quarterly themed journal exploring the opportunities and possibilities and teaching middle level English language arts. A publication of the National Council of Teachers of English, ours is a journal for teachers, by teachers.
- Will Fassbender: Greetings, Voices listeners. We're glad to be back for yet another season of the *Voices from the Middle* podcast. We're going to kick things off this summer with some reading suggestions from Katherine Sokolowski's seventh grade students. We will be providing you with a little series of these book talks to help you figure out what some of your middle schoolers may be reading so that you can begin curating your reading list for the summer. So, let's send things over to Katherine and her students at Monticello Middle School in Monticello, Illinois, so that we can hear all about what they've enjoyed reading this school year, as well as what books they plan on reading this summer.
- Katherine S.: Hello, *Voices from the Middle* listeners. This is Katherine Sokolowski and I am here with some of my seventh graders and we are going to talk to you a little bit about the books we loved this school year and also the books we're looking forward to reading in the future. So, the students are going to introduce themselves and tell you about the book they read the school year that they enjoyed.
- Emma: I'm Emma. I read *The Running Dream* and it was by Wendelin Van Draanen and I thought that it was just a fantastic book overall.
- Teracita: My name is Teracita and the book I liked to read this year was *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green and I liked that it had a surprising ending.
- Lindsey: My name is Lindsey and the book that I liked was *One of Us Is Lying* by Karen M. McManus and I just thought it had a really good ending.
- Aleric: My name is Aleric. I really liked *Texas Ranger* by James Patterson. It was a very captivating book that really kept you reading.
- Dylan: I'm Dylan and I liked *Five Kingdoms* by Brandon Mull. It had lots of action and it had lots of twists.
- Jack: My name is Jack. I liked *Winter* by Andrew Smith. It was very funny and good.
- Katherine S.: All right, and so now we're going to share with you a book we're looking forward to reading in the future.
- Emma: I'm looking forward to finishing the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling.
- Teracita: I'm looking forward to finishing the book *Will & Whit* by Laura Lee Gulledge.

Lindsey: I'm looking forward to reading *When* by Victoria Laurie.

Aleric: I'm looking forward to reading the next John Flanagan book.

Dylan: I'm looking forward to reading the next Five Kingdoms book.

Jack: I'm looking forward to reading the first Harry Potter book.

Katherine S.: Excellent. All right, so I hope that you can get some books for your to-read list or maybe for some of your students as well. Have a great day and happy reading.

Will Fassbender: We want to thank Katherine as well as Emma, Teracita, Lindsey, Aleric, Dylan, and Jack for sharing the books they've been reading this school year as well as the ones they can't wait to pick up next.

Will Fassbender: We will be providing you with many more of these short book talks in the next few weeks, so please stay tuned. Subscribe to the podcast, so that you can continue getting more suggestions for your summer reading list.

Will Fassbender: In addition, we also want to thank Lee Rosevere for providing the music for the podcast.

Will Fassbender: Feel free to follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/voicesNCTE](https://www.facebook.com/voicesNCTE). On Twitter, @VoicesNCTE, and on Instagram @NCTEVoices. There, you will find content to help support your teaching as well as ways for you to share the amazing things happening in your own classrooms with us.

Will Fassbender: We always welcome thoughts and feedback related to the podcast and the journal. So tell us what you think and let us know what voices you want to hear from on future episodes.

Will Fassbender: We hope that the seventh grade readers on the podcast today shared something about a book that resonated with you enough that you consider reading it this summer so that the summer slump doesn't get the best of you. After all, teachers need to stay sharp during the summer break as well. As always, thanks for tuning in, and until next time, I'm Will Fassbender.