

Required Summer Reading List
Incoming 6th Grade
Summer 2010

Students are required to read 2 of the following books over the summer.

Realistic Fiction

- Choldenko, Gennifer. *Notes from a Liar and Her Dog*
Eleven-year-old Ant, stuck in a family that she does not like, copes by pretending that her "real" parents are coming to rescue her, by loving her dog Pistachio, by volunteering at the zoo, and by bending the truth and telling lies.
- Dygard, Thomas J. *The Rebounder*
A school's hope of capturing a basketball championship is lost when a tragic accident makes Chris decide to never play the game again.
- Green, Tim. Any book by this author: *Football Champ, Rivals, Baseball Great, Football hero, Football Genius*
- Harper, Charise Mericle. *Flashcards of My Life: a novel*
Emily's life in junior high school and at home is revealed as she uses the journaling flashcards her Aunt Chester sent as a birthday gift to help sort through changing friendships, possible boyfriends, and her mother's obsession with nutty desserts.
- Hiaasen, Carl. *Scat*
Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.
- Jennings, Patrick. *Out Standing In My Field*
Fifth-grader Ty Cutter, named after baseball great Ty Cobb, has lots of enthusiasm for the game but very little talent, which makes life difficult for him and his father who is coach of Ty's team.
- Park, Linda Sue. *Project Mulberry*
While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more. Between the chapters are short dialogues between the author and main character about the writing of the book.
- Paulsen, Gary. *The amazing life of birds: (the twenty-day puberty journal of Duane Homer Leech)*
As twelve-year-old Duane endures the confusing and humiliating aspects of puberty, he watches a newborn bird in a nest on his windowsill begin to grow and become more independent, all of which he records in his journal.
- Tolan, Stephanie. *Surviving the Applewhites*
Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Historical Fiction

- Avi.
 - *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*
Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.
 - *Crispin : at the edge of the world*
Sequel to: *Crispin, the cross of lead*. Branded as traitors by the king's authorities, Crispin and his guardian, Bear, flee to coastal towns in fourteenth-century England, where they perform a musical juggling act and bond as a family after befriending a disfigured girl.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Elijah of Buxton*
In 1859, eleven-year-old *Elijah* Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.
- Choldenko, Gennifer.
 - *Al Capone Does My Shirts*
A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.
 - *Al Capone shines my shoes* -Moose Flanagan, who lives on Alcatraz along with his family and the families of the other prison guards, is frightened when he discovers that noted gangster Al Capone, a prisoner there, wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose.
- Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza rising*
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.
- Russell, Christopher. *Dogboy*
In 1346, twelve-year-old Brind, an orphaned kennel boy raised with hunting dogs at an English manor, accompanies his master, along with half of the manor's prized mastiffs, to France, where he must fend for himself when both his master and the dogs are lost at the decisive battle of Crecy.
- Stead, Rebecca. *When you reach me*
As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Fantasy, Mystery and Mythology

- Allen, Will. *Swords for hire*.

In the ancient kingdom of Parmall, sixteen-year-old Sam Hatcher and an eccentric Royal Guard set out on a mission to rescue the rightful king who has been imprisoned in a faraway dungeon by his evil brother.

- Almond, David. *Skellig*
Unhappy about his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel.
- Balliett, Blue.
 - *Chasing Vermeer*
When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.
 - *The Wright 3-*
In the midst of a series of unexplained accidents and mysterious coincidences, sixth-graders Calder, Petra, and Tommy lead their classmates in an attempt to keep Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Robie House from being demolished.
 - *The Calder game* - When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village-- along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him.
- Barry, Dave.
 - *Peter and the Starcatchers*
Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin.
 - *Peter and the Shadow Thieves*
Peter must visit London to help his friend Molly and her family of starcatchers locate the missing starstuff, leaving the boys on Mollusk Island at the mercy of Hook.
 - *Peter and the Secret of Rundoon*
Fearing that the sinister Lord Ombra was not destroyed, Peter and Molly travel to the land of Rundoon, which is ruled by the evil King Zarboff.
 - *Peter and the sword of mercy* -
James, one of Peter Pan's original Lost Boys, asks George Darling and his wife Molly to help him find a secret cache of startstuff, which is hidden in a vault that can only be opened with a secret key kept with the crown jewels, but when Molly disappears, it is up to her daughter Wendy and Peter to rescue Molly, protect the treasure, and defeat Captain Hook.
- Funke, Cornelia Caroline.
 - *Inkspell*- When Dustfinger, the fire-eater who was brought into being from words, finds a shady storyteller to read him back into the medieval world, Farid, Dustfinger's apprentice, searches for Meggie and ends up stuck inside the book with her.
 - *Inkdeath*- As Bluejay--Mo's fictitious double--tries to keep the **Book** of Immortality from unraveling, Adderhead kidnaps all the children in the kingdom, asking for Bluejay's surrender or the children will be doomed to slavery in the silver mines.
- Hobbs, Will. *Go Big or Go Home*
Fourteen-year-old Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his Black Hills, South Dakota, bedroom.

- Horowitz, Anthony. *Any book in the Alex Rider Series except Stormbreaker*
 - *Scorpi* - After being told that his father was an assassin for a criminal organization, fourteen-year-old Alex goes to Italy to find out more and becomes involved in a plan to kill thousands of English schoolchildren.
 - *Ark angel* - After recovering from a near fatal gunshot wound, teenage spy Alex Rider embarks on a new mission to stop a group of eco-terrorists from sabotaging the launch of the first outer space hotel.
 - *Point Blank* - Fourteen-year-old Alex continues to work as a spy for the British MI6, investigating an exclusive school for boys in the French Alps.
 - *Skeleton Key* - Reluctant teenage-spy Alex Rider, on a routine mission at the Wimbledon tennis championships, gets caught up in Chinese gangs, illegal nuclear weapons, and the suspect plans of his Russian host, General Sarov.
 - *Eagle Strike* - After a chance encounter with assassin Yassen Gregorovich in the South of France, teenage spy Alex Rider investigates international pop star and philanthropist Damian Cray whose new video game venture hides sinister motives involving Air Force One, nuclear missiles, and the international drug trade.
 - *Snakehead* - While working with the Australian Secret Service on a dangerous mission, teenaged spy Alex Rider uncovers information about his parents.
 - *Crocodile tears* - Alex Rider's desire to return to life as a normal high school student must be put aside when he is asked to face his greatest adversary yet, a con man who plans to use genetically modified wheat to release a deadly virus that will kill millions of innocent people.

- Gaiman, Neil.- *The graveyard book*- Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the *graveyard*.

- Landy, Derek –
 - *Skulduggery Pleasant* -When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.
 - *Playing with fire* - When the evil Baron Vengeous escapes from prison, Detective *Skulduggery Pleasant* and his apprentice, Valkyrie Cain, have just two days to recapture him or the Baron's creature, the Grotesquery, may summon the Faceless Ones back to their world.
 - *The Faceless Ones* - Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton detective, and his young assistant Valkyrie Cain, embark on a dangerous quest to keep the Diablerie, an evil secret organization, from opening the gates between Earth and the Faceless Ones.

- Law, Ingrid. *Savvy*
 Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

- Riordan, Rick : *Percy Jackson and The Olympians (except Lightning Thief)*
 - *The Sea of Monsters*
 Percy and his friends set out to find his best friend, Grover, who is held prisoner on an island somewhere in the Bermuda Triangle, before heading out to save Camp Half-Blood from mythological monsters.
 - *The Titan's Curse*
 When the goddess Artemis disappears while hunting a rare, ancient monster, a group of her followers joins Percy and his friends in an attempt to find and rescue her before the winter solstice, when her influence is needed to sway the Olympian Council regarding the war with the Titans.

- *The battle of the Labyrinth*- When demonic cheerleaders invade his high school, Percy Jackson hurries to Camp Half Blood, from whence he and his demigod friends set out on a quest through the Labyrinth, while the war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near.
- *The last Olympian* - The long-awaited prophecy surrounding Percy Jackson's sixteenth birthday unfolds as he leads an army of young demigods to stop Kronos in his advance on New York City, while the Olympians struggle to contain the rampaging monster, Typhon.
- Stewart, Trenton Lee.
 - *The Mysterious Benedict Society*
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.
 - *The mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*
Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict.
 - *The mysterious Benedict Society and the prisoner's dilemma* - Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance investigate when an unexplained blackout engulfs Stonetown.
- Vande Velde, Vivian. *Heir apparent*
While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.
- Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*
In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.
- Wrede, Patricia C..
 - *Dealing with dragons*
Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom.
 - *Searching for dragons*
With the aid of King Mandanbar, Princess Cimorene rescues the dragon Kazul and saves the Enchanted Forest from a band of wicked wizards.
 - *Calling on dragons*
Queen Cimorene turns to her friends Morwen, Telemain, and Kazul for help when troublesome wizards make their way back to the Enchanted Forest and begin to soak up its magic.
 - *Talking to dragons*
Queen Cimorene sends her sixteen-year-old son Daystar into the Enchanted Forest with the only weapon that can combat an evil wizard's magic in an effort to restore the balance of power in the kingdom.

Biography & Non-Fiction

- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *Black Potatoes The Story of the Great Irish famine, 1845-1850*
In the Great Irish Famine, one million people died from starvation and disease, and two million fled to other countries after a fungus destroyed the potato crop, a disaster in a country where six million farm laborers depended on that one crop.
- Colman, Penny. *Corpses, coffins, and crypts : a history of burial.*
What really happens when a person dies? Why are autopsies done – and how? Colman answers these questions and many others in her personal and well researched account of death and burial.
- Dash, Joan. *The World At Her Fingertips : The Story Of Helen Keller*
Biography of Helen Keller who, despite being both deaf and blind, thrived under the tutelage of Annie Sullivan, graduated cum laude from Radcliffe college, and became famous for remaining strong and successful through adversity.
- Fowler, Brenda. *Iceman : uncovering the life and times of a prehistoric man found in an alpine glacier*
Uncovering the life and times of a prehistoric man found in an alpine glacier
- Glover, Savion. *Savion! : my life in tap.*
Examines the life and career of the young tap dancer who speaks with his feet and who choreographed the Tony Award winning Broadway show *Bring in da Noise, Bring in de Funk*.
- Harris, Geraldine. *Gods and Pharaohs from Egyptian Mythology.*
Explore mythology from Egypt to compare Egyptians' explanations of the world with the Greeks explanations.
- Macaulay, David. *Building Big*
A book about the creation of bridges, tunnels, skyscrapers, domes, and dams, focusing on the connections between the main planning and design problems that had to be solved and the solutions that were ultimately constructed.
- McPherson, James M. *Fields of fury : the American Civil War.*
This book examines the causes, events and effects of the American Civil War
- Myers, Walter Dean. *The Greatest.*
From his childhood in the segregated South to his current fight with parkinson's disease, Ali never backed down.
- Paulsen, Gary. *How Angel Peterson got his name : and other outrageous tales about extreme sports.*
Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.
- Rosen, Michael. *Shakespeare : His Work & His World*
A biography of the Bard written especially for children. It profiles the life and times of Shakespeare, peppered with quotes from plays he wrote, and includes short synopses of the more famous ones.

