

Required Summer Reading List
Incoming 7th Grade
Summer 2010

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

Realistic Fiction

- Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine*.
Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.
- Ferris, Jean. *Love Among The Walnuts*.
Born and raised in isolation in a wealthy, eccentric family, Sandy is shocked when he, his parents, and their servants become victims of a vicious plot by his greedy uncles to incapacitate them and take their money.
- Fleischman, Paul, *Whirligig*.
While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he caused, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement.
- Han, Jenny, *Shug*
A twelve-year-old girl learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South
- Hesse, Karen. *The Music of Dolphins*.
A fifteen-year-old girl who has been raised by dolphins, records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world.
- Hiaasen, Carl. *Flush*
With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.
- Korman, Gordon. *Schooled*
After his hippie grandmother ends up in the hospital, Cap Anderson is forced to leave the commune where he is homeschooled and attend Claverage Middle School, where his odd looks and behavior make him the target of bullies.
- Lupica, Mike,
 - *Travel Team* - After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.
 - *The Big Field*- When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. *Dairy Queen: A Novel*
After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.
- Osa, Nancy. *Cuba 15*
Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming "quince," a Spanish nickname for the celebration of an Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday.
- Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Zen and the Art of Faking It*
When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.

Historical Fiction

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever, 1793*
Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793.
- Blackwood, Gary L.
 - *The Shakespeare Stealer*
A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.
 - *Shakespeare's Spy*
Widge, an orphan boy who has joined William Shakespeare's acting company, begins some investigative snooping when several thefts occur backstage.
- Fleischman, Paul. *Bull Run*
Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.
- Kadohata, Cynthia, *Cracker!: the best dog in Vietnam*
A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog.
- Kadohata, Cynthia, *Kira-kira*
Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.
- Lester, Julius. *Day of Tears : a novel in dialogue*.
Presents an historical fiction written in first-person format that follows Emma, the slave of Pierce Butler, through a series of events in her life as her master hosts the largest slave auction in American history in Savannah, Georgia in 1859 in order to pay off his mounting gambling debts.
- Meyer, L. A..
 - *Bloody Jack : being an account of the curious adventures of Mary "Jacky" Faber, ship's boy*.

Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.

- *Curse of the Blue Tattoo*

In 1803, after being exposed as a girl and forced to leave her ship, Jacky Faber finds herself attending school in Boston, where, instead of learning to be a lady, she battles her snobbish classmates, roams the city in search of adventure, and learns to ride a horse.

- *Under the Jolly Roger*

In 1804, fifteen-year-old Jacky Faber heads back to sea where she gains control of a British warship and eventually becomes a privateer.

- *In The Belly of the Bloodhound : Being An Account of a Particularly Peculiar Adventure in the Life of Jacky Faber*

Jacky Faber and her classmates at the Lawson Peabody School for Young Girls in Boston are kidnapped while on a school outing and transported in the hold of a slave ship bound for the slave markets of North Africa.

- *Mississippi Jack: being an account of the further waterborne adventures of Jacky Faber, midshipman, fine lady, and the Lily of the West*

In 1806, the exploits of Jacky Faber continue as she heads west to avoid capture by the British and discovers adventure aboard a keelboat on the mighty Mississippi River.

- *My bonny light horseman: being an account of the further adventures of Jacky Faber, in love and war*

While trying to run a respectable shipping business in 1806, teenaged Jacky Faber finds herself in France, spying for the British Crown in order to save her friends.

- *Rapture of the deep: being an account of the further adventures of Jacky Faber, soldier, sailor, mermaid, spy*

In 1806, star-crossed lovers Jacky Faber and Jaimy Fletcher are kidnapped by British Naval Intelligence and forced to embark on yet another daring mission--this time to search for sunken Spanish gold off the Florida coast.

- Napoli, Donna Jo. *The smile*

In Renaissance Italy, Elisabetta longs for romance, and when Leonardo da Vinci introduces her to Guiliano de Medici, whose family rules Florence but is about to be deposed, she has no inkling of the romance--and sorrow--that will ensue.

- Rees, Celia.

- *Witch Child*

In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts.

- *Sorceress*

Eighteen-year-old Agnes, a Mohawk Indian who is descended from a line of shamanic healers, uses her own newly-discovered powers to uncover the story of her ancestor, a seventeenth-century New England English healer who fled charges of witchcraft to make her life with the local Indians.

- Schmidt, Gary. *The Wednesday Wars*

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

- Spinelli, Jerry. *Milkweed : a novel*
Captures the hardships and cruelty of life in the ghettos of Warsaw during the Nazi occupation of World War II, through the eyes of a Jewish orphan who must use all his wits and courage to survive unimaginable events and circumstances.

Mystery & Suspense

- Avi. *The Man Who Was Poe*
In Providence, R.I., in 1848, Edgar Allan Poe reluctantly investigates the problems of eleven-year-old Edmund, whose family has mysteriously disappeared and whose story suggests a new Poe tale with a ghastly final twist.
- Carter, Ally. *Heist society*
Fifteen-year-old Kat schemes her way into the best boarding school, hoping to leave the thieving antics of her family behind her, but Hal, a former co-conspirator, appears on campus to tell Kat that a powerful mobster believes her father stole art from a priceless collection, and in order to save him, Kat will have to recover the paintings.
- Christie, Agatha. *Any book by this Author*
- Feinstein, John. *Vanishing Act*
Eighth-grade sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open tennis championships where they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top Russian player.
- Nickerson, Sara. *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found.*
With a swimming medal, the key to a mansion, and a comic book about a half-man/half-rat as her only clues, a twelve-year-old girl seeks the true story of her father's mysterious death four years earlier near an island in the Pacific Northwest.
- Nixon, Joan Lowery. *The Name of the Game Was Murder.*
When she visits her great-uncle, a successful and self-centered author, at his fortress-like home on Catalina Island, fifteen-year-old Samantha becomes involved in his manipulative game that leads to murder.
- Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game.*
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Fantasy and Science Fiction

- Card, Orson Scott. *Enders Game.*

An expert at simulated war games, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin believes that he is engaged in one more computer war game when, in truth, he is commanding the last Earth fleet against an alien race seeking Earth's complete destruction. (follow with other books in the *Ender Wiggin* series)

- DuPrau, Jeanne. *Books of Ember*
 - *The People of Sparks*

Lina and Doon are thrilled to see their people join them above ground in the vibrant village of Sparks, but suspicion and prejudice soon turn the villagers and newcomers against each other.
 - *The Prophet of Yonwood*

While visiting the small town of Yonwood, North Carolina, eleven-year-old Nickie makes some decisions about how to identify both good and evil when she witnesses the townspeople's reactions to the apocalyptic visions of one of their neighbors.
 - *The diamond of Darkhold*

When a roamer trades them an ancient book with only a few pages remaining, Lina and Doon return to Ember to seek the machine the book seems to describe in hopes that it will get their new community, Sparks, through the winter.

- Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion*.

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

- Jacques, Brian. *Triss*

Triss, Shogg, and Welfo escape from slavery at Riftgard and are pursued across the sea toward Redwall by Princess Kurdah, Prince Bladd, and a band of freebooters who seek the rumored treasure of Brockhall.

- Levine, Gail Carson.
 - *Fairest* - In the Kingdom of Ayortha, Aza, an unattractive woman with a magical voice, learns to balance her appearance with her talent, meanwhile, her singing attracts both Prince Ijori, who cannot resist it, and Queen Ivi, who plots to use it to benefit herself.
 - *Ever* - Fourteen-year-old Kezi and Olus, Akkan god of the winds, fall in love and together try to change her fate--to be sacrificed to a Hyte god because of a rash promise her father made--through a series of quests that might make her immortal.

- MacHale, D.J.. *Pendragon Series*
 - *The merchant of death* - Bobby *Pendragon* is a seemingly normal fourteen-year-old boy. He has a family, a home, and even Marley, his beloved dog. But there is something very special about Bobby. He is going to save the world. ...Before he can object, he is swept off to an alternate dimension known as Denduron, a territory inhabited by strange beings, ruled by a magical tyrant, and plagued by dangerous revolution.
 - *The lost city of Faar* -When *Pendragon* finds himself in the war-stricken territory of Cloral, he and his uncle take it upon themselves to rid the area of marauders and locate the legendary lost land of Faar, which may hold the key to Cloral's survival.
 - *The never war: journal of an adventure through time and space* -Bobby and the Traveler from Cloral--Spader--have flumed to New York City, 1937. Against a backdrop of gangsters, swing

music, and the distant sound of a brewing war, the two must uncover the evil Saint Dane's newest plot.

- Titles in the rest of the series include: *The reality bug*, *Black water*, *The rivers of Zadaa*, *The Quillan games*, *The pilgrims of Rayne*, *Raven rise*, *The soldiers of Halla*

- Meehl, Brian. *Suck it up*
A teenage vampire sets out to prove that not all vampires are the same by demonstrating his non-violent attitude, his sensitive nature, and his desperate need for understanding as the soy-blood substitute drinking guy and Vampire Pride Parade participant that he is.
- Rollins, James. *Jake Ransom and the Skull King's shadow*
Connecticut middle-schooler Jake and his older sister Kady are transported by a Mayan artifact to a strange world inhabited by a mix of people from long-lost civilizations who are threatened by prehistoric creatures and an evil alchemist, the Skull King.
- Sleator, William. *The Boxes*
When she opens two strange boxes left in her care by her mysterious uncle, fifteen-year-old Annie discovers a swarm of telepathic creatures and unleashes a power capable of slowing down time.
- Wells, H. G. *The Time Machine*.
A scientist invents a time machine and uses it to travel to the year 802,701 A.D. where he discovers the child-like Eloi and the hideous underground Morlocks.

Non Fiction & Biography

- Allen, Thomas B.
 - *George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Out-Spied the British and Won the Revolutionary War*
A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.
 - *Harriet Tubman, secret agent : how daring slaves and free Blacks spied for the Union during the Civil War*
Tells the story of Harriet Tubman and other slaves and free African-Americans who risked death to gather information about the Confederacy for the Union during the Civil War.
- Armstrong, Jennifer, *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World : The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance*
Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey to reach inhabited land.
- Aronson, Marc. *Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado*
Recounts the adventurous life of the English explorer and courtier who spelled his name "Raleigh" and led many expeditions to the New World.

- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *Kids on Strike!*
Describes the conditions and treatment that drove workers, including many children, to various strikes, from the mill workers strikes in 1828 and 1836 and the coal strikes at the turn of the century to the work of Mother Jones on behalf of child workers.
- Blais, Madeleine. *In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle.*
Chronicles one basketball season of a girls' high school team in Amherst, Massachusetts.
- Calabro, Marian. *The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party*
Materials from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47.
- Capuzzo, Mike. *Close to Shore : The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916*
Chronicles the two weeks in July 1916 when shark attacks plagued the New Jersey shoreline
- Fleming, Candace. *Ben Franklin's Almanac : Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life*
Brings together eighteenth century etchings, artifacts, and quotations to create the effect of a scrapbook of the life of Benjamin Franklin.
- Freedman, Russell. *Give Me Liberty! : The Story of the Declaration of Independence*
Describes the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence as well as the personalities and politics behind its framing.
- Freedman, Russell. *Eleanor Roosevelt : A Life of Discovery.*
A biography of the first wife of a president to have a public life and career of her own.
- Giblin, James. *The Mystery of the Mammoth Bones : and how it was solved*
Describes the efforts of the artist, museum curator, and self-taught paleontologist, Charles Willson Peale, to excavate, study, and display the bones of a prehistoric creature that is later named "mastodon."
- Gore, Albert. *An Inconvenient Truth :The Crisis of Global Warming (teen version)*
An adaptation of the book in which former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously.
- Hettinga, Donald R., *The Brothers Grimm : Two Lives, One Legacy*
A biography of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, the two eighteenth-century brothers who collected the fairy tales and legends of the German people.
- Hoose, Phillip M., *We Were There, Too! : Young People in U.S. History*
Draws from first-person accounts, journals, interviews and other primary sources to tell the true stories of over seventy young people from a variety of cultures who played a role in the making of the United States, including explorers, patriots, rebels, slaves, miners, and activists.
- Jackson, Livia Bitton. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years : Growing Up in The Holocaust*

A memoir of Elli Friedmann in which she tells about her experiences at Auschwitz concentration camp where she was taken at the age of thirteen in 1944 when the Nazis invaded her native Hungary.

- Lawlor, Laurie. *Helen Keller : Rebellious Spirit*
An illustrated biography of Helen Keller, sharing aspects of her personality and sometimes radical beliefs, and discussing her relationship with her teacher Annie Sullivan and other important people in her life and work.
- Macy, Sue. *A Whole New Ball Game: The story of The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League*
Describes the activities of the members of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the women's professional baseball league that existed between 1943 and 1954.
- Mann, Charles C. *Before Columbus : the Americas of 1491*
A companion book for young readers based upon the explorations of the Americas in 1491, before those of Christopher Columbus.
- Murphy, Jim, *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*
Provides an account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793, discussing the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.
- Murphy, Jim, *Blizzard! : The Storm That Changed America*
Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snow storm that hit the Northeast in 1888, focusing on the events in New York City.
- Paulsen, Gary. *Guts : The True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian books*
The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson.
- Roberts, Monty, *The Man Who Listens to Horses.*
Biography of Monty Roberts, focusing on the unique methods he has developed for training horses through gentleness and an understanding of nonverbal communication, and telling how he has applied his techniques to human relationships.
- Thomas, Peggy. *Forensic Anthropology: The Growing Science of Talking Bones*
Uses actual cases, some drawn directly from news headlines, to describe some of the amazing advances and techniques being employed in the field of forensic anthropology at the beginning of the twenty-first century.