

Summer Reading Lists

For 6th grade students entering 7th grade

Parents/Guardians,

Summer reading is an integral part of a student's development as a competent reader. We have selected highly reviewed books which are accessible to all readers. During the first few weeks of school, we will think collectively about questions students need to ask as developing young adults: How do we make decisions? Can one person make a difference? Is justice maintained in our society? We encourage and welcome you to read these selected books with your child(ren). The public library and local bookstores (Banbury Cross) have been advised of our choices.

Our best wishes for a relaxing summer.

Fiction

Criss Cross - Perkins, Lynne Rae. Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love. The 2006 Newbery Medal book

Flush - Hiaasen, Carl. 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.

The Lightning Thief - Riordan, Rick. Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

Princess Academy - Hale, Shannon. While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland. A Newbery Honor book

Travel Team - Lupica, Mike. 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.

Under the Persimmon Tree - Staples, Suzanne Fisher. A young Afghan girl, Najmah, befriends an American woman, Nusrat, in Peshawar, Pakistan, after Najmah flees her

native Afghanistan during the 2001 war; and together they begin a long journey to locate their missing loved ones after the war ends

Non-Fiction

Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes - Turner, Pamela S. Presents a full color, illustrated examination of the Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda, and describes the effects of human exposure on the gorillas, how emergency medical care is provided to them in the wild, and ways to protect their species from poachers and common human diseases.

Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-Experimenters in Science and Medicine - Dendy, Leslie A. Recounts the true stories of ten scientists and medical researchers who have endured extreme hardship and discomfort in order to test new discoveries and inventions in the fields of medicine and science.

The Harlem Hellfighters: When Pride Met Courage - Myers, Walter Dean. Tells the story of the 369th Infantry, an African American regiment that risked their lives for the country they loved during WWI.

The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey - Borden, Louise. Tells how the creators of "Curious George" narrowly escaped capture by the Nazis while fleeing Paris on their bicycles during World War II.

Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX, the Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America - Blumenthal, Karen. Examines Title IX, the 1972 legislation which mandated that schools receiving federal funds could not discriminate on the basis of gender and focuses on its effects in schools, politics, sports and the culture as a whole.

Show Way - Woodson, Jacqueline. A mother passes on the tradition of making quilts, or "show ways", that serve as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves. A Newbery Honor book

We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Helped Us Succeed - Davis, Sampson. Shares anecdotes from the childhoods, teen years, and young adult lives of three men from Newark, New Jersey, who made a pledge to each other in high school to stay safe from drugs, gangs, and crime, and worked to become doctors--a goal they have successfully achieved.

Student Suggested Popular Titles

- Spellbinder: The Life of Harry Houdini.....Lalicki
- Helen Keller, Rebellious Spirit.....Lawlor
- The Longitude Prize.....Dash
- Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science....Fleiscman

Summer Reading Assignment

Choose one book from the Fiction list and one book from the Non-fiction list provided. Follow the directions below:

Note Card Directions: You are required to keep 4" x 6" note cards (two sets) for each of the following elements of the Novel: *Character, Conflicts, Setting, and Plot*. You are to bring these note cards to school on the first day.

These notes will be used to produce a summer reading essay during the first days of school.

- #1 – **CHARACTERS:** Describe the main characters and some of the minor characters.
- #2 – **SETTING:** Describe where and when the story takes place.
- #3 – **CONFLICTS:** Explain the major obstacles/problems faced by the main character (from within him/herself or outside forces)
- #4 – **PLOT:** List the major events of the story.

The Elements of Nonfiction –

Characters, Plot, and Setting - Like fiction, nonfiction has characters, plot, and setting. However, these elements are real, not made up. The main character in an autobiography or biography is called the subject. The subject's words, thoughts, and actions are presented.

Purpose -Different types of nonfiction have different purposes. Biographies and autobiographies, for example, have the purpose of informing the reader. They use explanatory, descriptive, and narrative paragraphs. Other types of nonfiction, such as newspaper editorials, are intended to win readers over to a certain opinion. They use persuasive paragraphs. Sometimes a piece of writing combines purposes. In his diary, for example, Davy Crockett both explains and persuades.

Tone - The writer's attitude toward his or her subject matter is called tone. A writer's tone may be sympathetic, as in "We'll Always Sing His Songs." It may be bitter, as in "The First Day of the War." It may be comic, hopeful, solemn, or anything the writer likes.

How to Read Nonfiction

1. As you read, try to separate facts from opinions. Keep in mind that the writer has chosen facts that present a certain picture of the subject. Think about what might be missing as well as what is there.
2. Think about the writer's purpose. What is he or she trying to explain? Or is the writer trying to win you over to his or her opinion of an action or a person? You can appreciate how well a writer says something, even when you don't agree. In fact, this ability is an important quality of a critical reader.
3. Pay attention to the writer's tone. Frequently a writer reveals much about himself or herself by the tone they use. Tone is set through the author's use of specific words, phrases, or descriptions that have feelings connected to them. This is especially important in autobiographical writing.

Happy Reading!

The *Massachusetts English Framework* recommends the list of authors below:

Isaac Asimov	Jean George	Lois Lowry
James Berry	Sheila Gordon	Anne McCaffrey
Nancy Bond	Bette Greene	Robin McKinley
Ray Bradbury	Rosa Guy	Margaret Mahy
Bruce Brooks	Mary D. Hahn	Milton Meltzer
Alice Childress	Virginia Hamilton	L.M.Montgomery
Bill & Vera Cleaver	Joyce Hanson	Walter Dean Myers
James & Chris Collier	James Herriot	Lensey Namioka
Susan Cooper	S.E.Hinton	Scott O'Dell
Esther Forbes	Felice Holman	Katherine Patterson
Paul Fox	Irene Hunt	Richard Peck
Russell Freedman	Norton Juster	Ellen Raskin
Leon Garfield	M.E.Kerr	Anna Sewell
Kathn Lasky	Theodore Taylor	
Madeline L'Engle	Cynthia Voight	
Ursula Leguin		

Students are encouraged to read more than the required number of books!