

Grade 7-8 Reading List For Summer 2008

Fiction

Abrahams, Peter. **Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery.** Ingrid lands the starring role in *Alice In Wonderland* while becoming caught up in the murder investigation of an eccentric neighbor. (F)

Adams, Richard. **Watership Down.** Powerful saga of courage, leadership and survival. First published in 1975. (F)

Avi. **Crispin: The Cross of Lead.** An orphaned peasant boy in 14th century England is accused of a crime he didn't commit. He flees and experiences many injustices before learning his name, Crispin, and that his parent's origins might be more perplexing than he ever imagined. (F) Newbery Medal Winner

Bauer, Joan. **Hope Was Here.** Hope is on the move again, relocating from New York to a job as a waitress at the Welcome Staircase Café in Wisconsin. Also, **Best Foot Forward.** (F)

Bloor, Edward. **Tangerine.** Twelve year old Paul's family revolves around his football hero brother failing to notice as Paul fights for the right to play soccer when disqualified by his bad eyesight. (F)

Bronte, Charlotte. **Jane Eyre.** In early 19th century England, an orphaned young governess finds herself in love with her employer, who has a terrible secret. (F)

Bruchac, Joseph. **Code Talker: A Novel About The Navajo Marines of World War Two.** After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay is recruited by the Marines to become a Code Talker, sending urgent messages during WW2 in his native tongue. (F)

Card, Orson Scott. **Ender's Game.** First published in 1984. Andrew "Ender" Wiggins, who spends his childhood at military school in outer space, believes he is playing computer simulated war games; in fact, he is commanding the last great fleet of Earth. (F) Series Hugo Award; Nebula Award.

Colfer, Eoin. **The Wish List.** Meg Finn is involved in a robbery that goes terribly wrong, leaving her spirit caught in the middle of a battle between good and evil. She's given a chance to redeem herself, forming a bond with her intended victim. (F)

Feinstein, John. **Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery.** Stevie and Susan Carol win a sports writing contest and have a chance to cover the NCAA Final Four games. When these teenage journalists discover a scheme to fix the games, they go undercover to stop the plot. Series (F)

Fleishchman, Paul. **Whirligig.** Brian travels to the four corners of the US to build a whirligig in memory of a girl he killed while he driving drunk. (F)

Hale, Shannon. **The Princess Academy.** When the high priests announce that the next princess will come from small Mount Eskel, families are skeptical about sending their daughters to the school. Miri, one small, weak girl, regrettably attends the finishing school and is surprised by her own inner strength and willpower. (F) Newbery Honor

Hinton, S.E. **The Outsiders**. First published in 1967. This story of Ponyboy and his brothers shows that no one is all good or all bad. Excellent story to show both sides of bullying.

Hobbs, Will. **Jason's Gold**. When 15 year old Jason Hawthorn sets off from Seattle to the newly discovered gold fields, he has no idea of the difficulties that lie ahead. A husky, which Jason names King, becomes essential to the boy's survival. Also, **Wild Man Island, Downriver**. (F)

Horowitz, Anthony. **Stormbreaker**. When his uncle dies, fourteen year old Alex Rider is asked to continue in his uncle's footsteps as a spy for the British intelligence agency. Just one of the Alex Rider series. (F)

Klise, Kate **Regarding The Fountain: A Tale, In Letters, Of Liars And Leaks**. Told through letters, memos, newspaper articles and photographs, Dry Creeks' students slowly uncover the mystery behind the missing water in the school's leaky fountain. Series (F)

Koja, Kathe. **Buddha Boy**. No one in the rich, suburban high school likes the weird new kid who looks like a Buddhist monk and begs at lunch. But Justin is drawn to the stranger, who turns out to be a talented artist tormented by the death of his parents. Justin must defend him and learns the real meaning of friendship. (F) Blue Ribbon Fiction Book Award

Lawrence, Iain. **The Wreckers**. Young John Spencer is the only survivor of the wreck of his father's ship on the coast of Cornwall in 1799. Are the villagers truly his friends? Is he really the only survivor? Also, **The Smugglers and The Buccaneers**. Series (F)

Levine, Gail Carson. **Ella Enchanted**. Was it a blessing or a curse? Ella is fated to "always be obedient" in this Cinderella story. Also, **Fairest**. (F)

London, Jack. **The Call Of The Wild**. First published in 1931. Set during the Gold Rush, this is the story of Buck, a dog stolen from his home and transported to Alaska where he must survive in a pack of wolves. (F)

McCaughrean, Geraldine. **The White Darkness**. Fourteen-year-old Sym is fascinated with the Antarctic and the men who explored it. So when her Uncle Victor takes the shy, hearing impaired teen on a surprise trip there, it seems like a dream come true. A tale of obsession and personal growth. (F) Newbery Winner

Paolini, Christopher, **Eragon**. The fate of an empire rests in the hands of Eragon, a fifteen year old boy who finds a mysterious stone that brings a dragon hatchling. With an ancient sword and an old storyteller for guidance, he is thrust into a world of destiny, magic and power. Also, **Eldest**. (F)

Park, Linda Sue. **A Single Shard**. Ten year old Tree Ear begins a life for himself with courage and honesty when he becomes an apprentice to Min, the most talented potter in 12th century Korea. Also, **When My Name Was Keoko**. (F) Newbury Winner

Peck, Richard. **A Year Down Yonder**. Mary Alice is sent from Chicago to live with her eccentric grandmother Dowdel while her family tries to make ends meet during the Great Depression. (F) Newbery Winner

Rawls, Wilson. **Summer Of The Monkeys**. Jay Berry Lee is happy until the summer he is fourteen years old and discovers monkeys living in the creek near his parents' homestead. Set in the late 1800s, the book traces the boy's adventures as he attempts to capture 29 monkeys that have escaped from the circus. Also, **Where The Red Fern Grows**. (F)

Riorden, Rick. **The Lightning Thief**. After being kicked out of his sixth boarding school, twelve year old Percy Jackson travels to Camp Half Blood, where his real adventures finally begin. He discovers his true identity as the son of a Greek god and embarks on a quest in search of Zeus' most prized possession. Series (F)

Rowling, J.K. **Harry Potter And The Sorcerer's Stone**. Orphaned Harry Potter lives with his abusive aunt, uncle and cousin until he receives his surprise acceptance to Hogwart's School of Wizardry and learns his true identity. Series (F)

Sachar, Louis. **Holes**. Poor Stanley is sent to Camp Green Lake for stealing a pair of sneakers. Will he survive the daily digging in the desert? (F) Newbery Winner

Schmidt, Gary D. **Lizzie Bright And The Buckminster Boy**. Turner Buckminster hates his new home in Maine until he meets Lizzie Bright, a girl from a poor, nearby community founded by former slaves that the town fathers want to destroy to improve tourism. (F)

Shusterman, Neal. **The Schwa Was Here**. Schwa isn't an obscure sound, but an average kid who seems to appear and disappear without being noticed. In an accidental friendship, he meets Antsy Bonano, who wants to take advantage of his ability to be nearly invisible and Lexie, who cannot see. (F) Horn Book/Boston Globe Award

Spinelli, Jerry. **Stargirl**. Sixteen year old Leo tells the story of Stargirl Caraway, the free spirit who enrolls at Mica High School, not exactly the "hotbed of nonconformity." Also, **Milkweed**. (F)

Taylor, Mildred D. **The Land**. Paul-Edward Logan, son of a white plantation owner and an African-Indian slave mother, runs away at 14 to seek his own fortune. Exciting prequel to **Roll of Thunder, Hear Me Cry**. Also, any in the series (F) Coretta Scott King Author Award

Tolkien, J.R.R. **The Hobbit**. First published in 1937. Accompanied by a troop of determined dwarfs and a wizard, the Hobbit takes off down the road leading to the Misty Mountains in hopes of retrieving the lost treasure of the dwarfs. Also, **The Lord Of The Rings** trilogy. (F)

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **Sammy Keyes And The Hotel Thief**. Smart mouthed Sammy Keyes is a girl detective, living illegally with her grandmother. In her first mystery, she tries to find a burglar who has made a number of hits in her neighborhood. The tenth book in this on-going series is **Sammy Keyes And The Dead Giveaway**. (F)

Yancy, Rick. **The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp**. Alfred Kropp, a peculiar, yet ordinary, fifteen-year-old boy, accidentally uncovers and becomes protector of King Arthur's legendary sword, Excalibur. While fighting off greedy henchman and evil forces, Alfred begins to realize his own power and eventually uncovers his true identity. (F)

Nonfiction

Cummins, Julie. **Tomboy of the Air: Daredevil Pilot Blanche Stuart Scott.** The life of daredevil Blanche Stuart Scott, the first woman to fly a plane in public in America. (NF)

Freedman, Russell. **The Wright Brothers.** This book traces the life and work of Orville and Wilbur Wright showing their interests and experiences and recording their progress with contemporary photos. (NF)

Giblin, James Cross. **Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story Of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth.** One is known as a classical actor and the other for the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The text is carefully researched, drawing heavily on firsthand accounts from family members and liberally illustrated with photographs, most from the Harvard Theatre Collection, Houghton Library. (NF)

Goodall, Jane. **The Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World And Ours.** Imagine a curiosity and passion that compels you to live in a community of chimpanzees. Dr. Goodall tells of her discoveries about chimpanzees, her love for them, and her campaign for the protection of these amazing animals. (NF)

Grogan, John. **Marley And Me.** Labrador retrievers are generally considered even-tempered, calm and reliable; and then there's Marley, the subject of this delightful tribute to the one lab who doesn't fit the mold. (NF)

Hamm, Mia. **Go For The Goal: A Champion's Guide To Winning In Soccer And Life.** This book is not only the inspiring story of how a tiny suburban sprite became a champ with a ball at her feet, it is also a step-by-step, or dribble-by-dribble, guide for any kid with the all American dream of making the team and becoming a champion. Mia Hamm is a star of the U.S. National Soccer Team, Olympic Gold Medalist, World Cup champion, and five-time National Player of the Year. (NF)

Herriot, James. **All Creatures Great And Small.** This memoir of a veterinarian is filled with humor, tale-telling and a love of life as he recollects and chronicles his experiences in the Yorkshire region of England. (NF)

Hoose, Phillip. **We Were There Too: Young People In U.S. History.** This book contains stories of real children and teens who contributed to important events in American history from Columbus' arrival right up to the 1990s. Also **The Race To Save The Lord God Bird.** The decline and possible extinction of the ivory billed woodpecker is told with power, rage and sorrow. (NF)

Macaulay, David. **The New Way Things Work.** This book provides a fascinating and humorous look at the way things work. (NF)

Marrin, Albert. **Commander In Chief Abraham Lincoln And The Civil War.** This study brings Lincoln to life by relating his own personal background to his decisions during our country's greatest conflict. (NF)

Webb, Sophie. **My Season With Penguins: An Antarctic Journal.** Through watercolor sketches and journal entries, Webb tells the story of her summer expedition. (NF)

NAME _____ CLASS _____

SUMMER READING FICTION BOOK FORM

Title _____ Author _____

Publisher _____ Copyright _____ Pages _____

Characters: List the most important characters and tell something about them.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Setting: The time and place of the story

1. Most of the story took place (when and where?) _____

2. One part that happened in an especially fascinating time and place was: (Explain)

Plot: What happens in the story

1. The book begins when _____

2. The main problem in the story is _____

3. The main character tries to solve the problem by _____

4. Who or what makes things difficult for the main character? Explain.

5. Does the main character succeed or fail? Explain. _____

6. How does the book end? _____

Theme: The lesson readers learn about life--What is one possible theme in this story?

Recommendation: Do you recommend this book to other middle school students? Give at least two reasons why or why not:
