

Miles River Middle School 2010 Summer Reading List

Grade 6 - In preparation for sixth grade English language arts class, please read *The Revealers* by Doug Wilhelm and at least two of the following titles, so we will have books that we can talk about together. For assignment details, check [<here>](#).

- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Curtis
- *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Belle Prater's Boy* by Ruth White
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Pictures of Hollis Wood* by Patricia Reilly Giff
- *The Book of One Hundred Truths* by Julie Schumacher
- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen
- *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos
- *Half Magic* by Edward Eager

You may choose only one of the following short story collections:

- *How Angel Peterson Got His Name and Other Outrageous Tales about Extreme Sports* by Gary Paulsen, *Baseball in April* by Gary Soto, OR *Petty Crimes* by Gary Soto

Grade 7 - All incoming students must read *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor and follow the details outlined [<here>](#). Then read one or more of the following books:

- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Jason's Gold* by Will Hobbs
- *Sing Down the Moon* by Scott O'Dell
- *Driver's Ed* by Carolyn Cooney

Grade 8 - All incoming students must read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and one or more of the following titles:

- *Things Not Seen* by Andrew Clements
- *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes* by Chris Crutcher
- Free Choice (You choose!)

Challenge: Extra credit will be given if all 4 books are read. Check [<here>](#) for details.



Miles River Middle School Grade 6 Summer Reading, 2010

Greetings Sixth Grader!

By continuing to read during the summer, you will be able to 'meet' various characters, learn from their experiences, make connections to your own life, and/or imagine a life unlike your own.

In preparation for sixth grade English language arts class, all students must read ***The Revealers*** by Doug Wilhelm. Students should also read at least two of the following titles, so we will have books that we can talk about together. This common reading will also provide a focal point for beginning-of-the-year activities as we begin to know each other.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Curtis

Crash by Jerry Spinelli

Belle Prater's Boy by Ruth White

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Pictures of Hollis Wood by Patricia Reilly Giff

The Book of One Hundred Truths by Julie Schumacher

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos

Half Magic by Edward Eager

You may choose only one of the following short story collections:

How Angel Peterson Got His Name and Other Outrageous Tales about Extreme Sports by Gary Paulsen, ***Baseball in April*** by Gary Soto, OR ***Petty Crimes*** by Gary Soto

Read these books silently and/or aloud--individually, with a partner, a friend, parent-child book discussion group--whatever suits your style and needs. Talking with someone about what you are reading helps you understand, make connections, and remember. Having a dictionary nearby helps, too, if you come across an unfamiliar word.

You might benefit from listening to the books on CDs or tapes that you could borrow through the public library system. Enjoy hearing characters' voices while riding in the car. Stay focused while you read the hard copy. Hear the correct pronunciation of words. Listen to the author's tone that is too easy to miss when reading silently.

Use the strategies that follow to help you take notes as an active reader. We will not be collecting or grading your notes, but we will encourage you to use them for discussion and for writing. However, we would like you to record a list of the titles of the books you read this summer, along with author names and the total number of pages for each book. You will NOT need the notes--or your list of summer reading titles--on the first day of school; please wait until we tell you to bring them.

Happy Reading!

Sixth Grade English Language Arts Teachers



BE AN ACTIVE READER!

Reading is an active process. While reading fiction, you use your experience, knowledge, and imagination to make mental images of the characters, the setting, and what is happening in the story. These 'pictures' help you connect with the characters and plot. To increase your enjoyment, understanding, and memory of literature, use these strategies to help you take active reader notes.

QUESTION! What questions come to mind as you are reading?

Why do the characters act as they do? What causes events to happen?

Why does the writer include certain information?

Look for answers to your questions as you continue to read.

VISUALIZE! Try to visualize what is happening by using details from the story to create a picture in your mind. While reading, change your picture as the story unfolds and your understanding grows. Use your visualization to help clarify any confusing parts. You might want to sketch what you are 'seeing' in your mind's eye.

PREDICT! What do you think will happen? Look for clues in the story that seem to lead to a certain outcome. As you continue reading, you will see whether your predictions are correct.

CONNECT! Bring your own experience and knowledge to the story. Make connections with what you know about similar situations or people in your own life. Also make connections between one event and another in the story. Try to figure out how all the pieces of the story fit together.

RESPOND! Think about what the story means. What does it say to you? What feelings do you experience as you read? What has the story added to your understanding of people and the world around you?



Miles River Middle School 7th Grade Summer Reading Information 2010

Greetings! Please read, save, and follow these guidelines which outline the purposes and expectations for 7th grade summer reading.

The purposes of 7th grade summer reading are to perpetuate the enjoyment of reading, to stress the value of reading, to maintain reading skills, to offer choice, to expose students to a variety of genres, to connect themes in novels to themes in the curriculum, and to create a common focal point for beginning-of-the-year activities.

EXPECTATIONS:

*All students must read **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred Taylor*

*and **one or more** of the following:*

***Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli*

***Jason's Gold** by Will Hobbs*

***Sing Down the Moon** by Scott O'Dell*

***Driver's Ed** by Carolyn Cooney*

PROCEDURE:

Students should come prepared with an individual index card containing brief notes on each of the following: *main character, plot, and setting* for each of the books they have read.

These books will be available at the Miles River Main Office between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. during the summer. They will also be available at the local public library, Banbury Cross Bookstore, and other local bookstores.

We will let students know when to bring these materials to school. Students will be asked to discuss the books and take part in an assessment activity.

HAPPY READING!

Seventh Grade Language Arts Teachers



Miles River Middle School 8th Grade Summer Reading Information 2010

Greetings! Please read, save, and follow these guidelines which outline the purposes and expectations for 8th grade summer reading.

Why do we require all students to read during the summer?

- to maintain the habit of responsive reading
- to maintain reading skills
- to perpetuate the enjoyment of reading by widening horizons, providing intellectual stimulation, and promoting relaxation
- to connect themes in novels to themes in the curriculum

The novels on our list support the 8th grade English Language Arts curriculum, which focuses on four themes: identity, decision-making, justice and diversity.

EXPECTATIONS:

*All students must read **The Giver** by Lois Lowry*

and one or more of the following:

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements
Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes by Chris Crutcher
Free Choice (You choose!)

***Challenge: Extra credit will be given if all four books are read.

In September, students will be held accountable for their summer reading – not on the first day, but within the first few days of school. To ensure recall of characters, events, themes, and responses to books, we recommend the following procedure.

PROCEDURE:

While reading each book, students should keep an annotated list of major characters, places, events, and motifs (recurring ideas and themes). In addition, students should try free-writing one or two pages. Free-writing might take the form of reflecting, commenting, interpreting, or analyzing. Students may choose to record their spontaneous reactions to the characters, situations, and themes. **WE WILL NOT COLLECT OR GRADE THE WRITINGS**, but students will use them to support discussion and review prior to the assessment. Students may use their own notes as a resource during the assessment.

These books will be available at the Miles River Main Office between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. during the summer. They will also be available at the local public library, Banbury Cross Bookstore, and other local bookstores.

HAPPY READING!

Eighth Grade Language Arts Teachers