



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!

June, 2021

Dear Middle School Students and Parents:

“Reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body.” (Sir Richard Steele) We would like the students to continue to exercise their minds over the summer. The Middle School Literature teachers would like to encourage all students to continue reading over the summer.

To help with this, we are including grade level reading lists with this letter. This reading counts as a part of the Summer Reading Challenge.

Please see the booklist for your grade level. **Each student is required to read one of the books on the list by the time school starts.** There will be a graded project on the book of their choice shortly after school resumes. This will count as their first graded assessment. Of course, we would like to encourage students to read as many of the books on the list as they can. They are great stories recommended by kids their own age.

We appreciate your support in helping your children keep up on their reading so they are well prepared for the start of the new year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Osberg
Ms. Ingebrand
Mrs. Reuter

SEAS MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING BOOK LIST

6TH Grade Summer Reading List 2021

1. **My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George**
Sam Gribley surprises everyone when he decides to live on his own in the Catskill Mountains. He learns about courage, independence, and the need for companionship in this gripping, inspiring, wilderness-survival adventure.
2. **Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis**
Set during the Great Depression, we come to know and love the tenacious ten-year-old Bud for his strength of character, his humor, and his determination to find his true place in the world no matter the obstacle.
3. **Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata**
A realistic story of America's war in Vietnam, using the alternating viewpoints of an army dog named Cracker and her 17-year-old handler, Rick Hanski.
4. **When Friendship Followed Me Home by Paul Griffin**
Ben Coffin has never felt like he fits in. A former foster kid, he keeps his head down at school to avoid bullies and takes refuge in reading sci-fi books at the library. But that changes when he finds a scruffy abandoned dog named Flip and becomes friends with the librarian's daughter, Halley.
5. **One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia**
Set during one of the most tumultuous years in recent American history, one crazy summer is the heartbreaking, funny tale of three girls in search of the mother who abandoned them.
6. **Hold Fast by Blue Balliett**
11-year-old Early and her family don't have much in the way of physical possessions, but they are rich in love and affection for one another. Early's parents, especially her father, pass on to her a love of books and a strong faith that situations can improve if you work hard enough.
7. **The Gate by Nancy Carabio Belanger**
Joshua Lasko is a smart-alecky middle school boy, whose faith disappears at his father's death. He meets Pie, a nursing home resident, and his life turns around into a whopping surprise.
8. **Hattie Ever After by Kirby Larson**
In 1919, seventeen-year-old Hattie leaves the Montana prairie - and her sweetheart Charlie - to become a female reporter in San Francisco.
9. **Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate**
In her first novel since The One and Only Ivan, winner of the Newbery Medal, Katherine Applegate delivers an unforgettable and magical story about family, friendship, and resilience.
10. **A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord**
Lily, an orphaned 12-year-old who lives in a small eastern Maine town, becomes fast friends with Salma, a Latina migrant worker who has come with her family to pick blueberries. But as the Blueberry Queen pageant approaches Lily and Selma are confronted with the hard truths of prejudice and migrant life.

7TH Grade Summer Reading List 2021

1. **Found (The Missing Book 1) by Margaret Peterson Haddix**
Jonah has always known he was adopted. Now, at age 13, he and his new friend begin receiving mysterious letters. "You are one of the missing." "Beware. They're coming back to get you."
2. **The Roar by Emma Clayton**
Telepathically connected twins' take on the regime in this sci-fi thriller.
3. **The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman**
Story about a boy raised in a graveyard. Newberry winner, recommended for kids and adults.
4. **Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer**
Road-trip story about what one can learn when you travel with an old woman.
5. **Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians) by Rick Riordan**
Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school again. But he has other trouble: the gods of Mount Olympus and mythological monsters seem to be walking right into his life. This book was #1 on New York Times best-selling series.
6. **A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielsen**
When the Berlin Wall went up, twelve-year-old Gerta's family is suddenly divided. She, her mother, and one brother live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. But her father and other brother who had gone west to find work cannot return home.
7. **Matched by Ally Condie**
Cassia is part of a futuristic society where the officials decide who you love, where you work and when you die. Cassia believes she has been perfectly matched until she sees another face pop up on the screen.
8. **The Red Pyramid (The Kane Chronicles Book 1) by Rick Riordan**
Carter and Sadie have become like strangers since their mother's death. After living apart, their father, brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane, brings his two children together for a "research experiment". He unexpectedly unleashes an Egyptian god who banishes him to oblivion and forces the two siblings to flee for their lives.
9. **Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan**
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances of farm workers during the Great Depression.
10. **Heat by Mike Lupica**
Michael has a pitching arm with some serious heat. How can a twelve year old be so good? Orphaned after his family escapes from Cuba, he has no proof of who he is. Michael's secret world is blown apart when he discovers that family can come in unexpected ways.

8TH Grade Summer Reading List 2021

1. **The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart**
Mark is a normal kid in many ways, except he is sick, very sick. He makes a life-changing decision to fulfill a final wish of his grandfather's to climb Mt. Rainer. He sets out with his dog, Beau, on an incredible journey. Will this be his last?
2. **The Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings**
This is a story about three teenage who make a life-changing decision leading them through a web of lies. This tests their friendship and moral compass.
3. **The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**
4. Josh and Jordan Bell are 12 year old twin brothers and basketball legends in the making. They are best friends until Jordan takes an interest in a new girl in class. They must work out their differences when their father faces some difficult health issues.
5. **Escaped by Eliot Schrefer**
Raja, an orangutan, was adopted by a young boy, John, as a gift from his father. They become like brothers until John's parents separate and John and his mother move away leaving Raja behind. When JOhn learns that Raja must be moved to a 'zoo', John believes he must help Raja adapt to his new environment. What John discovers takes them both on the journey of a lifetime.
6. **Legend by Marie Lu**
From two very different worlds, June's and Day's path have no reason to cross until the day June's brother is murdered. Day becomes the prime suspect and June sets out to destroy him. Two very powerful secrets come out that change the course of both of their paths for ever.
7. **Summerlost by Ally Condie**
An accident kills Cedar's father and younger brother and it takes a new friend to help her to help her through it.
8. **Peak by Roland Smith**
After 14-yr-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he is reunited with his long-lost father who wants him to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit.
9. **The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor**
Mason Buttle lost his very best friend and while there is no proof to suggest it was Mason who killed him, he continues to be the prime suspect. Mason is a bit of an outcast at school and continues to be bullied by neighborhood boys. As he struggles with his grief, we get to know this loveable, gentle character. We learn even more about him as he is now accused of almost causing the death of his new friend.
10. **Elijah by Christopher Paul Curtis**
Elijah is the first black boy in his town to be born free. While most people see him as someone frightened boy, when something tragic happens to his best

friend's family, he needs to find the inner courage to make a dangerous journey to help his friend out.

11. **The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin**

When Suzy's best friend dies, everyone says it was an accident. But Suzy and Franny had a falling out just before Franny died and Suzy doesn't believe it was an accident. Her grief causes her to stop talking altogether and sets her on a mission to prove that Franny's death was not an accident.

12. **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor**

Set in the South during the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. It is also Cassie's story as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.

13. **The Benefits of Being an Octopus by Ann Broden**

Zoey is in 7th grade and carries the weight of the world on her shoulders. She is responsible for the care of her younger siblings in a very dysfunctional family. At school she tries to go unnoticed while at home she tries to keep her siblings out of the adults way. Sometimes it takes the courage of a child to help a struggling adult see clearly.