

Seventh and Eighth Grade **Summer 2010** Reading List

Seventh and eighth graders are **required** to read **one** book over the summer. In addition, each student is asked to read at least **two books** from the selections outlined below. You should bring your novels to class on the first day of school in August. We will be discussing them and completing assignments during the first two weeks of school.

REQUIRED READING, 7th Grade:
The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien

REQUIRED READING, 8th Grade:
The Illustrated Man by Ray Bradbury

OTHER CHOICES:

Adams, Douglas. *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* A very funny, unique theory about the universe. It is not regular sci-fi, but a travel guide to the life forms and places one might encounter traveling from galaxy to galaxy.

Auch, Mary Jane. *Ashes of Roses* America...the land of opportunity. Rose Nolan and her family from Ireland have just immigrated to New York, and already her father and her baby brother Joseph are sent back. Heartbroken but determined to go on, Rose and her remaining family members move in with their Uncle Patrick's reluctant wife and daughters.

Adler, C. S. *Winning* Vicky loves being on the 8th grade tennis team until she realizes that her partner is obsessed with winning and will even cheat to win.

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women* Four teenage girls struggle with poverty and individual problems, but are sustained by their abiding affection for each other.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever, 1793* A young girl in the eighteenth century lives through a fever epidemic. She is brimming with ideas about how to make her life in Philadelphia better yet also needs to survive first. Historical fiction that is both realistic and exciting.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak* Melinda Sordino reports an-end-of-the-summer party to the police. She loses friends and casual acquaintances loathe her. She's trying to bury and experience that she must come to terms with in order to navigate high school.

Anthony, Piers. *A Spell for Chameleon* In a world where everyone has magic powers, a young man anxiously awaits the blossoming of latent skill.

Asimov, Isaac. *The Foundation Series* A trilogy about the future of the human race. Social engineers influence and greatly affect mankind's behavior through mind control.

Avi. *Nothing But the Truth* A 9th grader is suspended for humming “The Star Spangled Banner” during homeroom announcements and the situation escalates into a national news story about First Amendment Issues.

Avi. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* An adventure story set in the 1850s about a thirteen-year-old girl and her voyage to America with a murderous crew.

Bond, Nancy. *A String on the Harp* In Wales, the Morgan children find a magic harp-tuning key that takes them back in time.

Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *Firebrand* A retelling of the Trojan War from the point of view of Cassandra, the daughter of King Priam.

Brooks, Bruce. *The Moves Make the Man* Jerome, the only black student in his high school and a star basketball player, forms an unusual friendship with Bix.

Buck, Pearl S. *The Good Earth* This is the story of an honest Chinese farmer Wang Lung and his wife O-lan who live in China when the last emperor reigned and a time of political and social unrest.

Burnford, Sheila. *The Incredible Journey* A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever make a difficult journey together through the wilderness of Canada to find the family they love.

Card, Orson Scott. *Speaker for the Dead* A combination of anthropology and science fiction, this novel relates the story of how different life forms, some human, some alien, learn to overcome their fears and prejudices and begin to co-exist.

Christie, Agatha. *Ten Little Indians* An ingenious whodunit set on a remote island. The guests are murdered, one by one, in ways foretold by a child’s chant.

Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street* Cisneros’ wonderful novel about growing up Latino in Chicago.

Cooper, Susan. *Under Sea, Under Stone* Children enter the world of King Arthur and have an adventure.

Craven, Margaret. *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* Using his brother’s birth certificate, 16-year-old Jack Raab lies his way into the Air Force during World War II, finding that war is not what he dreamed it would be.

Cushman, Karen. *Catherine, Called Birdy* Catherine feels trapped. Her father is determined to marry her off to a rich man. (Medieval setting)

DeFelice, Cynthia. *Under the Same Sky* While trying to earn money for a motorbike, fourteen-year-old Joe Pederson becomes involved with the Mexicans who work on his family's farm and develops a better relationship with his father.

Duker, Carl. *Heart of a Champion* Seth faces a strain on his friendship with Jimmy, a baseball champion and something of a jerk, when Jimmy is kicked off the team.

Duder, Tessa. *In Lane Three, Alex Archer* Fifteen-year-old Alex struggles to overcome personal trauma and hardship as she competes with her arch rival for a place on the New Zealand swimming team participating in the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome.

Dumas, Alexander. *The Count of Monte Cristo* Edmond Dantes is betrayed by those with more power than he and is put into prison where he is forgotten. He escapes and slowly and methodically seeks his revenge. This classic is a story of love, revenge, and the consequences of one's own behavior.

Duncan, Lois. *I Know What You Did Last Summer* Four teenagers who are responsible for the hit-and-run death of a little boy find themselves the target of someone's hatred and revenge. Heart-stopping mystery thriller

Flake, Sharon. *The Skin I'm In* Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable with her extremely dark skin, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.

Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain* After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.

Fox, Paula. *The Slave Dancer* Grim historical fiction depicting life aboard a slave ship.

Freedman, Russell. *Lincoln: A Photobiography* Discover the truth about one of our most intriguing presidents in the profusely illustrated biography.

Godden, Rumer. *A Greengage Summer* A mother takes her family to the south of France to view the battlefields. She becomes ill, and they are left on their own in a small French hotel.

Gutman, Dan. *Babe and Me* With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have a chance to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that homerun in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun* A Chicago family must decide how to use the father's life insurance money. They decide to move and buy a house. The problems they encounter as a family and as African Americans moving into a white neighborhood form the basis for this award winning drama.

Herbert, Frank. *Dune* A science fiction epic about the people and ecology of a desert planet. Incredible details make it very easy to become involved in Herbert's imaginary world. Action, adventure, political intrigue.

Herriot, James. *All Creatures Great and Small* A collection of stories, both hilarious and poignant, about the experiences of a country veterinarian in England.

Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust* Like the Oklahoma dust bowl from which she came, 14-year-old narrator Billie Joe is living the Oklahoma dust bowl during the Great Depression. She writes a journal in free-floating verse where she shares the grim domestic realities of living during the years of constant dust storms.

Hill, David. *Take It Easy* Sent by his father on a five-day wilderness hike in the rugged New Zealand Mountains, Rob and five other less-experienced teenagers must go it alone when their leader suddenly dies.

Hobbs, Will. *The Maze* Rick, a fourteen-year-old foster child, escapes from a juvenile detention facility near Las Vegas and travel to Canyonlands National Park, Utah, where he meets a biologist working on a project to reintroduce condors to the wild.

Holman, Felice. *Slake's Limbo* A thirteen-year-old boy escapes to New York City's subways, which he learns to call home.

Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas. *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn* While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who long to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan.

Hudson, Jan. *Sweetgrass* An historical novel of a fifteen-year-old Dakota girl who lives through a smallpox epidemic in the 1830s.

Jacques, Brian. *Redwall Series* An historical fantasy told through the eyes of Medieval mice. It deals with magic, adventure, and ancient tales.

Kherdian, David. *The Road From Home: The Story of an Armenian Girl* A portrait of the youth of the author's mother, and Armenian girl who suffered many hardships and finally arrived in America as a mail-order bride.

Kimball, K. M. *The Secret of the Red Flame* After Jozef loses the earnings from his family's butcher shop to a gang of street kids, the vows to recover the money. Refusing to listen to the warnings of his brother, he and his friends from a secret society to infiltrate the gangs that have been victimizing the Polish-American community in 1870 Chicago.

London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild* Stories about the animals and men who pioneered the North woods. Classic tales of adventure, survival, and true grit.

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars* An exciting World War II story about righteous Danish gentiles who help Jews escape Nazi terror.

Mazer, Harry. *The Last Mission* Using his brother's birth certificate, 16-year-old Jack Raab lies his way into the Air Force during World War II, finding that war is not what he dreamed it would be.

McKinley, Robin. *Beauty* This is a wonderful retelling of the classic Beauty and the Beast story told from Beauty's point of view, which gives a whole new twist to the story.

McKinley, Robin. *The Blue Sword* A romantic heroic fantasy with a stalwart heroine adventuring in a finely realized mythical kingdom.

Montgomery, L. M. *Anne of Green Gables* A Canadian story of a very lively, independent orphan who comes to stay with an elderly brother and sister. Anne's adventures, dreams, and precocious intelligence bring life to Green Gables.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam* A frightened American soldier faces combat in the forests of Vietnam.

Paterson, Katherine. *Lyddie* An impoverished Vermont farm girl is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, MA in the 1840s.

Peck, Richard. *A Year Down Yonder* It's 1937 and Joey has gone off to work for the Civilian Conservation Corps while 15-year-old Mary Alice has to go stay with feisty and humorous Grandma Dowdel alone – for a whole year, maybe longer.

Pullman, Phillip. *The Ruby in the Smoke* A sixteen-year-old heroine asks some innocent questions about her father's death, which lead her into a world of stolen rubies and the opium trade. Suspense and mystery.

Renault, Mary. *The Bull from the Sea* Focuses on Theseus and his life after he returns from subduing the Minotaur on Crete. Especially interesting is his relationship with Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising* Esperanza lives in a beautiful home filled with servants and the promise of one day being in charge of Rancho de las Rosas. Tragedy shatters her dream. Esperanza and her mother must flee from Mexico to California and settle in a farm labor camp.

Schmidt, Gary. *The Wednesday Letters* Seventh grader Holling Hoodhood is convinced his teacher hates him. Through their Wednesday afternoon Shakespeare sessions, she helps him cope with events both wildly funny and deadly serious.

Sheth, Kasmira. *Blue Jasmine* When twelve-year-old Seema moves to Iowa City with her parents and younger sister, she leaves friends and family behind in India and has to learn to live in a new country.

Sleator, William. *Interstellar Pig* Barney plays a strange board game with stranger who are actually aliens from space.

Sleator, William. *Strange Attractions* Max travels through time by using a device several people would kill to possess.

Sloan, Holly. *Keeper* Sasha is frightened by many things. Courtney is her opposite and encourages Sasha to be more daring, especially in sports. After basketball tryouts are a disaster, Sasha is tricked into trying soccer and suddenly finds herself the third-string goalie for her school's team.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island* The classic story of young Jim Hawkins' search for pirate treasure while avoiding the clutches of long John Silver.

Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival* A man leaves his family, travels to a new world and blends into a new culture. This is a graphic novel which shows the difficulty of the immigrant experience.

Voight, Cynthia. *Dacey's Song* Homeless Dacey and her younger siblings arrive at her grandmother's home.

Wakatuski, Jeanne. *Farewell to Manzanar* The autobiography of an American girl who grew up behind barbed wire in her own country during World War II and watched her family struggle to maintain their courage and dignity.

Zindel, Paul. *The Pigman* Lorraine and John take turns narrating their friendship with a lonely old man. What starts out as a game turns into something important for each of them.

ELGIN ACADEMY Grades 5-8
More Summer Reading 2010

Poetry...it does a mind good!

As part of your summer reading requirements, we'd like you to treat yourself to poetry. Make a commitment to read at least a poem a week or check out a whole book of poetry from your local library. Tag the ones that you like best and **bring in copies of at least TWO of your favorites during the first week of school.** Be sure the two you choose are from **different authors** so that we get a great mix of poetry. Your choices may end up in our "Poetry Explosion" competition that will be held in the fall.

Some of our favorite poets are:

Langston Hughes

William Carlos Williams

William Wordsworth

Robert Frost

Billy Collins

Ogden Nash

Get ready to share your favorite poems with us!

Mrs. Erickson, Mrs. Veltri, and Mr. Stanbury