



Summer 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Reading is a joy that brings lifelong enrichment to all those who participate. In order for our students to develop a love of reading while maintaining the reading strategies they have acquired, it is essential that every student read for a minimum of 30 minutes each day during the summer vacation. We encourage parents to actively participate in this program by assisting their children in the selection of relevant and challenging books.

All students entering grades 6 to 8 are encouraged to read **a total of three books.**

Directions

- Please consult with your English teachers for appropriate selections at your grade level.
- Read a **minimum of one** selection from this reading list.
- Receive extra credit towards your homework grade (**start school strong**)!

After reading each of the three books, students should complete the attached forms and submit them to their Language Arts teacher the first week of school.

The completed assignments will be used in their Language Arts classes.

Also, please remember the public library always has several exciting summer reading programs for Norwalk children. Registration is required. Call (203) 899-2780 ext. 144 or visit <http://www.norwalklib.org/reference/teens.htm> for more information.

Enjoy your summer and HAPPY READING!

Jean Evans Davila, Instructional Specialist
English Language Arts

Judy Rivas
Director, Library Information Services

Middle School Principals:
Robert McCain, Nathan Hale
Linda Sumpter, Ponus Ridge
Joseph Vellucci, Roton
Dr. Lynne Moore, West Rocks



Junio, 2009

Estimados Padres / Encargados:

La lectura es un deleite que brinda un enriquecimiento para toda la vida a todos aquellos que participan. En orden para que nuestros estudiantes desarrollen un amor por la lectura, mientras mantienen las estrategias de lectura que ellos han adquirido, es esencial que cada estudiante lea por un mínimo de 30 minutos cada día durante las vacaciones de verano. Nosotros animamos a los padres para que participen activamente en este programa ayudando a los niños en la selección de libros relevantes y desafiantes.

Todos los estudiantes que van a comenzar en los grados 6 al 8 se les aconseja que lean **un total de tres libros**.

Direcciones:

- Por favor consulte con su maestro de Artes del Lenguaje para la selección apropiada de su nivel de grado.
- De la lista de lectura lea un mínimo de **una** selección.
- **Para entrar en el Chat sobre Libros a través de la escuela (detalles a seguir), complete el Marcador de Libros sobre el Chat de Libros (vea la última página) con la firma del padre ¡Siga el enlace!**
- ¡Reciba créditos extras a través de su tarea de grado (**comience la escuela fuerte!**)!

Después de leer cada uno de los tres libros, los estudiantes deben completar las formas adjuntas y entregarlas a su maestro(a) de Artes del Lenguaje no mas tarde de la primera semana escolar.

Las tareas completadas serán utilizadas en sus clases de Artes del Lenguaje.

Además, por favor recuerde que la biblioteca pública siempre tiene varios programas emocionantes de lectura de verano para los (las) niños(as) de Norwalk. La matrícula es requerida. Llame al (203)899-2780 x 144 o visite <http://www.norwalklib.org/reference/teens.htm> para más información.

¡Disfrute su verano y UNA FELIZ LECTURA!

Jean Evans Davila, Especialista Educacional
De Artes del Lenguaje Inglés

Judy Rivas, Servicios de Referencia
Biblioteca Pública de Norwalk

Principales de Escuela Secundarias:

Robert McCain, Nathan Hale
Linda Sumpter, Ponus Ridge
Joseph Velluci, Roton
Dr. Lynne Moore, West Rocks

2009 MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING TITLES

*****Nonfiction*****

Abraham Lincoln (World Leaders – Past and Present) by Roger Bruns

Read about the man who served as president during the Civil War.

Adolf Hitler (World Leaders – Past and Present) by Dennis Wepman

A biography of the Nazi leader.

Albert Einstein and the Theory of Relativity by Robert Cwiklik

Traces the life and work of the physicist whose theories revolutionized scientific thought

Amistad: A Long Road to Freedom by Walter Dean Myers

The dramatic story of the slaves who took over the slave ship *Amistad*.

Astronauts: Training for Space (Countdown to Space) by Michael Cole

Would you have what it takes to become an astronaut?

At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England by Walter Dean Myers

An African princess is brought to England in 1850 and meets Queen Victoria.

Bill Peet: An Autobiography by Bill Peet

Read about the artist who worked for Disney and went on to write children's books.

Black Heroes of the American Revolution (Odyssey Book) by Burke Davis

Portraits of African Americans who contributed to the development of our country.

Bound for America: The Forced Migration of Africans to the New World by James Haskins

A short but powerful book that looks at various aspects of the history of slavery.

Civil War! America Becomes One Nation by James I. Robertson.

Photos, drawings and a clear presentation of key events of the Civil War

Deep Space Astronomy by Gregory Vogt

Find out how scientists gather information about objects in deep space.

Extraordinary Hispanic Americans (Extraordinary People) by Susan Sinnott

Portraits of Hispanic Americans who helped shape the history of the United States.

Extraordinary Women of the West (Extraordinary People) by Judy Alter

Profiles of more than 50 women who helped shape the West.

The First Woman Doctor by Rachel Baker

In 1840 women were not allowed in medical school, but one woman would not give up.

Graveyards of the Dinosaurs by Shelley Tanaka

A fascinating look at the world of the paleontologist.

Guts by Gary Paulsen

Read about the real-live adventures that inspired the *Hatchet* books!

In the Ghettos: Teens Who Survived the Ghettos of the Holocaust by Eleanor H. Ayer

Stories from the World War II ghettos of Lodz, Theresienstadt, and Warsaw.

It Came From Ohio! My Life as a Writer by R.L. Stine

The Goosebumps author talks about how his dream of becoming a writer came true.

Journey to Ellis Island: How my Father Came to America by Carol Bierman

In 1916 a Jewish boy flees Russia with his mother and sister for a new life in America.

Light Shining Through the Mist (A Photobiography of Dian Fossey) by Tom L. Matthews

The life of the American woman who worked among the gorillas of Rwanda, Africa.

Marie Curie and the Discovery of Radium by Ann E. Steinke

The life of the scientist Marie Curie who discovered radium.

Masada by Neil Waldman

The history of Masada, a fortress built by Jews rebelling against the Roman Empire.

The Mystery of the Hieroglyphs: The Story of the Rosetta Stone and the Race to Decipher

Egyptian Hieroglyphs by Carol Donoghue

Explains how and why Egyptians created symbols and pictures.

Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick

In 1820 an enraged whale attacks and sinks a whaleship. Can the crew survive?

The Riddle of the Rosetta Stone: Key to Ancient Egypt by James Cross Giblin

An engraved stone found in 1799 held the key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks and James Haskins

The story of the woman who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus.

Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays by Peg Kehret

The stories of eight stray dogs adopted from animal shelters.

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance by Jennifer Armstrong

The amazing story of a shipwreck in Antarctica in 1915.

Stealing Home: The Story of Jackie Robinson by Barry Denenberg

The true story of the courageous athlete who broke through baseball's color barrier.

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges

The story of the six-year-old black girl who entered a segregated school in 1960.

The Titanic Sinks! by Thomas Conklin

An account of the sinking of the giant ocean liner in 1912.

To Be a Slave by Julius Lester

Men and women who have been slaves describe their experiences in their own words.

Volcano: The Eruption and Healing of Mount St. Helens by Patricia Lauber

The story of the destructive eruption of 1980 and how the land is recovering.

When I Was Your Age, Amy Ehrlich, editor

Ten authors write about a childhood experience.

The Wright Brothers: Pioneers of American Aviation by Quentin Reynolds

Wilbur and Orville Wright dreamed of building a flying machine.

Fiction

Alida's Song by Gary Paulsen

A 14-year-old boy goes to work for farmers who employ his grandmother as a cook.

Altered Voices: 9 Science Fiction Stories by Lucy Sussex

These science fiction short stories offer humor, tragedy, fantasy and far-out settings.

Amelia's War by Ann Rinaldi

Amelia must try to save her town from being burned during the Civil War.

The Avion My Uncle Flew by Cyrus Fisher

Johnny is in France in the middle of a mystery-spy-adventure.

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich

A young Ojibwa girl and her family live on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Cages by Peg Kehret

Kit is caught shoplifting and is sentenced to care for animals at the Humane Society.

Chasing Redbird by Sharon Creech

Zinnia Taylor discovers an old trail in the Virginia mountains and decides to clear it.

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

Can Doon and Lina find their way out of Ember, a place with no natural light?

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

Hannah is uninterested in her Jewish heritage until she time-travels to 1940's Poland.

Dogsong by Gary Paulsen

A fourteen-year-old Eskimo boy takes a 1400-mile journey by dog sled.

Dragon's Gate by Laurence Yep

A Chinese boy travels to America in 1865 and works on the transcontinental railroad.

Earthquake at Dawn by Kristiana Gregory

A photographer documents the devastation of San Francisco's 1906 earthquake.

Encounter at Easton (An Avon Camelot Book) by Avi

In 1768 indentured servants Robert and Elizabeth escape from their cruel master.

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

A young boy finds a fabulous blue stone that hatches a dragon, beginning an epic adventure.

Even More Short & Shivery: Thirty Spine Tingling Tales by Robert D. San Souci

Stories adapted from the works of famous writers and the folk tales of many countries.

Fantastic Voyage by Isaac Asimov

A miniaturized submarine of scientists and doctors is injected into a man's bloodstream.

The Girls by Amy Koss

A clique of middle school girls explore the nature of their friendship.

A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich by Alice Childress

The life of a 13-year-old boy who is on his way to becoming a heroin addict.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

A hobbit and a group of dwarves go on an adventure to kill a dragon and find treasure.

Hoops by Walter Dean Myers

Can Lonnie make the grade at the city-wide basketball tournament?

I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly: The Diary of Patsy, A Freed Girl by Joyce Hansen

Former slave Patsy keeps a diary of the turbulent times at the end of the Civil War.

Jim Ugly by Sid Fleischman

Jake searches for his father with the help of his father's half-wolf dog Jim Ugly.

King of Shadows by Susan Cooper

Nat Field is transported back to 1599 where he meets Shakespeare himself.

Midnight Magic by Avi

Is the princess being haunted by a ghost? A group is summoned to the castle to find out.

Missing May by Cynthia Rylant

After the death of her beloved aunt, Summer and her uncle search for strength.

Moon Over Tennessee: A Boy's Civil War Journal by Craig Crist-Evans

A 13-year-old farm boy sets off to fight at Gettysburg. Told in the form of a journal.

My Heart is on the Ground: The Diary of Nannie Little Rose, A Sioux Girl by Ann Rinaldi

A 12-year-old is sent to an Indian boarding school in 1880 to learn "white" ways.

Mystery of the Dark Tower (American Girl History Mysteries) by Evelyn Coleman

In 1928 Bessie's father takes her and her brother to live with aunts in Harlem.

North by Night: A Story of the Underground Railroad by Katherine Ayres
Sixteen-year-old Lucy Spencer undertakes a daring plan to help slaves escape.

One-Eyed Cat by Paula Fox
Ned shoots at a shadow with an air-rifle. Can he forgive himself for hurting a stray cat?

A Ring of Endless Light by Madeleine L'Engle
Vicky's grandfather is dying of cancer. She finds consolation working with dolphins.

Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief by Wendelin Van Draanen
When Sammy spies a thief at a hotel she is determined to solve the mystery.

Sarah Bishop by Scott O'Dell
Can Sarah survive after her father and brother are killed during the Revolutionary War?

The Secret of Sarah Revere by Ann Rinaldi
The daughter of Paul Revere sees the Revolutionary War from a unique perspective.

Shades of Gray by Carolyn Reeder
Can Will forgive his uncle for refusing to fight in the Civil War?

Shape Changer by Bill Brittain
What happens when a group of 7th graders encounter two shape-changing aliens?

The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood
In 1601 a 14-year-old orphan is sent by a rival theatre manager to steal a Shakespeare play.

Spiders in the Hairdo: Modern Urban Legends by David Holt
If you like modern folktales, this collection of funny, scary and eerie legends is for you.

Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz
Fourteen-year old Alex Rider is recruited by British intelligence to spy on a mysterious computer manufacturer. A crash course in survival training and a few spy "gadgets" may not be enough to keep him safe.

Storm Warriors by Elisa Carbone
Nathan wants to join a lifesaving team stationed off the coast of North Carolina in 1895.

That Was Then, This Is Now by S.E. Hinton
Mark and Bryon have been like brothers, but gangs and drugs are pulling them apart.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke
Two orphans hide out in Venice and join a mysterious band of the street urchins led by the Thief Lord.

Ties That Bind, Ties That Break by Lensey Namioka
A girl in early 20th-century China defies tradition and refuses to have her feet bound.

A Time Apart by Diane Stanley

Ginny is sent off to England to join her father in an unusual archaeological experiment.
Can a modern teenager put on homespun clothes and survive for a year in an Iron Age village?

The Voyage of the Frog by Gary Paulsen

David is alone on the Pacific, caught in a terrible storm

Need help finding a good book?

- For your free choice selection, you might enjoy reading a book by one of these authors:

Isaac Asimov

Avi

Joan Bauer

Matt Christopher

Robert Cormier

Nancy Farmer

Patricia Reilly Giff

Karen Hesse

Brian Jacques

Madeleine L'Engle

Lois Lowry

Walter Dean Myers

Scott O'Dell

Gary Paulsen

Philip Pullman

Cynthia Rylant

Louis Sachar

Lemony Snicket

Jerry Spinelli

Laura Ingalls Wilder

H.G. Wells

Jane Yolen

- Ask your librarian for a suggestion! Librarians are happy to help you find a book on a topic you are interested in.

**Middle School
Reader Response – Book #1
Grades 6 - 8**

Take notes on your book so that you are prepared to share when you return to school in the fall.

TITLE: _____ **AUTHOR:** _____

A few great lines...

Summary:

My favorite character (why):

Some big events:

Why I would recommend or not recommend this book...

**Middle School
Reader Response – Book #2
Grades 6 - 8**

Take notes on your book so that you are prepared to share when you return to school in the fall.

TITLE: _____ **AUTHOR:** _____

A few great lines...

Summary:

My favorite character (why):

Some big events:

Why I would recommend or not recommend this book...

**Middle School
Reader Response – Book #3
Grades 6 - 8**

Take notes on your book so that you are prepared to share when you return to school in the fall.

TITLE: _____ **AUTHOR:** _____

A few great lines...

Summary:

My favorite character (why):

Some big events:

Why I would recommend or not recommend this book...
