May/June 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of Middle School Students:

Our middle school summer reading program aligns with the Massachusetts content framework standards for middle school English/Language Arts. Middle school students are expected to read more complex texts and practice analyzing those texts in many different genres.

Your child is asked to read a minimum of two books this summer: one required work (see below), and at least one other from the list on the next page.

**Grade 7: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton**

**Grade 8: *Blue* by Joyce Moyer Hostetter**

The middle school summer reading list offers many genres for students to choose from: nonfiction, fantasy, fiction, mystery, historical fiction, science fiction, humor, and the classics. If your child has a particular topic, author, or series that he or she enjoys, your child, with your consent, may also read a fiction or nonfiction book that is not on the list provided.

In September, all middle school students will be asked to write a grade-appropriate literary analysis essay. Understanding characterization in an extended text and using citation are essential skills for comprehension and literary analysis; therefore, we chose these skills on which to focus our students’ early writing. This essay for students in grades 7 and 8 will become the baseline of your child’s year-long writing portfolio.

Many online resources are also available. Audiobooks are especially helpful for students as a means of support while reading more challenging text. We recommend that students read along while listening to the audio format to ensure students’ reading fluency and comprehension.

Thank you in advance for your support; happy reading!

Allison Viera, English Department Chair, 7-12
Mariel Gearty and Diane Weldon, Grade 7
Mandy Maguire, Grade 8
Georgetown Public Schools

Middle School Summer Reading Program

Summer Reading Sign-off Sheet

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<th>Parent/Guardian Signature</th>
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<td>Additional Titles</td>
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Student Signature

Parent Signature

All summer reading sign-off sheets are due Tuesday, September 10, 2019.
To the Student:

The following list of summer reading books includes recommendations from many genres. Be sure to keep the attached summer reading sign-off sheet to record the **titles, authors, and number of pages** for all the books that you read this summer. You will be asked to discuss and write about your summer reading in the first two weeks after you return to school. Set yourself the goal of reading at least **two** books this summer. Be sure to visit the Georgetown Public Library and take advantage of their great selections and quiet space to cool off, relax, and read on a hot or rainy day. Some titles are also available in a variety of audio formats for readers who would like to listen to the story while they read.

**In addition to the required reading: The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton (7th grade) and Blue by Joyce Moyer Hostetter (8th Grade), students in grades 7-8 should choose another book and/or series from the following:**

**Nonfiction**
- *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip M. Hoose
- *Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting* by Jim Murphy
- *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* by Tanya Lee Stone
- *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* by Jennifer Armstrong
- *Orphan Train Rider: One Boy’s True Story* by Andrea Warren
- *We Are the Ship: The Story of the Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson
- *Blizzard! The Storm that Changed America* by Jim Murphy
- *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain* by Peter Sis (told in graphic novel format)
- *Freedom Riders* by Ann Bausum
- *The Secret of the Yellow Death: A True Story of Medical Sleuthing* by Susanne Jurmain
- *The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum* by Candace Fleming
- *Saving the Ghost of the Mountain: An Expedition Among Snow Leopards in Mongolia* by Sy Montgomery

**Fantasy**
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L’Engle
- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- *The House with a Clock in Its Walls* by John Bellairs
- *Artemis Fowl* series by Eoin Colfer
- *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke
- *The Septimus Heap* series by Angie Sage
- *Chronicles of Prydain* by Lloyd Alexander

**Fiction**
- *Freak the Mighty* by W.R. Philbrick
- *The Girl Who Owned a City* by O. T. Nelson
- *Becoming Naomi Leon* by Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Ruby Holler* by Sharon Creech
- *Lunch Money* by Andrew Clements
- *Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume
- *Smiles to Go* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Travel Team* by Mike Lupica
- *Olive’s Ocean* by Kevin Henkes
- *Kit’s Wilderness* by David Almond
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
The Princess Academy by Shannon Hale
So B. It by Sarah Weeks
The Crossing by Gary Paulsen
The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt
Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline Cooney
Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick
Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelsen
Lush by Natasha Friend
The Misfits by James Howe

Mystery
The Haunting by Joan Lowery Nixon
The Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz
They Never Came Home by Lois Duncan
Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery by John Feinstein
The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
Sammy Keys series by Wendelin Van Draanen
The Name of This Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch

Historical Fiction
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
Bread and Roses, Too by Katherine Patterson
Soldier’s Heart by Gary Paulsen
Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz
Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis
Witch Child by Celia Rees
The House of Dies Drier by Virginia Hamilton
Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers
Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse
Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli
Let the Circle Be Unbroken by Mildred Taylor

Science Fiction
The Supernaturalist by Eoin Colfer
The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau
Shadow Children series by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Humor
Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko
The Schernoff Discoveries by Gary Paulsen
How Angel Peterson Got His Name by Gary Paulsen
Joey Pigza Loses Control by Jack Gantos
The Runaway Princess by Kate Coombs
Azumanga Daioh by Kiyohiko Azuma (A Graphic Novel)

Classic Titles
The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett and Inga Moore
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The Call of the Wild by Jack London
The Hobbit by J.R. Tolkien
War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells