



Middle School Summer Reading Challenge

Sponsored by: Sherburne-Earlville School Library &
Middle School English Department

To Participate:

Over the summer, students must read at least five books at their reading level. The attached list provides titles recommended by students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Readers may add other books at their reading level. There are many fine choices not listed here.

Students must turn in a list of their books by September 17 to their English Teacher with student and parent signatures.

Students who meet the challenge will receive a Certificate of Achievement and a letter of recognition that will be placed in their permanent record file.

s e c s d

growing readers

Great Books Recommended by 6th Grade Students

Adventure & Mystery

The Wanderer by Sharon Creech - Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat.

Quicksilver by Stephanie Spinner - Hermes, Prince of Thieves and son of Zeus, relates why the seasons change, the history of the Trojan War, his friendship with Pegasus, and many more adventures.

The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo - When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the market one day and she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her.

Funny

How Angel Peterson Got His Name by Gary Paulsen - Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen - Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

Millicent Min, Girl Genius by Lisa Yee - In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

Lunch Money by Andrew Clements - Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

Realistic

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli - As Palmer comes of age he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his Pennsylvania town's annual Pigeon day or find the courage to oppose it.

Marley: A Dog Like No Other by John Grogan - Follows the true story of an out-going Labrador retriever as he gets into trouble and has inspiring adventures.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech - After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Smiles to Go by Jerry Spinelli - Will 's life has always been ruled by science and common sense but in ninth grade, shaken up by the discovery that protons decay, he begins to see the entire world differently and gains new perspective on his relationships with his little sister and two closest friends.

Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor - Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Ida B. --and her plans to maximize fun, avoid disaster, and (possibly) save the world by Katherine Hannigan - The title says it all! A great read for smart, creative people.

Taste of Blackberries by Doris B. Smith - In this moving story, a prank ends in tragedy, and a boy must learn to live not only with the loss of a friend, but with the feeling that he could have prevented it.

Blackwater by Eve Bunting - When a boy and girl are drowned in the Blackwater River, thirteen-year-old Brodie must decide whether to confess that he may have caused the accident.

Sports

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech - Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

Slam Dunk by Donna King - Talented basketball player Ashlee Carson works hard to win a place in the nationals, but her strict mother wants her to focus on academics and Ashlee must ask her deadbeat father, a former professional basketball player, for support.

Summer Ball by Mike Lupica - Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.

Great Books Recommended by 7th Grade Students

Adventure/Mystery

Wait Till Helen Comes by Mary Downing Hahn - Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister, Heather, but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

Cold River by William Judson - Left alone in the harsh wilderness of the Adirondacks after the death of their father, fourteen-year-old Lizzy and her stepbrother, Timothy, must face the perils of nature, and a fierce blizzard as they struggle for survival.

Pig Boy by Vicki Grant - Taking a field trip to a heritage farm, Dan Hogg and his classmates find themselves in danger when an escaped convict appears at the farm.

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements - When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver - 6,000 years in the past, twelve-year-old Tarak and his guide, a wolf cub, set out on a dangerous journey to fulfill an oath the boy made to his dying father.

The Stranger Next Door by Peg Kehret - A clever cat helps two twelve-year-old boys become friends after their families, one of which is in a witness protection program, move to neighboring houses.

The Name of This Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch - Two eleven-year-old misfits try to solve the mystery of a dead magician and stop the evil Dr. L and Ms. Mauvais, who are searching for the secret of immortality.

Dragon's Egg by Sarah L. Thomson - Mella, a young girl trained as a dragon keeper, learns that the legends of old are true when she is entrusted with carrying a dragon's egg to the fabled Hatching Grounds, a dangerous journey on which she is assisted by a knight's squire.

Horowitz Horror by Anthony Horowitz - Nine horror stories focus on everyday items turned evil.

Funny

Princess Academy by Shannon Hale - While attending a strict academy for potential princesses fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles by Julie Edwards (Andrews) - With help from an unusual professor who gives their imaginations special training, three children discover the last of the great Whangdoodles and grant his heart's desire.

Realistic

Drive By by Lynne Ewing - Twelve-year-old Tito, while helping to care for his little sister, struggles to find his way during the aftermath of his brother's death in a gang-related shooting.

A Child Called "It" by Dave Pelzer - True story of an abused child's journey from victim to victor.

Lush by Natasha Friend - Unable to cope with her father's alcoholism, thirteen-year-old Sam corresponds with an older student, sharing her family problems and asking for advice.

Along for the Ride by Sarah Dessen - When Auden impulsively goes to stay with her father, stepmother, and new baby sister the summer before she starts college, all the trauma of her parents' divorce is revived, even as she is having new experiences such as learning to ride a bike and dating.

A Boy at War by Harry Mazer - While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack. He tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

Telling Christina Goodbye by Lurlene McDaniel - High school senior Trisha tries to cope with her shattered dreams after her friend Christina is killed in a car accident that leaves Trisha's boyfriend Cody in a coma and Christina's boyfriend Tucker, the driver, unharmed.

The Last Song by Nicholas Sparks - Her teenage life turned upside-down by her parents' divorce, Ronnie remains bitter three years later when her mother urges her to spend a summer with her father.

Sports

Box Out by John Coy - High school sophomore Liam jeopardizes his new position on the varsity basketball team when he decides to take a stand against his coach.

Pretty Tough by Liz Tigelaar - Two feuding sisters from Malibu, California, take their rivalry to the soccer field when both girls make the high school team.

Great Books Recommended by 8th Grade Students

Adventure/Mystery

13 Little Blue Envelopes - When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak - Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

The Art of Keeping Cool by Janet Taylor Lisle - In 1942, Robert and his cousin Elliott uncover long-hidden family secrets while staying in their grandparents' Rhode Island town, where they also become involved with a German artist who is suspected of being a spy.

Bar Code Tattoo by Suzanne Weyn - Things for Kayla progress from bad, as in being told her computer grades disqualify her from an art scholarship, to worse, when she refuses to accept an identification bar code tattoo on her seventeenth birthday.

Whatever Happened to Janie? - The members of two families have their lives disrupted when a teenage girl who had been kidnapped twelve years earlier discovers that the people who raised her are not her biological parents. Sequel to The Face on the Milk Carton.

Funny

Marley and Me by John Grogan - The life story of a Labrador retriever who gets into perpetual trouble and experiences a range of inspiring adventures.

Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie Tolan - Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Realistic

Monster by Walter Dean Myers - While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Dear John or **The Notebook** by Nicholas Sparks - Stories of young love, lost and found. Have your tissues handy.

Lock and Key by Sarah Dessen - When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about what makes a family, how to allow people to help her, and that she too has something to offer others.

The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place by E.L. Konigsburg - Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry - In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls - A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

Rumble Fish by S.E. Hinton - A junior high school boy idolizes his older brother, the coolest, toughest guy on the block, and wants to be just like he is.

So B. It by Sarah Weeks - After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Nevada to New York to find out who she is.

Swallowing Stones by Joyce McDonald - Dual perspectives reveal the aftermath of seventeen-year-old Michael's birthday celebration during which he discharges an antique rifle and unknowingly kills the father of high school classmate Jenna Ward.

Perfect by Natash Friend - Following the death of her father, a thirteen-year-old uses bulimia as a way to avoid her mother's and ten-year-old sister's grief, as well as her own.

Sports

Tangerine by Edward Bloor - Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Football Genius - Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

GREAT BOOKS IN SERIES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Adventure/Mystery

Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling
Eragon by Christopher Paolini
The Missing by Margaret Haddix Peterson
The Mysterious Benedict Society by Thenton Lee Stewart
Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan
Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
Inkheart by Cornelia Funke
Spiderwick Chronicles by Holly Black
Chronicles of Vladimir Tod by Heather Brewer
Tunnels by Roderick Gordon
39 Clues by multiple authors
Pretties/Uglies/Specials by Scott Westerfeld
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
Mortal Instruments by Cassandra Clare
TTYL by Lauren Myracle
Twilight by Stephenie Meyer
Warriors by Erin Hunter
Maximum Ride by James Patterson
Blue Bloods by Melissa de la Cruz

Sports

Sluggers by Loren Long
Football Hero by Tim Green

Graphic Novels

Bone by Jeff Smith
Twilight by Young Kim

Funny

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Realistic

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares
Clique by Lisi Harrison

Official S-E Middle School
Summer Reading Challenge Book Log



I, _____, have read the
(Student's name & grade)

following books in response to the Summer Reading Challenge:

Title AND Author

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Others:

Please sign below:

(Student's signature)

(Parent's signature)

Completed forms must be submitted to your English Teacher by
September 17.