

Middletown Township Public Schools

Office of Curriculum and Instruction for Humanities K-12

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Superintendent of Schools

Anne Facendo
District Director

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To: Parents of Middle Grade Students for the 2009-2010 School Year
From: Anne Facendo, District Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Humanities, K-12
Re: Summer Reading Guidelines and Novel Choices

Enclosed is the required summer reading list for exiting 5th, 6th, and 7th graders. **We have also included, for the first time, exiting 3rd and 4th graders as an optional choice if they would like to read over the summer.** Rather than giving novel choices that introduce them to next year's themes and topics, we shifted the focus to choosing novels based on the background knowledge they acquired during this past school year. When a child already has the background knowledge needed for reading, they are able to not only understand it more on an independent level, but also make deeper connections to the text. The choices are as follows:

OPTION 1

The LEADS curriculum has over 40 novels per grade level; therefore, there are several novels a student may not have read in class this year. Students can choose a book from their current grade that they did not read during the year. This includes sequels to books in the curriculum, such as *The Sisters Grimm* series. Please be sure your child chooses a book they did not already read in class this year. Keep in mind that some novels are more challenging than others (as noted on the attached list).

OPTION 2

Students can choose a novel from the attached list of titles **not** in the curriculum. These novels have been chosen because they reflect one of the four themes studied throughout the year, and they are widely known as popular titles for middle grades students.

Please note that your child must fill out the reader's response log *as he/she progresses through the book*. While all students are required to read one novel this summer, we always encourage reading more than one based on interest and motivation. Our goal was to make the list extensive enough so that there are plenty of options to help foster a love of reading.

Students will be asked by their language arts teacher to hand in their Reader's Response Logs at the beginning of the new school year.

We offer our sincere wishes for a healthy and happy summer.

Optional for exiting 3rd and 4th graders: Choose one novel from the exiting grade's curriculum that was not read in class this year.

3rd Grade Novels

3rd grade CORE

- 1st MP -- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White (A- Level R, 680L)
2nd MP -- *Half and Half* by Lensey Namloka (C- Level T, 800L)
3rd MP -- *Lunch Money* by Andrew Clements (C- Level R, 840L)
4th MP -- *Mom for Mayor* by Nancy Edwards (A- Level ?, 630L)

3rd grade GUIDED

- 1st MP -- *Sarah Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan (A- Level R, 560L)
The Chalkbox Kid by Clyde Robert Bulla (E- Level N, 270L)
Stuart Little by E.B. White (C- Level R, 920L)
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo (C- Level Q, 700L)
Quake! Disaster in San Francisco 1906 by Gail Langer Karwoski (C- Level R, 770L)
- 2nd MP -- *My Mother's Mummy* by Tony Johnston (C- Level ?)
Vacation Under the Volcano (Magic Tree House #13) by Mary Pope Osborne (E- Level M, 410L)
See You Later Gladiator by Jon Scieszka (A- Level O, 600L)
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr (C- Level R, 630L)
Mummies in the Morning (Magic Tree House #3) by Mary Pope Osborne (A- Level N, 230L)
- 3rd MP -- *Tarantula Shoes* by Tom Birdseye (C- Level ?, 730L)
101 Ways to Bug Your Parents by Lee Wardlaw (C- Level ?, 700L)
Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary (A- Level O, 860L)
Rent a Third Grader by B.B. Hiller (A- Level O, 670L)
- 4th MP -- *Operation Clean Sweep* by Darlene Bailey Beard (A- Level Q, 720L)
The Kid Who Ran For President by Dan Gutman (C- Level T, 730L)
The Geek Chronicles: Rosie Swanson: Fourth-Grade Geek for President by Barb. Park (C- Level ?, 590L)
A Spy in The White House by Ron Roy (E- Level M, 590L)
The Kid Who Became President by Dan Gutman (C- Level S, 690L)

4th Grade Novels

4th grade CORE

- 1st MP -- *The Stink Files: Dossier 1* by Holm & Holm (C-Level ?)
2nd MP -- *The Breaker Boys* by Pat Hughes (C- Level U, 640L)
3rd MP -- *Bud Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis (C- Level T, 950L)
4th MP -- *Crossing the Wire* by Will Hobbs (C- Level T, 670L)

4th grade GUIDED

- 1st MP -- *No Talking* by Andrew Clements (C- Level ?, 820L)
Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh (C- Level T, 760L)
The Weird Club NJ: The Jersey Devil by Randy Fairbanks (C- Level ?)
Frindle: by Andrew Clements (A- Level R, 830L)
The Lemonade War: by Judy Davies (E- Level ?, 630L)
- 2nd MP -- *Tales of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo (C- Level NR, 670L)
My Brother, My Enemy by Madge Harrahy (C- Level ?, 790L)
Trouble Don't Last by Shelley Pearsall (C- Level T, 720L)
Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo (A- Level R, 610L)
Riding Freedom by Pam Munoz Ryan (E/A- Level P, 720L)
Revolutionary War On Wednesday by Mary Pope Osborn (E- Level M, 320L)
- 3rd MP -- ***The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis (C- Level U, 1000L)**
Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park (C- Level S, 690L)
***A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck (C- Level V, 750L)**
Escape into the Night by Lois Walfrid Johnson (A- Level NR, 580L)
Grasshopper Summer by Ann Turner (E- Level ?, 580L)
- 4th MP -- *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron (C- Level V, 1010L)
Loser by Jerry Spinnelli (C- Level U, 650L)
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan (C- Level V, 750L)
Trapped by Peg Kehret (A- Level R, 830L)
Escaping the Giant Wave by Peg Kehret (E- Level S, 750L)

OPTION 1 for exiting 5th, 6th, and 7th graders

Students can choose a book from the list of novels in their exiting grade that they did not read this year. Parents, please ensure your child has not already read the book. Students must complete the Reader's Response Log attached. Novel codes: C= challenging, A= average, E= easy

List of Novels in Curriculum

5th grade CORE

- 1st MP -- *The Well of Sacrifice* by Chris Eboch (A- Level ?, 930L)
2nd MP -- *Roanoke: Lost Colony* by Lee Miller (A- Level ?)
3rd MP -- *The Sisters Grimm* by Michael Buckley (A- Level T, 790L) *AND sequels in this series
4th MP -- *Code Talkers* by Joseph Bruchac (A- Level ?)

5th grade GUIDED

- 1st MP -- *The Blaze of the Great Cliff* by Mark Fidler (C- Level ?)
Among the Hidden by Margaret Haddix (C- Level W, 800L) * AND sequels in this series
The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis (C- Level T, 790L)
Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson (A- Level Y, 670L)
Pedro's Journal by Pam Conrad (E- Level Q, 1030L)
Morning Girl by Michael Dorris (E- Level S, 980L, 6.3)
- 2nd MP -- *Give Me Liberty* by L.M. Elliott (C- Level V, 810L)
Or Give Me Death by Ann Rinaldi (C- Level V, 530L)
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K Rowling (C- Level V, 880L)
Night Journeys by Avi (A- Level ?)
George Washington's Socks by Elvira Woodruff (E- Level T, 840L)
The Matchlock Gun by Walter Edmonds (E- Level P, 860L)
- 3rd MP -- *Seer of Shadows* by Avi (C- Level ?, 720L)
Kit's Wilderness by David Almond (C- Level NR, 470L)
Dragonwings by Lawrence Yep (C- Level W, 870L)
Travel Team by Mike Lupica (A- Level X, 930L)
A Series of Unfortunate Events – The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket (E- Level V, 1010L) *AND sequels in this series
- 4th MP -- *Stay! Keeper's Story* by Lowis Lowry (C- Level U, 960L)
Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo (C- Level X, 860L)
War Horse by Michael Morpurgo (C- Level ?, 1090L)
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson (A- Level T, 810L)
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen (E- Level W, 760L)

6th grade CORE

- 1st MP -- *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbit (E)
The Giver by Lois Lowry (C)
The Roman Mysteries: The Thieves of Ostia by Caroline Lawrence (A)
The Golden Goblet by Eloise Jarvis McGraw (A)
The Mirror of Fire & Dreaming Brotherhood Conch Book II by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (C)
The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau (E)
- 2nd MP -- *Atticus of Rome* by Barry Denenberg (C)
Greek Myths by Olivia Coolidge (A+)
The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan (A)
The Hero's Trail a Guide for a Heroic Life by T. A. Barron (A+)
Holes by Louis Sachar (E)
Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry (C)
- 3rd MP -- *Catherine Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman (C+)
The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander (C)
Crispin The Cross of Lead by Avi (A)
Dragon Hound of Honor by Julian Andrews...(A+)
The Lion the Witch and Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis (E+)
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien (E+)
- 4th MP -- *Shakespeare's Secret* by Elise Broach (E)
The Second Mrs. Giaconda by E. L. Konigsberg (A)
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsberg (E)
The Miracle Worker by William Gibson (C)
Blood Red Horse by K. M. Grant (C)
The Book Without Words by Avi (A)
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card (C)

6th grade GUIDED

- 1st MP -- *Detectives in Togas* by Henry Winterfield (E)
Roman Mysteries: The Secrets of Vesuvius by Caroline Lawrence (C)
The Egypt Game by Zipha Keatley Snyder (A)
Bone from a Dry Sea by Peter Dickenson (C)
- 2nd MP -- *Flush* by Carl Hiaasen (E)
Graphic Greek Myths and Legends by Nick Saunders (E)
The Children of the Lamp The Akhenaton Adventure by PB Kerr (A)
Sea of Monsters by Rick Riordan (E)
The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford (C)
- 3rd MP -- *The Hobbit* by J. R. Tolkien (C+)
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J. K. Rowling (A+)
Girl in a Cage by Jane Yolen (A)
Kingdom Keepers by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson (E)
Code Orange by Caroline B. Cooney (E)
- 4th MP -- *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams (C)
Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood (E+/A)
People of Sparks (sequel to *City of Ember*) by Jeanne DuPrau (E+/A)
A View from Saturday by E. L. Konigsberg (A)
Stravaganza: City of Masks by Mary Hoffman (C)
Peak by Roland Smith (E)
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin (A)

7th grade CORE

- 1st MP -- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen(E)
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls (E)
The Ransom of Mercy Carter by Caroline B. Cooney(A)
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle (A)
Witch Child (C)
The Call of the Wild by Jack London(C)
- 2nd MP -- *My Brother Sam is Dead* by Collier and Collier (E)
Johnny Tremain by Forbes(A+)
The Killing Sea by Richard Lewis (A)
The Acorn People by Ron Jones (C)
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne (C)
Shadow of a Bull by Maia Wojciechowska (E)
- 3rd MP -- *My Antonia* by Willa Cather (C)
Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse (A+)
Rascal by Sterling North
A Family Apart by Joan Lowery Nixon (A)
- 4th MP -- *Witness*, by Karen Hesse (E)
Gone with the Wind, by Margaret Mitchell (C)
To Be a Slave, by Julius Lester (C)
Bull Run by Paul Fleischman (E)
With Every Drop of Blood by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier (A)
Flipped Wendelin Van Draanen (A)

7th grade GUIDED

- 1st MP-- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell (E)
The Library Card by Jerry Spinelli (E)
The True Stories of Pirates by Lucy Lethbridge(a collection of readings) (C+)
- 2nd MP -- *The Year of the Hangman*(A)
The Fifth of March by Ann Rinaldi (A)
Traitor the Story of Benedict Arnold (A)
Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson (E)
- 3rd MP -- *Popcorn Days and Buttermilk Nights* by Gary Paulson (A)
Blizzard! By Jim Murphy (C)
That Was Then This Is Now by S.E. Hinton
Small Steps by Louis Sachar (E)
- 4th MP -- *The House of Dies Drear*, by Virginia Hamilton (E)
Ballad of the Civil War, by Mary Stoltz (E)
Soldier's Heart by, Gary Paulsen (E/A)
Abraham's Battle, by Sara H. Banks (E)
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred Taylor (A)
Journal of James Edmond Pease, by Jim Murphy (C)
Souder by William Howard Armstrong (A)

OPTION 2 For Students Entering Sixth Grade:

Students can choose one novel and complete the Reader's Response Logs as they read.

***The Girl Who Owned a City* by O.T. Nelson** -- When a plague sweeps over the earth killing everyone except children under twelve, ten-year-old Lisa organizes a group to rebuild a new way of life.

***Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos** -- Joey Pigza has problems. Big problems. He was emotionally abused by his grandmother. He has never met his dad. He can't get along in his elementary school classroom because of his mood swings and his "dud meds." We gradually see that Joey must have Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), which is not being effectively controlled with his current medication. Joey's life is a terrifying roller-coaster ride, and author Jack Gantos drags the reader along to see what life is like with ADD. The story is written from the boy's point of view in a sharp, worried style that veers out of control when Joey does. Joey's control of his own behavior slips away as we read, horrified to see this boy trying to get a grip on his life and failing. For young readers touched by ADD--and for their teachers and parents--Joey gives us the key to his world.

***The Spiderwick Chronicles, Book 1: The Field Guide* by Holly Black** -- The first book in a beautifully produced series of five, *The Field Guide* sets up the story of the Grace children--13-year-old Mallory and 9-year-old twins Jared and Simon--who with their mother move into the dilapidated Spiderwick Estate only to quickly find themselves sucked into a dark and fascinating world of faeries.

OPTION 2 For Students Entering Seventh Grade:

Students can choose one novel and complete the Reader's Response Logs as they read.

Any book in *The Lightning Thief series* by Rick Riordan – (*Sea of Monsters*, book 2, is in the 6th grade curriculum)

Book 3, The Titan's Curse

Book 4, The Battle of the Labyrinth

Book 5, The Last Olympian

***No More Dead Dogs* by Gordon Korman** -- Nobody understands Wallace Wallace. This reluctant school football hero has been suspended from the team for writing an unfavorable book report of Old Shep, My Pal. But Wallace won't tell a lie-he hated every minute of the book! Why does the dog in every classic novel have to croak at the end? After refusing to do a rewrite, his English teacher, who happens to be directing the school play Old Shep, My Pal, forces him go to the rehearsals as punishment. Although Wallace doesn't change his mind, he does end up changing the play into a rock-and-roll rendition, complete with Rollerblades and a moped!

***Rules* by Cynthia Lord**-- Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him (It's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store). Each chapter title is also a rule, and lots more are interspersed throughout the book. When Kristi moves in next door, Catherine hopes that the girl will become a friend, but is anxious about her reaction to David. Then Catherine meets and befriends Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic who uses a book of pictures to communicate, she begins to understand that normal is difficult, and perhaps unnecessary, to define. Rules of behavior are less important than acceptance of others.

OPTION 2 For Students Entering Eighth Grade:

Students can choose one novel and complete the Reader's Response Logs as they read.

Tunnels by Brian Williams and Roderick Gordon -- 14-year-old Will Burrows has little in common with his strange, dysfunctional family. In fact, the only bond he shares with his eccentric father is a passion for archaeological excavation. So when Dad mysteriously vanishes, Will is compelled to dig up the truth behind his disappearance. He unearths the unbelievable: a secret subterranean society. "The Colony" has existed unchanged for a century, but it's no benign time capsule of a bygone era--because a cult-like overclass, the Styx, rules the Colony. Before long--before he can find his father--Will is their prisoner....

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Susan Reilly Giff -- Abandoned at birth, Hollis Woods has lived in about a half dozen homes and has always wished for a family. A foster caretaker describes her as "a mountain of trouble." When Josie Cahill, a retired art teacher, takes the 12-year-old into her home on Long Island, NY, the two bond almost immediately. Hollis draws pictures with colored pencils and Josie carves branches into people. However, it soon becomes clear that Josie has trouble remembering things, and Hollis becomes the caregiver. When she stops attending school, a social worker comes by to investigate. Flashbacks slowly illuminate Hollis's life with one family who had hoped to adopt her and why this didn't happen. Giff masterfully weaves these two strands together in a surprising ending.

Tex by S.E. Hinton -- Easygoing, thoughtless, and direct, Tex at fifteen likes everyone and everything, especially his horse, Negrito, and Johnny Collins's blue-eyed sister, Jamie. He thinks life with his seventeen-year-old brother, Mason, in their ramshackle house would be just about perfect if only Mace would stop complaining about Pop. Pop hasn't been home in five months. Mace wants to get out of Oklahoma. Tex just seems to attract trouble and danger... Suddenly everything's falling apart. Can Tex keep it all together?

Reader Response Journal

Novel Choice: _____

Quotes must be throughout ENTIRE book: beginning, middle, and end.

Page #	Quote	How is the quote important to the novel?
Quote 1		
Quote 2		
Quote 3		
Quote 4		
Quote 5		

Quote 6		
Quote 7		
Quote 8		
Quote 9		
Quote 10		

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