



2012 Cobb Middle School Summer Reading

DIRECTIONS: Choose one of the following award-winning novels to read for your 2011-2012 grade level. Please read the brief descriptions below to help you select a book you will enjoy reading. Each grade level contains a variety of genres. The project choices and directions follow the brief descriptions.

NOVEL CHOICES:

6th grade: *Rules* by Cynthia Lord, *Gabriel's Horses* by Alison Hart, any of *The Lightning Thief* series by Rick Riordan, *Summer Ball* by Mike Lupica, or *The Young Man and the Sea* by Rodman Philbrick

7th grade: *Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings, *Runaway* by Wendelin Van Draanen, *Million Dollar Throw* by Mike Lupica, *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper, *Everlost* or its sequel, *Everwild* by Neal Shusterman

8th grade: *Diamonds in the Shadows* by Caroline Cooney, *The Great Wide Sea* by M.H. Herlong, *Miracle on 49th Street* by Mike Lupica, *Catching Fire* or *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins, *Keeper* by Mal Peet

WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT:

6th grade novels:

Rules – Twelve year old Catherine's autistic brother's rules frustrate her to no end. Her new friendship adds an interesting twist to her already complicated life.

Gabriel's Horses – History and animal lovers will enjoy this book about Gabriel, a 12 year old slave, in Kentucky during the Civil War. Gabriel dreams of becoming a jockey. This is the first book in the Racing to Freedom Trilogy.

The Lightning Thief series – Modern day mythology, adventure, and quests galore keep you reading to the conclusion of this series.

Summer Ball – Basketball or just sports fans will enjoy this book.

The Young Man and the Sea – This coming of age novel will appeal to those who love the challenge of the sea and family relationships. Skiff Beaman is an inspirational character who fits the theme of never give up.

7th grade novels:

Red Kayak – Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, 13 year old Brady and his best friends, JT and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

Runaway – Twelve year-old Holly has run away before, but living with the latest foster family has become unbearable. This time she gets away, but life becomes a daily struggle for survival. She's smart and resourceful and even makes it across the country on her own, but when will it end? It's getting harder to pretend she's a gypsy when the truth is, she's homeless.

Million Dollar Throw – Football or sports fans should enjoy this book.

Out of My Mind –The central character is a young girl who has cerebral palsy. Unable to speak, she spends her life in a wheelchair, parked in front of a TV. Everyone assumes that she has no idea what is going on. She only has control over the movement of one thumb. An observant caretaker gives her a communication board, on which she can point out symbols like "more," "cup," and "happy." When she sees a laptop computer, she finds a way to get one for herself. Suddenly her world opened up.

Everlost and/or Everwild – Science fiction fans will enter the realm of the in between where souls wander between life and death.



8th grade novels:

Diamonds in the Shadows – Jared’s church sponsored an African family to live in an apartment in their town. When the apartment deal fell through, they end up with Jared’s family. Jared suspects things are not as they appear with this “family,” And who is the “other” man who was on the same plane with them?

The Great Wide Sea – This coming of age novel appeals to those who love the challenge of the sea and family relationships. What will happen to Ben and his brothers when their father disappears while they’re sailing between the Bahamas and Bermuda?

Miracle on 49th Street – This book will appeal to basketball or sports fans.

Catching Fire or *Mockingjay* – (for mature readers – from the Hunger Games trilogy, books 2 and 3) Science fiction lovers will enjoy this series. Join Katniss and the other tributes as they fight to survive the Hunger Games.

Keeper – Much more than a book just about soccer, this book will appeal to those who love sports as well as ghost stories.

DIRECTIONS: All writing should preferably be typed or written NEATLY in blue or black ink. Pictures should be in color and ORIGINAL (do not copy the picture from the book cover). Please make sure EVERYTHING YOU WRITE IS IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

6th Grade: Comic Strip

After reading your novel choice, create a comic strip about the book. The strip should contain 8 to 10 panels in chronological order. Each panel should show an important event in the book and depict details of the setting, the characters, and their words and actions. Below each panel, include a caption of two or more sentences to tell what is happening in each panel. The drawings should be in color. You may use markers, crayon, colored pencils or another medium of your choice. Make sure the title and author appear on one of the panels. Include your first and last name on the last panel.

Grading Rubric:

Panels	60 points
Creativity	20 points
Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation	20 points
TOTAL	100 points

7th Grade: Promotion Poster

Pretend you work for the publisher of the book you read. You want to sell as many copies of the book as possible; therefore, your task is to design an advertising poster with four sections. The writing should be typed or written neatly in blue or black ink. Illustrations should be in color and should be original, not copied from the book cover.

Section 1: The first section will have the title, author, and a colorful picture of your favorite scene from the book. You will include 4 or more sentences describing the scene.

Section 2: The second section will have a colorful picture of your favorite character from the book. You will also include a written description of at least four sentences about the character’s age, personality, and his/her relationship with the other main characters in the book.

Section 3: The third section will have a short summary of the book that sells the book to people who haven’t read it. Make sure to include highlights of the most exciting parts of the book as well as a summary (in your own words) of the entire book.

Section 4: The fourth section will list five to ten reasons (in complete sentences) why students should read this book. Include your first and last names in section four.

Grading Rubric:

Section 1	20 points
Section 2	20 points
Section 3	20 points
Section 4	20 points
Creativity	10 points
Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation	10 points
TOTAL	100 points



8th Grade: Book Cover , Summary & Recommendation

DIRECTIONS: Please read and follow all directions carefully. All writing should be typed. All illustrations should be in color. The cover should be on unlined paper or construction paper. The paper for the summary should fit neatly inside the cover.

1. Make a book cover for your book by taking a piece of plain paper (not notebook paper) and folding it in half.
2. Write the title and the author on the front cover. Remember to capitalize and underline book titles or type them in italics. Draw a picture or design on the cover that tells something about the book. BE CREATIVE AND ORIGINAL! **DO NOT COPY** the picture or design that is already on the cover of the book.
3. Inside, neatly staple or tape a two page summary of the book. Be sure to describe the plot of the book and several highlights or main events that happened in the book. (Do not end your summary with “to find out what happened you have to read the book yourself.”) **The summary must be written in your own words and tell a complete summary of the book.**
4. On the back cover, **write a recommendation of at least three sentences** telling why you did or did not like the book. Give specific reasons related to your book. Your name and date must also be written on the back cover of your book report.

Grading Rubric:

Cover	20 points
Summary	50 points
Recommendation	20 points
Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation	10 points
TOTAL	100 points

