

Imagine School at Evening Rose Middle School Summer Reading Program

All incoming sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are to read a minimum of two (2) books from their appropriate grade level list. Complete the book report form for both books and return it to your Language Arts teacher during the first week of school for credit towards your first quarter grade. You may read as many books as you like from any of the lists but the ones submitted to your teacher must be from your grade level list. Have a great summer!

8th Grade Book List:

Maynard, Joyce *The Usual Rules*

It was a Tuesday morning in Brooklyn--a perfect September day. Wendy is heading to school, eager to make plans with her best friend, worried about how she looks, mad at her mother for not letting her visit her father in California, impatient with her little brother and with the almost too-loving concern of her jazz musician stepfather. She's out the door to catch the bus. An hour later comes the news: A plane has crashed into the World Trade Center. Her mother's building.

Albom, Mitch *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

Eddie is a grizzled war veteran who feels trapped in a meaningless life of fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. His days are a dull routine of work, loneliness, and regret. Then, on his 83rd birthday, Eddie dies in a tragic accident, trying to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakens in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a lush Garden of Eden, but a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people. These people may have been loved ones or distant strangers. Yet each of them changed your path forever.

Monk, Sue *The Secret Life of Bees*

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the town's fiercest racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina, a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There they are taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna who presides over their household.

The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell *The Freedom Writers Diary*

When Gruwell was a first-year high school teacher in Long Beach, CA, teaching the "unteachables" (kids that no other teacher wanted to deal with), she discovered that most of her students had not heard of the Holocaust. Shocked, she introduced them to books about tolerance. First-person accounts by the likes of Anne Frank and Zlata Filipovic, who chronicled her life in war-torn Sarajevo. The students were inspired to start keeping diaries of their lives that showed the violence, homelessness, racism, illness, and abuse that surrounded them.

Knowles, John A Separate Peace

A Separate Peace is the story of two teenage boys, Gene and Phineas. Told through the eyes of Gene many years after the events of the novel, the story is about Gene's experience at boarding school and his relationship with Phineas who is more popular and more athletic and outgoing. With the backdrop of World War II, the novel reveals profound insights into human nature and will leave the reader astounded by the end.

Buck, Pearl S. The Good Earth

The Good Earth is a novel about peasant life in China during the 1920s. (Pulitzer Prize winner) Read for the beauty of the descriptions of China, a hard life of farming and the simplicity of the well written characters. There will be a test on the book the first week of school followed by in-class discussion.

Adams, Douglas The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Arthur Dent escapes the planet Earth a few seconds before it is demolished to make way for an intergalactic freeway. With his friend, Ford Prefect, he hitches rides to different parts of the galaxy and takes part in several humorous adventures.

Adams, Richard Watership Down

The adventures of a group of rabbits, who search for a place where they can live in peace. An allegory of human society.

Cormier, Robert The Chocolate War

A high school student becomes first a hero and then a victim through intimidation and the misuse of power.

Gilbreth, Frank, et. al. Cheaper by the Dozen

The hilarious story of a family of twelve children growing up in the 1920s.

Giovanni, Nikki Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate

Looking at the Harlem Renaissance through poems.

Haley, Alex Roots: The chronicle of a black family, which begins in Africa in 1750 and ends in Arkansas seven generations later.

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7th Grade Book List:

Funke, Cornelia Inkheart (Series):

Meggie's father, Mo, has an wonderful and sometimes terrible ability. When he reads aloud from books, he brings the characters to life--literally. Mo discovered his power when Maggie was just a baby. He read so lyrically from the the book *Inkheart*, that several of the book's wicked characters ended up blinking and cursing on his cottage floor. Then Mo discovered something even worse--when he read Capricorn and his henchmen *out* of Inkheart, he accidentally read Meggie's mother *in*.

Inkheart (Book 1)

Inkspell(Book 2)

Inkdeath(Book 3)

Spinelli, Jerry Stargirl

A story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love.

Spinelli, Jerry Milkweed

A story about an orphan on the streets of Warsaw, Poland during World War II. He is searching for an identity and becomes intrigued by the Nazis (Jackboots, as the children call them) marching through the streets appear to him as a delightful parade of magnificent boots. He wants to be a Jackboot!

Hinton, S.E. Taming the Star Runner

Travis, a city boy, develops an unusual friendship with a young horse trainer on his uncle's ranch.

Alexander, Lloyd The Black Cauldron

Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper of Prydain, faces even more dangers as he seeks the magical Black Cauldron, the chief implement of the evil powers of Arawn, lord of the Land of Death.

London, Jack Call of the Wild

The classic survival story of a dog stolen from his California home and made to work as a sled dog during the Alaskan gold rush.

Myers, Walter Dean Hoops

A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.

Blackwood, Gary The Shakespeare Stealer

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet", but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

Bloor, Edward Tangerine

A legally blind seventh-grader has always lived in the shadow of his older brother. Things change when the family moves to Tangerine County, where bizarre natural disasters occur.

Curtis, Christopher Paul The Watsons Go To Birmingham

The lives of the Watsons, an African American family living in Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

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6th Grade Book List:

Taylor, Theodore *The Cay*

During World War II, an adolescent boy and an old Black man are stranded on a tiny Caribbean island.

Pearson, Ridley *The Kingdom Keepers Series:*

A group of teenagers band together to keep the Disney Villains from taking over the Happiest Place on Earth.

(Disney After Dark (Book 1); Disney at Dawn (Book 2); Disney in Shadows (Book 3); Power Play (Book 4))

Cather, Willa *My Antonia*

Splendid early novel (1918) evokes the Nebraska prairie life of the author's childhood, and touchingly commemorates the spirit and courage of the immigrant pioneers who settled the land.

Korman, Gordon *No More Dead Dogs*

For expressing his true views of a classic dog story, eighth-grade football hero Wallace earns a detention and is forced to attend the school play.

Fogelin, Adrian *Crossing Jordan*

A contemporary story set in Tallahassee, FL, of interracial friendship despite parental opposition.

London Jack *White Fang*

Born in the north woods, White Fang grows up wary and smart. When food becomes scarce, he is forced to befriend some humans to survive.

Lowry, Lois *Number the Stars*

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think about life before the war. But it's now 1943, and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching in their town. When the Nazis begin "relocating" the Jews of Denmark, Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family. And as Annemarie helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis and embarks on a dangerous mission, she learns how to be brave and courageous -- to save her best friend's life.

Angleberger, Tom *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*

When Tommy sees the finger puppet of Yoda that that loser Dwight has on his finger, it seems ordinary. Same old origami, same good origami it's the same as always. But when origami Yoda starts to give people advice, good advice, things change. Since Dwight is such a loser, his advice should be bad too, right? But Yoda's advice is, well, Yoda-like. When Tommy starts to think about asking a girl to a dance, he isn't sure. So by putting together the case of Origami Yoda, he must come to a conclusion: is Yoda for real?

Draper, Sharon M. *Out of My Mind*

Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people--her teachers and doctors included--don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows . . . but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write.

Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind--that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.

From multiple Coretta Scott King Award winner Sharon M. Draper comes a story full of heartache and hope. Get ready to meet a girl whose voice you'll never, ever forget.

Hiaasen, Carl *Scat*

Hiaasen starts off this story—a hybrid madcap swamp adventure and cast-driven environmental whodunit—with the disappearance of a biology teacher after a fire breaks out during a field trip in the Everglades. The immediate suspect for the fire, at least, is a young miscreant, but friends Nick and Marta figure something else is afoot: it might have something to do with the nefarious oilmen slinking about nearby, as well as the rumor of an endangered panther and her cubs in the swamp. A generous cast of characters—each imbued with a few unexpected traits—flits about and provides most of the impetus to keep things rolling. Adding some emotional heft is the subplot involving Nick's father; he returns home from Iraq minus his right arm, and Nick binds his own arm so that they can learn to become lefties together. Hiaasen's gumbo tastes a lot like his previous efforts, pitting conservation against reckless greed and setting the can-do of youth among determined Floridian quirkiness. But there's a reason why a recipe tastes so good time and again.

Sanderson, Brandon *Alcatraz versus the Evil Librarians*

Alcatraz Smedry doesn't seem destined for anything but disaster. On his 13th birthday he receives a bag of sand, which is quickly stolen by the cult of evil Librarians plotting to take over the world. The sand will give the Librarians the edge they need to achieve world domination. Alcatraz must stop them! by infiltrating the local library, armed with nothing but eyeglasses and a talent for klutziness.

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Book Report

Introduction/General Information about the Book

Title:

Author:

Type of Book:

Main Character

Main Character:

Describe this character:

The main character changes from _____ to _____ by the end of the story.

The main character does the right thing when:

I can identify with the character when:

Other Characters

Other

Character(s): _____

Describe that character(s):

Setting

Describe the time and place of the story:

Comments about the setting (examples: setting makes story exciting, setting has an important effect on main character, setting is/is not exciting or new, setting increased my knowledge of something):

Theme

What is the author trying to say in this story? What is his lesson in life?
Is there a moral to this story?

This is a story about (courage? working hard? doing the right thing? greed? importance of friends? jealousy? love? caring? happiness? sadness?)

This book showed me/I learned from this story:

State a problem in the story and how it was solved:

Plot:

The Action/Summary of What Happened in the Story

Summary of the story (list up to 6 events that happened in the story; keep them in order):

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Evaluation of the Book

What did you think of the book?

What did you like about the book?

What didn't you like about the book?

Was the story confusing or hard to believe?

Was the story predictable (could you guess what was going to happen?)

Was the story believable?

The ending was?