

Dear Parents,

Students entering grades 6-8 will participate in a summer reading program. The reading, activities, and reports will all be assessed for grades in the fall. The requirements are as follows.

**Students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade:**

- Sixth grade students will read the required novel *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* and complete the accompanying study guide. The study guide is included with this letter and will be submitted for a grade. Students will participate in activities connected with this book in the fall. There will also be a test on the novel.
- Students will then choose **two** book options from the summer reading book list.
- Students should read these **two** novels and complete a book report form for each. Forms are attached.

**Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade:**

- Seventh grade students will read the required novel *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and complete the accompanying study guide. The study guide is included with this letter and will be submitted for a grade. Students will participate in activities connected with this book in the fall. There will also be a test on the novel.
- Students will then choose **two** book options from the summer reading book list.
- Students should read these **two** novels and complete a book report form for each. Forms are attached.

**Students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade:**

- Eighth grade students will read the required novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* and complete the accompanying study guide. The study guide is included with this letter and will be submitted for a grade. Students will participate in activities connected with this book in the fall. There will also be a test on the novel.
- Students will then choose **two** book options from the summer reading book list.
- Students should read these **two** novels and complete a book report form for each. Forms are attached.

Please help students to complete these assignments over the summer. It is important that they start next school year prepared. We hope this helps students to stay actively engaged over the summer months.

Thank you,

Ms. Grau

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS

1. During the first few weeks in your Literature classes, you will be asked to discuss and to write about the books you read during the summer. Your first quarter grade will include work connected with your summer reading.
2. The free-choice books should be chosen from the appropriate reading list. 6th graders must choose from "Grades 6 and 7 Books." 7th graders may choose from "Grades 6 and 7 Books" and "Grade 8 Books," and 8th graders may choose from "Grades 6 and 7 Books," "Grade 8 Books," and "Recommended reading for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> Grade." You may read other books by any author who appears on the list. We ask you to choose books of different styles so that you can broaden your reading experiences. Of course, we encourage you to read many more than just the required number of books!
3. Most of the books we have selected are readily available in paperback, and all are in print. Review the reading list early in the summer to make sure that you can obtain copies of your choices. Any bookstore can order these books for you, but sometimes an order may take as long as six weeks to be filled. Many of these books are also available at your local library; however, it would be best if you brought the books you read during the summer with you in September.

### GRADES 6 AND 7

#### Students Entering Sixth Grade

- Required: *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, Avi
- Two books from the reading list "Grades 6 and 7 Recommended Books"

#### Students Entering Seventh Grade

- Required: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, Mildred Taylor
- Two books from the reading lists "Grades 6 and 7 Recommended Books" or "Grade 8 Recommended Books"

#### Students entering Eighth Grade

- Required: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
- Three books from the reading list "Recommended Books for Grades 6, 7, and 8" or "Recommended Books for Grade 9"

### RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADES 6 AND 7

#### GIRL POWER

*Alanna*, Tamora Pierce

*Bat 6*, Virginia Euwer Wolff

*Caddie Woodlawn*, Carol Ryrie Brink

*Catherine, Called Birdy*, Karen Cushman

*Chasing Vermeer*, Blue Balliett

*Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railroad*, Ann Petry

*Into the Wild*, Sarah Beth Durst

*Whirligig*, Paul Fleischman

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 8

### GIRL POWER

*Airborn*, Kenneth Oppel  
*Bloody Jack*, L. A. Meyer  
*Going Going*, Naomi Shihab Nye  
*A Great and Terrible Beauty*, Libba Bray  
*Last Dance on Holladay Street*, Elisa Carbone  
*The Miracle Worker*, William Gibson  
*Tamsin*, Peter S. Beagle

### Kids Like You

*The Bermudez Triangle*, Maureen Johnson  
*Born Confused*, Tanuja Desai Hidier  
*Criss Cross*, Lynne Rae Perkins  
*Dairy Queen*, Catherine Gilbert Murdock  
*Evolution, Me, and Other Freaks of Nature*, Robin Brande  
*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, Julia Alvarez  
*Sweetblood*, Pete Hautman

### OTHER WORLDS

*Beauty*, Robin McKinley  
*Fall of a Kingdom*, Hilari Bell  
*Feed*, M. T. Anderson  
*Fever 1793*, Laurie Halse Anderson  
*The Good Earth*, Pearl S. Buck  
*Howl's Moving Castle*, Diana Wynne Jones  
*Sabriel*, Garth Nix

### BOOKS TO MAKE YOU LAUGH

*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, Jordan Sonnenblick  
*The Gospel According to Larry*, Janet Tashjian  
*Prom*, Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Thwonk*, Joan Bauer

### SURVIVAL AND ADVENTURE

*After the First Death*, Robert Cormier  
*Ask Me No Questions*, Marina Budhos  
*Call of the Wild*, Jack London  
*Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card  
*House of Stairs*, William Sleator  
*The Killing Sea*, Richard Lewis  
*The Last Book in the Universe*, Rodman Philbrick

*The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame  
*A Wrinkle in Time*, Madeleine L'Engle

#### BOOKS TO MAKE YOU LAUGH

*Adam Canfield of the Slash*, Michael Winerip  
*Bud, Not Buddy*, Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Holes*, Louis Sachar  
*The Lives of Christopher Chant*, Diana Wynne Jones  
*Matilda*, Roald Dahl  
*The Schwab Was Here*, Neal Shusterman  
*The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Age 13 ¼*, Sue Townsend  
*Stop the Train!*, Geraldine McCaughrean  
*The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts*, Richard Peck  
*Zen and the Art of Faking It*, Jordan Sonnenblick

#### SURVIVAL AND ADVENTURE

*Alabama Moon*, Watt Key  
*Black Storm Comin'*, Diane Lee Wilson  
*The Cay*, Theodore Taylor  
*Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, Avi  
*The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm*, Nancy Farmer  
*The Giver*, Lois Lowry  
*Golden Goblet*, Eloise Jarvis McGraw  
*Hoot*, Carl Hiaasen  
*Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Scott O'Dell  
*Letters from a Slave Girl: The Story of Harriet Jacobs*, Mary E. Lyons  
*Little House on the Prairie*, Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*My Side of the Mountain*, Jean Craighead George  
*Shiloh*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor  
*Tangerine*, Edward Bloor  
*Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Z for Zachariah*, Robert C. O'Brien

#### SELF-DISCOVERY

*Anne of Green Gables*, L.M. Montgomery  
*Bless Me, Ultima*, Rudolfo Anaya  
*Boy*, Roald Dahl  
*Ella Enchanted*, Gale Carson Levine  
*Freak*, Marcella Pixley  
*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, E. L. Konigsburg  
*Homecoming*, Cynthia Voigt  
*The House You Pass on the Way*, Jacqueline Woodson  
*I'll Sing You One-O*, Nan Gregory  
*Or Give Me Death*, Ann Rinaldi  
*Saffy's Angel*, Hilary McKay  
*Summer of My German Soldier*, Bette Greene

*Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City*, Kirsten Miller  
*Lyddie*, Katherine Paterson  
*Riding Freedom*, Pam Muñoz Ryan  
*True North*, Kathryn Lasky  
*Uglies*, Scott Westerfeld  
*Witch of Blackbird Pond*, Elizabeth George Speare

#### **BOOKS TO MAKE YOU CRY**

*Bridge to Terabithia*, Katherine Paterson  
*Day of Tears*, Julius Lester  
*Elsewhere*, Gabrielle Zevin  
*Esperanza Rising*, Pam Muñoz Ryan  
*On My Honor*, Marion Dane Bauer  
*One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies*, Sonya Sones  
*A Time for Dancing*, Davida Wills Hurwin  
*Tuck Everlasting*, Natalie Babbitt  
*The Upstairs Room*, Johanna Reiss  
*Yellow Star*, Jennifer Roy

#### **KIDS LIKE YOU**

*Al Capone Does My Shirts*, Gennifer Choldenko  
*All of the Above*, Shelley Pearsall  
*Because of Winn-Dixie*, Kate DiCamillo  
*Boy Meets Boy*, David Levithan  
*The Higher Power of Lucky*, Susan Patron  
*It's Not the End of the World*, Judy Blume  
*Rules*, Cynthia Lord  
*Shug*, Jenny Han  
*Stargirl*, Jerry Spinelli  
*Sweet Thang*, Allison Whittenberg  
*Walk Two Moons*, Sharon Creech

#### **OTHER WORLDS**

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll  
*The Egypt Game*, Zilpha Keatley Snyder  
*Inkheart*, Cornelia Funke  
*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, C. S. Lewis  
*The Looking Glass Wars*, Frank Beddor  
*Mary, Bloody Mary*, Carolyn Meyer  
*The Neverending Story*, Michael Ende  
*The Phantom Tollbooth*, Norton Juster  
*The Secret Under My Skin*, Janet McNaughton  
*So You Want to Be a Wizard*, Diane Duane  
*The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*, Kate DiCamillo  
*Tales of Mystery and Imagination*, Edgar Allan Poe

*When My Name Was Keoko*, Linda Sue Park

#### **SELF-DISCOVERY**

*Alt Ed*, Catherine Atkins  
*Habibi*, Naomi Shihab Nye  
*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Anne Moody  
*Make Lemonade*, Virginia Euwer Wolff  
*Samurai Shortstop*, Alan Gratz  
*So Hard to Say*, Alex Sanchez  
*Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*, Chris Crutcher  
*Toning the Sweep*, Angela Johnson  
*The Truth About Forever*, Sarah Dessen  
*Weetzie Bat*, Francesca Lia Block

#### **THE HUMAN CONDITION**

*Alicia: My Story*, Alicia Appleman-Jurman  
*Briar Rose*, Jane Yolen  
*The Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank  
*If You Come Softly*, Jacqueline Woodson  
*Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck  
*The Outsiders*, S. E. Hinton  
*Over a Thousand Hills I Walk With You*, Hanna Jansen  
*The Power of One*, Bryce Courtenay  
*Sold*, Patricia McCormick

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES BOOKS**

The following titles are suggestions for summer reading from the Social Studies Department. Each book was selected because it is well written and will deepen understanding of that grade level's social studies curriculum. Enjoy!

#### **SEVENTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

*Across Five Aprils*, Irene Hunt  
*Ashes of Roses*, Mary Jane Auch  
*The Land*, Mildred D. Taylor  
*To Be a Slave*, Julius Lester

#### **EIGHTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

*All But My Life*, Gerda Weissmann Klein

#### **SCIENCE AND NATURE BOOKS**

The following titles are suggestions for summer reading from the Science Department. Though none of the books are required, if you have an interest in science, you will enjoy these books. Each of them addresses a different aspect of science in an engaging and thought-provoking manner.

*All Creatures Great and Small*, James Herriot

*Born Free: A Lioness of Two Worlds*, Joy Adamson  
*Invisible Allies: Microbes that Shape Our Lives*, Jeanette Farrell  
*My Life with the Chimpanzees*, Jane Goodall  
*The Nobel Book of Answers*, ed. Bettina Steikel  
*Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*, Jennifer Armstrong  
*Space for Women: A History of Women with the Right Stuff*, Pamela Fréni

**Recommended Reading for Students Entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade:**

*Annie John*, Jamaica Kincaid  
*Black Ice*, Lorene Cary  
*Cider House Rules*, John Irving  
*The Color of Water*, James McBride  
*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Mark Haddon  
*Deliver Us from Evie*, M.E. Kerr  
*Dracula*, Bram Stoker  
*Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury  
*The Fellowship of the Ring*, J. R.R. Tolkien  
*The Glass Menagerie*, Tennessee Williams  
*Good Omens*, Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett  
*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, Carson McCullers  
*I Capture the Castle*, Dodie Smith  
*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou  
*Inherit the Wind*, Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee  
*Iron and Silk*, Mark Salzman  
*The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan  
*The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, Sherman Alexie  
*Lord of the Flies*, William Golding  
*The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, Alexander McCall Smith  
*O Pioneers!*, Willa Cather  
*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky  
*The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd  
*Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Stand Before Your God*, Paul Watkins  
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith  
*Whale Talk*, Chris Crutcher  
*The Wizard of Earthsea*, Ursula K. LeGuin  
*When I Was Puerto Rican*, Esmeralda Santiago

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Report Helper

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: Fiction Nonfiction

Setting: (Where does the story take place?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Character

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the main character. What kind of person is he or she?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The story begins with

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The events in the story are: (include details)

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1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The story ends with

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

I learned that

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I really liked

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\_\_\_\_\_

I didn't like when

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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I wonder

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I would/would not recommend this book because

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