



Nyack Middle School

2009

Summer Reading
Requirement

Nyack's English Department shares with the school, district, and community a commitment to providing all of our students with the educational experiences necessary to become successful adults, informed citizens, and complete human beings. Reading is the foundation upon which the realization of these goals depends.

Our summer reading requirement has been designed to continue to develop our students' reading skills and to engender in them a love for reading that will motivate them to become lifelong learners.

Middle School Summer Reading List Summer, 2009

Directions:

Select 2 books from the required reading list for the grade level you will enter in the fall.

Keep an outline for each book. (See outlines on last 2 pages.) When you return to school in the fall, your English teacher will give you specific instructions about writing reports for the books you read during summer vacation. Books are listed by grade: sixth, seventh & eighth. Within each grade you will find books, which have stood the test of time, (classic fiction,) newer, noteworthy books, (contemporary fiction,) and factual books (non-fiction.) You may read another title in a series, by the same author if you cannot locate the title listed.

FYI: asterisks connote Newbery Award winners/honors ** Newbery Winner or * Newbery Honor books

GRADE 6

Barrie, James
Peter Pan

(Classic Fiction)

J.M. Barrie's classic children's novel about a young boy, Peter Pan, who never grows up, and his adventures in Never Never Land with the three Darling children.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson
The Secret Garden

(Classic Fiction)

First published in 1911 - Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Leroux, Gaston,
The Phantom of the Opera

(Classic Fiction)

Translation of: Le fantome de l'Opera; Presents the classic story about a viscount who seeks to unravel the mystery of the Paris Opera House and rescue the woman he loves from the threat of the phantom of the opera.

Sewell, Anna
Black Beauty

(Classic Fiction)

First published: 1877. A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters.

Stevenson, Robert Louis
Treasure Island

(Classic Fiction)

First published in 1883. While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune as well as great danger.

Wells, H. G. (Herbert George)
The Invisible Man

(Classic Fiction)

First published: 1897. A scientist, who has discovered how to make his body invisible, becomes violently insane when he realizes he cannot change back to visible form.

GRADE 6

Avi

(Contemporary Fiction)

Encounter at Easton.

In the spring of 1768, the doomed flight of two young indentured servants from their unkind master brings together an unlikely assortment of people in a Pennsylvania town.

Blue Balliett

(Contemporary fiction)

Chasing Vermeer

A priceless Vermeer painting is missing and it is up to Petra and Calder to find it following the thief's trail of clues printed in the newspaper.

Blackwood, Gary

(Contemporary fiction)

The Shakespeare Stealer

No matter that few of its young readers will be Shakespeare buffs; this fast-paced story showcasing life behind the scenes at the Globe Theatre in its heyday artfully sets the stage for future reading and play-going.

Blume, Judy

(Contemporary fiction)

Are You There God, It's Me Margaret.

Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private God.

Blume, Judy

(Contemporary fiction)

Tiger Eyes.

Resettled in the "Bomb City" with her mother and brother, Davey Wexler recovers from the shock of her father's death during a holdup of his 7-Eleven store in Atlantic City

Christopher, Matt

(Contemporary Fiction)

Soccer Scoop

When a cartoon appears in the school newspaper making fun of his tendency to talk a lot, Mac, the goalie for the Cougars soccer team, is determined to find out who is responsible.

Coulombis, Audrey

(Contemporary fiction)

The Misadventures of Maude March

Sallie March, 11, devotee of dime novels, narrates this rollicking Wild West adventure. The irrepressible tomboy and her ladylike sister, Maude have been living in Cedar Rapids with their stern Aunt Ruthie since their parents died. When she is shot dead by a random bullet the sisters take two horses and head to Independence, MO in hopes of finding their uncle. They disguise themselves as boys and begin to live as dime-novel heroes. Although the girls' intentions are never bad, they end up in the midst of a bank robbery.

GRADE 6

Conly, Jane Leslie
Crazy Lady!

(Contemporary fiction)

Vernon Dibbs is finding junior high tough. The grades that come so easily to others elude him, despite extra hours of study; he feels he lost the one person who considered him in any way special when his mother suddenly passed away two years ago. Then acquaintance with alcoholic Maxine --the neighborhood "crazy lady" -- and her retarded son Ronald leads to some tutoring work, and soon he is involved in a scheme to send Ronald to the Special Olympics; the solutions to Vernon's problems seem to be within his grasp, and his confidence soars. If the lesson is that kindness begets kindness, this book is all heart

DiCamillo, Kate
Edward Tulane

(Contemporary fiction)

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted, proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him. He travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

Eager, Edward
Half Magic.

(Contemporary fiction)

Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.

Gutman, Dan
Honus and Me : A Baseball Card Adventure

(Contemporary Fiction)

While 12-year-old Joe Stoshack is cleaning out Miss Young's attic for spending money, he finds the world's most valuable baseball card, picturing Honus Wagner. She had instructed him to throw out all the junk in the attic, and he knows the money raised from selling the card would help his single mother. That night, Joe wakes up to see Wagner in his bedroom, and they eventually travel back in time to the 1909 World Series.

Gutman, Dan
The Kid Who Ran for President.

(Contemporary fiction)

Judd Moon is just an average sixth grader, until his politically savvy best friend convinces him that he has what it takes to be president. Told in first-person narrative, this cleverly conceived satire will have readers laughing all the way to the Electoral College. The fact that they can't help but learn a thing or two about the election process is purely coincidental.

GRADE 6

Hale, Bruce

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Big Nap : from the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye

In this Chet Gecko adventure, "the best lizard detective at Emerson Hicky Elementary" recounts a truly scary case: his classmates are doing homework without complaint and being quiet in class. In short, they have become model students. Something is afoot, and the tough-talking, wisecracking PI wants to know what's going on. Suspects and red herrings abound: the new librarian, groovy Cool Beans, knows an awful lot about zombies; and what about slick Sammy Weasel? Fueled by ample snacks, Chet and Natalie Attired (a mockingbird) are on the case.

Hobbs, Will

(Contemporary fiction)

The Maze.

Fourteen-year-old Rick Walker feels that his life is a maze. He's been bounced around from one foster family to another and is sent to a detention center for hard-core juvenile offenders after committing a petty offense. After the boy is forced to flee for his life he ends up in an isolated area called the Maze. Here he forms a friendship with Lon, a biologist who is trying to reintroduce condors into the wild. The two work together, assisting the birds, and Lon teaches Rick to hang glide.

Kerr, Phillip

(Contemporary fiction)

The Akhenaten Adventure (Children of the Lamp series)

When twelve-year-old twins Philippa and John discover that they are descended from a long line of djinn, their mother sends them away to their Uncle Nimrod, who takes them to Cairo where he teaches them about their extraordinary powers.

Lord, Cynthia.

(Contemporary fiction)

Rules *

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic who uses a book of pictures to communicate, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, she begins to question her idea of normal, and will begin to see things in an entirely different way. Set in coastal Maine, this sensitive story is about being different, feeling different, and finding acceptance.

Lupica, Mike

(Contemporary fiction)

Travel Team

Danny Walker is crushed when he doesn't make the Vikings, the seventh-grade basketball team. He is told that he is too short, but he suspects that the real reason has something to do with the bad blood between his father (a former NBA star whose career was cut short by a car accident) and Mr. Ross, the father of the team's best player. Then Danny's father announces that he is starting his own youth team, but unexpected setbacks sideline his dad and the team until Danny steps in and coaches the team himself to the climatic game against their arch rivals.

GRADE 6

Myracle, Lauren
Eleven

(Contemporary Fiction)

The year between turning eleven and turning twelve brings many changes. The year Winnie turns eleven is full of tumult as friendships shift. She learns to appreciate a girl she had previously overlooked and to stand up for her opinions. Winnie's growing pains are heartfelt, and the balance of funny and bittersweet makes the novel realistic and readable.

McCaughrean, Geraldine.
The Kite Rider

(Contemporary fiction)

In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

Nimmo, Jenny
Midnight for Charlie Bone.

(Contemporary fiction)

Ten-year-old Charlie Bone doesn't realize he's inherited the family's magical powers until one day he finds that he's able to hear the conversations of people in photographs. When he's packed off to Bloor's Academy -- a school of magic where he makes friends (and enemies) and learns the strange history of the Red King, whose descendents still roam the earth.

O'Dell, Scott
Black Star, Bright Dawn

(Contemporary fiction)

Bright Dawn, a young Eskimo girl, encounters frightening obstacles when she takes her father's place in the Iditarod, the annual 1,172-mile dogsled race in Alaska.

Paolini, Christopher
Eragon.

(Contemporary fiction)

In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone. It is a dragon's egg, which weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with elves, villains, and monsters.

Riordan, Rick
The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1)

(Contemporary fiction)

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

GRADE 6

Ryan, Pam Munoz
Esperanza Rising.

(Contemporary fiction)

[Esperanza] the daughter of an affluent Mexican rancher, she had been taught by her father to believe that the "land is alive," that she could lie down beneath the arbors in her family's vineyards, press her ear to the ground, and hear a heart beat. Yet can this still hold true for Esperanza when she no longer reigns as queen of the harvest but labors in the fields of a foreign country, picking grapes on someone else's land for pennies an hour?

Sage, Angie and Zug, Mark
Magyk (Septimus Heap, Book 1)

(Contemporary fiction)

At birth, Septimus Heap is carried away for dead, and his wizard father, Silas Heap in entrusted with a baby girl. When the villains try to assassinate the now 10-year-old Jenna, who, it turns out, is the daughter of the murdered queen, her wizard family flees to the Marram Marshes in search of the legendary *Queen's Dragon Boat*, along with the ExtraOrdinary Wizard, and a young army guard known only as "Boy 412."

Scieszka, Jon
See You Later, Gladiator

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Time Warp Trio, (Joe, Sam, and Fred,) are propelled back to ancient Rome, through gladiator training school and into the Colosseum, where they confront vicious crocodiles and knuckleheaded bruisers in an amphitheater filled with thousands.

Smith, Jeff
Bone- Out from Boneville (Graphic Novel- uses artwork panels to tell a full-length story.)

(Contemporary fiction)

Meet plucky Fone Bone, scheming Phony Bone, and easygoing Smiley Bone who leave their home in Boneville and are swept up in a Tolkienesque epic of royalty, dragons and unspeakable evil forces out to conquer mankind.

Spinelli, Jerry
Loser.

(Contemporary fiction)

Once again, Newbery Medal-winning author Jerry Spinelli uses great wit and humor to create the unique story of Zinkoff as he travels from first through sixth grades. *Loser* is a touching book about the human spirit, the importance of failure, and how any name can someday be replaced with "hero."

Springer, Nancy
The Case of the Left-Handed Lady: An Enola Holmes Mystery

(Contemporary fiction)

Pursued by her much older brother, famed detective Sherlock Holmes, fourteen-year-old Enola, disguised and using false names, attempts to solve the kidnapping of a baronet's sixteen-year-old son in nineteenth-century London.

GRADE 6

Beckoff, Dye, Dan & Mark.

(Non-Fiction)

Amazing Gracie: A Dog's Tale.

A true account of the adoption of Gracie, a deaf and partially blind albino Great Dane, who inspires her owners to found Three Dog Bakery, a chain of canine bakeries.

McPherson, Stephanie Sammartino

(Non-Fiction)

Ordinary Genius: The Story of Albert Einstein.

The descriptions of young Albert's difficulties in school, which will enthrall young readers, and depicts Einstein as a person both like and unlike others. Without trivializing Einstein's genius, Explanations of Einstein's scientific discoveries are clearly presented, as is the social context of Germany between the wars and during the Nazi years. McPherson provides readers with a strong impression of an independent mind at work--so strong, in fact, that children may wish they could have met the genius.

Nobleman, Marc Tyler

(Non-Fiction)

Boys Of Steel : The Creators Of Superman

Ask kids where the Man of Steel comes from, and they may answer "Metropolis" or "Krypton." In fact, he came from Cleveland, the invention of two "meek, mild and myopic" Depression-era teenagers. Drawing incidents and dialogue directly from a range of published interviews and other accounts, Nobleman shows how Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster parlayed a steady diet of Tarzan, Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon into a new kind of Hero, with superhuman abilities and a secret identity not so different from, well, themselves.

Thimmesh, Catherine

(Non-Fiction)

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 On The Moon

Here is a rare perspective on a story we only thought we knew. For Apollo 11, the first moon landing, is a story that belongs to many, not just the few and famous. It belongs to the seamstress who put together twenty-two layers of fabric for each space suit; to the engineers who created a special heat shield to protect the capsule during its fiery reentry. It belongs to the flight directors, camera designers, software experts, suit testers, telescope crew, aerospace technicians, photo developers, engineers, and navigators. This is the story of the team that worked to first put man on that great gray rock in the sky with dedication, ingenuity, and perseverance

Fleischman, Sid

(Non-Fiction)

The Trouble Begins At 8 : A Life Of Mark Twain In The Wild, Wild West

When Mark Twain first started giving speeches, the poster advertising them read, "Doors open at 7. The trouble begins at 8." This is the spirit in which this author writes about Twain, talking about Twain as an author, of course, but also as steamboat pilot, a journalist, a prospector, and a lecturer—in other words, as an adventurer who didn't mind a little trouble. Fleischman spends time on Twain's earlier years, showing how young Samuel Clemens' myriad adventures became the building blocks for his stories. What will probably delight readers are Twain's amazing exploits aboard stagecoaches and steamboats, making and losing fortunes, and trying to find his place in the world.

GRADE 7

Carroll, Lewis

(Classic Fiction)

Alice in Wonderland

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

Dodge, Mary Mapes

(Classic Fiction)

Hans Brinker, Or, The Silver Skates

A Dutch boy and girl work toward two goals, finding the doctor who can restore their father's memory and winning the competition for the silver skates.

Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir

(Classic Fiction)

The Hound Of The Baskervilles

Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.

Montgomery, Lucy Maud

(Classic Fiction)

Anne of Green Gables.

When Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert of Green Gables, Prince Edward Island, send for a boy orphan to help them out at the farm, they are in no way prepared for the error that will change their lives. The mistake takes the shape of Anne Shirley, a redheaded 11-year-old girl who can talk anyone under the table. Anne's feisty spirit soon draws many friends--and much trouble--her way. This feminine yet independent spirit has given generations of girls a strong female role model, while offering a taste of another, milder time in history.

Spyri, Johanna

(Classic Fiction)

Heidi

A Swiss orphan is heartbroken when she must leave her beloved grandfather and their happy home in the mountains to go to school and to care for an invalid girl in the city.

Irving, Washington

(Classic Fiction)

The Legend Of Sleepy Hollow

Gawky Icabod Crane, a school master, vies for the affections of a local maid and comes up against rival, Brom Bones but even more terrifying, the Headless Horseman himself, in this Hudson Valley classic.

GRADE 7

Avi

The Traitors' Gate

(Contemporary Fiction)

Returning to the mid-19th century for both a London setting and the narrative's many-chaptered, confessional style, Avi spins a Dickensian web of blackmail, treason and spycraft. John Huffam, 14, rushes from school to find that, due to Father's gambling debts, the family's been evicted and sent to a "sponging house," the last stop before debtors' prison. John's mother and sister flail in a miasma of self-absorption, while Father, a low-level bureaucrat and amateur actor, would as soon lie as breathe. It falls to John to uncover the truth and secure Father's release, but the boy's soon swept into a world teeming with detectives, spies and colorful eccentrics.

Bell, Ted

Nick Of Time

(Contemporary Fiction)

Twelve-year-old Nick McIver tries to help his father and sister send vital information to England about imminent Nazi invasion, until he finds himself transported through time to help his ancestor stop a mutinous captain who is aiding the French fleet and endangering British sailors.

Colfer, Eoin

Airman

(Contemporary Fiction)

Born in a hot-air balloon at the Paris World's Fair in 1878, Conor Broekhart is destined to fly. Grippingly written, this is a fast-paced, highly entertaining tale of flying machines, criminals, martial arts, swordplay, princesses, poisons, and evil villains. While the often dark and gruesome subject matter is not for the faint of heart, the moral underpinnings of the story are solid.

Creech, Sharon

Walk Two Moons.

(Contemporary Fiction)

Thirteen-year-old Native American Salamanca Tree Hiddle travels from Ohio to Idaho to visit her mother who had left the year before, but never returned.

Ellis, Deborah

The Breadwinner.

(Contemporary Fiction)

Ever since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, 11-year-old Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Unable to attend school or shop at the market, she is trapped inside her family's home until the Taliban hauls her father away. Now it is up to Parvana to risk her life by disguising herself as a boy to support her family.

GRADE 7

Flanagan, John

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Ruins of Gorlan (*Ranger's Apprentice series* book 1)

Like the other 15-year-old wards of Castle Redmont, Will is nervous about Choosing Day, when each of them will be assigned to a different master for training. Though his dearest wish is to enter the Battleschool, his small stature prevents it. Instead, Will is apprenticed to the grim-faced, mysterious Ranger. Soon Will learns that becoming a ranger is more difficult, dangerous, and worthwhile than he had imagined.

Farmer, Nancy

(Contemporary Fiction)

The House of the Scorpion. *

To most people around him, Matt is not a boy, but a beast. To El Patron, lord of a country called Opium, a strip of land between the U.S., and what used to be Mexico, Matt is a guarantee of eternal life. El Patron loves Matt as he loves himself because Matt is himself. They share identical DNA.

Gaiman, Neil

(Contemporary Fiction)

Coraline (Graphic Novel- uses artwork panels to tell a full-length story.)

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Hardinge, Frances

(Contemporary Fiction)

Well Witched

In this deliciously creepy tale, three children fall under the power of an elemental divinity after stealing coins from a wishing well. To repay their debt, they must fulfill the wishes of people whose coins they took. There is a vividness and energy to Hardinge's imagination that makes almost every moment of this absorbing story shine with light or glossy darkness.

Hoffman, Mary

(Contemporary Fiction)

Stravaganza : City Of Masks

While sick in bed with cancer, a boy named Lucien begins making journeys to a place in a parallel world that resembles Venice, Italy, and he becomes caught up in the political intrigues surrounding the Duchessa who rules the city.

GRADE 7

Law, Ingrid
Savvy *

(Contemporary Fiction)

Upon turning 13, each member of the Beaumont family develops a supernatural ability, or savvy, which must then be tamed. Well aware of the problems savvys can bring, 12-year-old Mibs' (*short for Mississippi*.) family has to relocate, while Mibs awaits her birthday eagerly but with a bit of trepidation. When Poppa is seriously injured in an accident far away, Momma goes to his side, leaving Mibs and the rest of the family to cope with Mibs' 13th birthday on their own. Initially believing that her savvy is the ability to restore life, Mibs sets her course for Poppa. On the journey, however, Mibs realizes her savvy isn't what she thought, which opens the way for a number of lively adventures both geographic and emotional.

Lockhart, E.

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Disreputable History Of Frankie Landau-Banks : A Novel

Fifteen-year-old Frankie is attractive, extremely bright, and a student at an academically challenging boarding school. But everyone underestimates her: her family who affectionately calls her Bunny Rabbit, and even her boyfriend who thinks she is adorable? Frankie longs for recognition. She seizes the opportunity with a secret organization on campus, but Basset Hounds membership is only for males and highly exclusive. Frankie uses her computer to manipulate the unknowing club members to do her bidding. When Frankie reveals herself as the girl behind the pranks she . . . [unexpectedly] gains the respect and admiration of family and classmates.

Scott, Michael
The Alchemist

(Contemporary Fiction)

Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

Schmidt, Gary D.

(Contemporary Fiction)

Lizzie Bright and the BuckminsterBoy *

The year is 1912, and Turner Buckminster III has a mighty cross to bear: his family has just moved from Boston to Phippsburg, Maine; no one in Maine seems to throw a baseball so he can hit it; and, worst of all, he is the minister's son. His misery is just about complete until he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, an African-American girl from nearby Malaga Island, who teaches him how to hit a Maine baseball and doesn't hold his parentage against him. Schmidt takes his time with his tale, spinning gloriously figurative language that brilliantly evokes both place and emotion. Turner himself is a wonderfully rich character; his moral and intellectual growth developing naturally from the boy the reader first meets.

GRADE 7

Snow, Maya
Sisters Of The Sword

(Contemporary Fiction)

As daughters of a 13th-century Japanese feudal lord, Kimi and Hana have been trained in the arts of self-defense. Though Kimi dreams of becoming a great samurai warrior, she knows it is a future she could never realistically achieve. One fateful day, her life is turned upside down. Called to their home for a visit, Kimi's uncle betrays her father, murdering him in order to seize power. The sisters escape, determined to find their mother and younger brother, and to eventually exact revenge on their callous uncle, they disguise themselves as peasant boys and travel to a samurai school run by their father's old friend, Master Goku. Filled with battles and bloodshed, this exciting story is placed against a strongly depicted historical setting evoked through everyday details and descriptions of cultural practices.

Springer, Nancy
Dussie

(Contemporary Fiction)

At age thirteen Dussie makes the horrifying discovery that she, like her New York artist mother, is a Gorgon--a Greek mythological monster sprouting snakes from her head and capable of turning humans into stone with one angry look.

Udall, Eleanor
Montmorency : Thief, Liar, Gentleman?

(Contemporary Fiction)

Merge the dark fetid sewers of London in 1875 with a newly released thief from a prison where he was a doctor's specimen for pioneering treatments of complex wounds and the stage is set for good ole Victorian crime, deceit, and intrigue. Montmorency devises a plan to use the sewers as his escape routes, using his thefts to finance his refined life as a gentleman. Creating dual identities, Scarper as the sewer rat and Montmorency as the man of upper class, his scheme transforms his life.

Walden, Mark
H.I.V.E. : Higher Institute of Villainous Education

(Contemporary Fiction)

H.I.V.E. is operated on a volcanic island in a distant ocean by G.L.O.V.E., a shadowy organization of worldwide wickedness. And, as 13-year-old master of mischief Otto Malpense soon discovers, here the slickest of young tricksters, thieves, and hackers have been brought against their will to be trained as the next generation of supervillains. Otto and his friends refuse to be held prisoner at the institution and develop a scheme to escape from the island, but they must defeat the all-seeing computer system, a seemingly undefeatable assassin in black, and a giant carnivorous plant to succeed. Warner's first novel is a real page-turner; those who love superhero stories will eat it up and not want to put it down.

GRADE 7

Levenkron, Steven

(Non-Fiction)

The Best Little Girl in the World.

After being a model daughter all her life, fifteen-year-old Francesca suddenly begins to starve herself and is diagnosed as suffering from a psychological disorder known as anorexia nervosa. Francesca begins the battle of her life.

Mitchell, Barbara

(Non-Fiction)

The Wizard of Sound: Thomas Edison.

This book chronicles the life and contributions of an inventor, from his sickly childhood to the creation of his own favorite invention, the phonograph.

Murphy, Jim

(Non-Fiction)

The Great Fire.

A vivid account of the catastrophe that decimated much of Chicago in 1871, forcing more than 100,000 people from their homes.

Myers, Walter Dean

(Non-Fiction)

Bad Boy.

Walter Dean Myers richly weaves the detail of his Harlem childhood in the 1940's and 1950's, the values he had been taught at home, in school, and his community seemed worthless, and he turned to the streets.

Freedman, Russell

(Non- Fiction)

Immigrant Kids.

What would your life be like if your family came to America 100 years ago? America meant freedom to the immigrants of the early 1900's, but a freedom very different from what they expected. The cities were crowded. Jobs were scarce. Children had to work selling newspapers, delivering goods, and laboring in sweatshops.

Armstrong, Jennifer

(Non- Fiction)

Shipwreck At The Bottom Of The World : The Extraordinary True Story Of Shackleton And The Endurance

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey to reach inhabited land.

GRADE 8

Alcott, Louisa May
Little Women

(Classic Fiction)

The four March girls live with their mother “Marmee” while their father is away in the Civil War. Despite having little money, the girls keep their spirits up with writing, gardening, and putting on their plays. The girls deal with Meg's first romance, Beth's life-threatening illness, and fears for their father's safety.

Don't think it's just a book for teenage girls, either -- adults and boys can appreciate it as well. There's something for everyone: drama, romance, humor, sad and happy endings alike.

Austen, Jane
Pride And Prejudice

(Classic Fiction)

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the courtship of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.

Bronte, Charlotte
Jane Eyre

(Classic Fiction)

A young governess who suffered a violently abusive childhood finds love unexpectedly with her new employer, but secrets from his past--involving madness and old passions--may prove to destroy her happiness.

Defoe, Daniel
Robinson Crusoe

(Classic Fiction)

Drawn on the real-life adventures of Alexander Selkirk it is based on fact, and as a result, is a valuable manual on survival. As the sole survivor of a shipwreck, an Englishman lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.

Dickens, Charles
A Tale Of Two Cities

(Classic Fiction)

A member of the French aristocracy, Charles Darnay, and an English lawyer, Sydney Carton, fall in love with the same woman, Lucy Manette, who marries Darnay, but Carton sacrifices himself when Lucy's happiness is threatened by the inevitable execution of Darnay during the French Revolution.

Dumas, Alexandre
The Count of Monte Cristo

(Classic Fiction)

After escaping from the island fortress where he has been imprisoned for treason, young sailor Edmund Dantes sets out to discover the treasure of Monte Cristo and seek revenge against the people who falsely accused him.

GRADE 8

Hugo, Victor

(Classic Fiction)

The Hunchback Of Notre-Dame

In fifteenth-century Paris, a disfigured man named Quasimodo, who was abandoned as an infant in the cathedral of Notre-Dame and now lives in its bell tower, must come to the aid of a beautiful gypsy girl named Esmeralda after she repels the advances of the cruel archdeacon Don Claude Frollo.

Stevenson, Robert Louis

(Classic Fiction)

Kidnapped.

David Balfour has never had an adventure. He has never fought in a battle. In fact David Balfour has never even left home. All he knows is a quiet country life. All this changes after the death of his parents. He suddenly learns that he, David Balfour, is a man of wealth and standing. All he needs to do to assume this new station in life is to travel to the town of Cramond, Scotland, to collect his inheritance from his father's younger brother, an uncle he had not even known existed. But David soon discovers that this is not as simple as it sounds, as he struggles to survive and outwit his treacherous uncle in this classic adventure story.

Twain, Mark

(Classic Fiction)

The Adventures Of Huckleberry Finn

Huck Finn, the son of the town drunk, and Jim, an escaped slave, make a break for freedom down the vast Mississippi River on a raft.

Twain, Mark

(Classic Fiction)

The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer

Mark Twain's classic novel about the adventures of a mischievous young boy and his friends growing up in a Mississippi River town during the mid-nineteenth century.

Verne, Jules

(Classic Fiction)

20,000 Leagues Under The Sea

Jules Verne's classic nineteenth-century science-fiction tale about a French professor and his companions who are trapped aboard a futuristic submarine with a mad sea captain and come face to face with exotic ocean creatures and strange sights hidden from the world above.

GRADE 8

Alexie, Sherman

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Absolutely True Diary Of A Part-Time Indian

Exploring Indian identity, both self and tribal this chronicle is about Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian.. The bright 14-year-old was born with water on the brain, is regularly the target of bullies, and loves to draw. He says, "I think the world is a series of broken dams and floods, and my cartoons are tiny little lifeboats." He expects disaster when he transfers from the reservation school to the rich, white school in Reardan, but soon finds himself making friends with both geeky and popular students and starting on the basketball team. Junior grapples with questions about what constitutes one's community, identity, and tribe.

Brashares, Ann

(Contemporary Fiction)

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants.

Best friends Lena, Tibby, Bridget, and Carmen are preparing to spend their first summer apart since they were born. Before leaving to visit her father, Carmen buys a pair of second-hand jeans that the girls discover fit all of them. They create a "sisterhood of the traveling pants." Each teen gets them for a few weeks before sending them on, linking the friends even though they are apart.

Collins, Suzanne

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Hunger Games

In a not-too-distant future, the United States of America has collapsed, weakened by drought, fire, famine, and war, to be replaced by Panem, a country divided into the Capitol and 12 districts. Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games. Part entertainment, part brutal intimidation of the subjugated districts, the televised games are broadcasted throughout Panem as the 14 participants are forced to eliminate their competitors, literally, with all citizens required to watch.

Gaiman, Neil

(Contemporary Fiction)

*The Graveyard Book ***

While a highly motivated killer murders his family, a baby, ignorant of the horrific goings-on but bent on independence, pulls himself out of his crib and toddles out of the house and into the night, . . . the orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

Mah, Adeline

(Contemporary Fiction)

Chinese Cinderella.

After her mother dies giving birth to her, Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck. Life becomes even harder when her father remarries. Adeline and her siblings are subjected to their stepmother's disdain, while her half-brother and half-sister are thoroughly spoiled. Although she wins prizes in school, she yearns for her family's love and understanding. This story gives an authentic portrait of ultimate triumph over despair.

GRADE 8

Miller, Kirsten

(Contemporary Fiction)

Kiki Strike : Inside The Shadow City

Ananka Fishbein, a seventh grader at an expensive New York City school, likens her life to "flavorless mush." But when she wakes up one Saturday morning and finds that the small park across the street has become a sinkhole, her decision to explore it transforms her existence. She meets the mysterious Kiki Strike, and subsequently the group of girls (each with a particular talent) who call themselves the Irregulars, and they embark on an adventure that involves exploring the Shadow City, a series of tunnels under Manhattan.

Myers, Walter Dean

(Contemporary Fiction)

Monster.

Steve Harmon is sixteen years old and on trial for murder. Did he serve as a lookout in a drugstore robbery in which the owner was killed? Or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Napoli, Donna Jo

(Contemporary Fiction)

North.

Think about how cold it gets in the winter in places like Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Multiply that cold by two or three, add in a few polar bears, and you might start to get an idea of what Alvin is facing as he travels from Washington, D.C. towards Baffin Island in Canada. His goal is to follow the trail of his hero, African-American Arctic explorer Matthew Henson.

Peck, Richard

(Contemporary Fiction)

*A Long Way From Chicago**

Set in the 1930s, the book follows Joe and Mary Alice Dowdel as they make their annual August trek to visit their grandmother who lives in a sleepy Illinois town. A woman with plenty of moxie, . . . Grandma Dowdel uses her wit and ability to tell whoppers to get the best of manipulative people or those who put on airs.. [S]he never ceases to amaze her grandchildren with her gall and cunning behavior. Each chapter is a fully realized short story.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth

(Contemporary Fiction)

Life As We Knew It

When an asteroid collides with the moon, causing natural disasters tidal waves, volcanoes, earthquakes and climate changes on Earth, life as 16-year-old Miranda knows it will never be the same. Suddenly, things she has taken for granted electricity, news from the outside world and three square meals a day are a thing of the past. The story unfolds through Miranda's journal entries, from May, when the asteroid strikes, to the following March. Though the entries paint a grim picture . . . "I write stuff down in here and I don't read it. Things are bad enough without having to remind myself of just how bad things are," she explains, her words also evoke a strain of hope which proves to be her most essential survival tool.

GRADE 8

Stroud, Jonathan

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Amulet of Samarkand: volume one of The Bartimaeus Trilogy

Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand. Stroud has created a compelling fantasy story in a well-realized world, but it is the complementary characters of Bartimaeus and Nathaniel that will keep readers coming back for the rest of the trilogy.

Woodson, Jacqueline

(Contemporary Fiction)

After Tupac & D Foster *

Neeka and the narrator have lived on the same block forever and are like sisters, but foster child D shows up during the summer of 1994, while she is out "roaming." D immediately finds a place in the heart of the other girls, and the "Three the Hard Way" bond over their love of Tupac's music. It seems especially relevant to D, who sees truth in his lyrics, having experienced the hard life herself in group homes and with multiple foster families. In this urban setting, there are, refreshingly, caring adults and children playing on the street instead of drug dealers on every corner. Readers are right on the block with bossy mothers, rope-jumping girls, and chess-playing elders.

Yang, Gene Luen

(Contemporary Fiction)

AmericanBorn Chinese (Graphic Novel- uses artwork panels to tell a full-length story.)

In a series of three linked tales, the central characters are introduced: Jin Wang, a teen who meets with ridicule and social isolation when his family moves from San Francisco's Chinatown to an exclusively white suburb; Danny, a popular blond, blue-eyed high school jock whose social status is jeopardized when his goofy, embarrassing Chinese cousin, Chin-Kee, enrolls at his high school; and the Monkey King who, unsatisfied with his current sovereign, desperately longs to be elevated to the status of a god. Their stories converge into a satisfying coming-of-age novel that aptly blends traditional Chinese fables and legends with bathroom humor, action figures, and playground politics.

Yolen, Jane

(Contemporary Fiction)

Briar Rose.

Jane Yolen takes the story of Briar Rose, Sleeping Beauty, and links it to the Holocaust. Rebecca Berlin has grown up hearing her grandmother Gemma tell an unusual and frightening version of the Sleeping Beauty legend. After Gemma's death, she realizes that the fairy tale offers a clue to her grandmother's past. To discover the facts behind Gemma's story, Rebecca travels to Poland, the setting for the book's most engrossing scenes.

Zusak, Markus

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Book Thief

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, as well as their neighbors. Death hates to admit it, but there are some human stories that distract him, and the book thief's story is one of these.

GRADE 8

Beals, Melba Patillo
Warriors Don't Cry.

(Non-Fiction)

In 1954 the landmark Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* desegregated schools. Three years later, Melba Patillo turned 16 and was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock's Central High School. This is her fascinating story.

Blackwood, Gary L
The Great Race :The Amazing Round-the-World Auto Race of 1908

(Non-Fiction)

The automobile had only been around for two decades and was seen as no more than "an ingenious toy" when, in 1908, the French paper *Le Matin* and the *New York Times* co-sponsored a New York-to-Paris auto race, which spanned the entire globe. The cars had several gas tanks, got seven or eight miles per gallon, had up to 60 horsepower and achieved reckless speeds of 40 to 50 miles per hour. Readers will share drivers' frustrations with snow, mud, robbers and constant mechanical problems.

Budhos, Marina Tamar
Remix: Conversations with Immigrant Teenagers.

(Non-Fiction)

This book presents profiles of fourteen teenagers from countries around the world, revealing their struggles to fit into American society and their personal triumphs.

Carson, Ben
Gifted Hands.

(Non-Fiction)

This book tells the true story of Ben Carson, one of the most celebrated neurosurgeons in the world. Dr. Carson describes his journey from a youth growing up in inner-city Detroit to become the director of pediatric neurosurgery, at age 33, at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Fleischman, John
Phineas Gage : A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science

(Non-Fiction)

The fascinating story of the construction foreman who survived for 10 years after a 13-pound iron rod shot through his brain. His three-foot-long, spearlike tamping iron, accidentally igniting the blasting powder, shot thirty feet into the air after first passing through his head. Miraculously, Gage was able to walk around, talk lucidly about the accident, and even joke with his horrified doctor. Later, it became clear that his personality and ability to make sound judgments had been drastically changed. Gage became the central figure in a medical debate between two factions of scientists that lasted long after his death eleven years later. [The author] shows how Gage's misfortune actually played an intriguing and important role in the development of our knowledge of the brain.

GRADE 8

Hayden, Torey
One Child.

(Non- Fiction)

Everyone thought six-year old Sheila was beyond salvation when she committed an act of horrific violence against another child and was placed in a class for severely retarded children. Abandoned by her mother on a highway when she was four, and the victim of horrible abuse, Sheila never spoke, never cried. Only her teacher, Torey Hayden, saw the spark of genius, hidden in her silence, and fought long and hard to release her from her solitary nightmare.

Houston, Jeanne & James Houston
Farewell to Manzanar.

(Non-Fiction)

Seen through the eyes of a child, this is the true story of a Japanese-American family's four years at Manzanar internment camp during WW II. Told without bitterness, it reflects the triumph of the human spirit.

Silvey, Anita

(Non-Fiction)

I'll Pass For Your Comrade : Women Soldiers In The Civil War

[The] stories of women, some of whom joined the military, both Union and Confederate, to follow their husbands or sweethearts, and others who were passionate about the cause and wanted to defend their homeland. Still others wanted adventure or wished to escape from poverty. Jennie Hodgers served for three years as a member of an Illinois infantry unit and continued to live as a man for the next 40 years. Her true identify was not discovered until her death in 1911; nonetheless she was buried with full military honors. These intriguing stories [are]told in this well-researched book. Another highlight of the book is the use of archival photographs and reproductions.

Strathern, Paul

(Non-Fiction)

Curie and Radioactivity.

The life of a young Polish woman who raised two daughters as a single mom while earning two Nobel prizes.

Walker, Sally M.

(Non-Fiction)

Secrets Of A Civil War Submarine : Solving The Mysteries Of The H.L. Hunley

Tells the story of the "H. L. Hunley," the Confederate submarine that in 1864 became the first to ever sink an enemy ship but lay missing on the ocean floor for more than a century, describing its creation, its discovery, skeletons and objects found onboard, and facial reconstructions of several crew members by forensic anthropologists.

SUMMER READING OUTLINE

This outline will be used in your ELA class when you return to school this fall to support a variety of projects. For example in 6th or 7th grade you might submit a book review. In 8th grade your book might generate projects as varied as a poster, a coat of arms, or a diorama, depending on your respective teacher. This outline is only a guide and you are not expected to fit all your notes on just one page. Please be sure and note the important information listed below:

Title:

Author:

Date of publication:

Brief description of main characters:

Most important minor characters and why they are important:

Major conflicts:

Setting and its importance to the story:

Most memorable scenes:

Theme(s) - the author's message or purpose in writing this book:

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