

**HIGHLAND SCHOOL  
2011 SUMMER READING  
RISING FIFTH GRADE**

**Guidelines:**

Students should read two (2) books from the list below. On the first day of school, students will answer one question about each book. [See below for sample questions/prompts.] Students may brainstorm responses to the questions during the summer and/or write summaries to help them review material, but may not bring notes to class. Summer reading will count for one (1) quiz grade for the first semester.

**Rising 5th graders must read 2 books this summer as outlined below.**

**Book 1: Required –**

*Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson

**Choice Books – Choose one**

*The BFG* by Roald Dahl

*Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Curtis

*City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau

*Cracker, the Best Dog in Vietnam* by Cynthia Kadohata

*From the Mixed Up Files of Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg

*Heat* by Mike Lupica

*The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynn Reid Banks

*Inkspell* by Cornelia Funke

*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos

*Lunch Money* by Andrew Clements

*On the Field With...Derek Jeter* by Matt Christopher

*The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall

*Rules* by Cynthia Lord

*Shakespeare Stealer* by Gary L. Blackwood

*Shiloh Season* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

**Possible Questions/Writing Prompts:**

- Describe the main character's strengths and weaknesses. Give specific examples.
- What is the main character's major struggle or conflict in the book? How does he/she overcome it?
- Describe the setting of the story. How does the setting affect the book's plot?
- Compare the main characters in each book. How are they alike? How are they different?

Annotations provided by Follett Destiny.

*Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson. The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

*The BFG* by Roald Dahl. Kidnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.

*Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Curtis. Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

*The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. In *The City of Ember*, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

*Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam* by Cynthia Kadohata. A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog.

*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg. Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

*Heat* by Mike Lupica. Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

*The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynn Reid Banks. A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.

*Inkspell* by Cornelia Funke. When Dustfinger finds a crooked storyteller who can read him back to Inkscape, he leaves his apprentice Farid behind; but Farid seeks out Meggie and the two follow him back into the enchanted book.

*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos. To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

*Lunch Money* by Andrew Clements. Twelve year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

*On the Field With... Derek Jeter* by Matt Christopher. This book discusses the personal life and baseball career of the young man from Michigan who achieved his dream to play shortstop for the New York Yankees.

*The Penderwicks. A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall. While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

*Rules* by Cynthia Lord. Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence, but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

*The Shakespeare Stealer* by Gary L. Blackwood. A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

*Shiloh Season* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. When mean and angry Judd, who has never known kindness, takes to drinking and mistreats his dogs, Marty discovers how deep a hurt can go and how long it takes to heal.