

SUMMER READING - 2019

Highland Middle School

During the summer of 2019, Highland students are **required** to read two books. Both books will be chosen by the students, with one of the books needing to be non-fiction.

The summer reading books should:

- a. not be read previously;
- b. not be a Language Arts selection - see list below;
- c. contain theme and content appropriate for the student's age level;
- d. be a quality selection (see below);
- e. be able to stand alone (meaning that a student can read the book without an adult present to explain theme or content details).

During the summer months, we want students to read and explore topics of their own interest and genres. By allowing the students to practice choosing books, their identities as readers can grow throughout the summer months. To support these practices, we also invite all students to join the **optional Summer Reading Challenge**. Students may sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge in their advisories at the end of the school year, or by emailing Mrs. Banse, Highland School Librarian at jbanse@highlandschool.org.

Quality in Selected Books:

The books students select for their summer reading should be quality works of young adult or children's literature. By quality, we mean that these books should reflect a certain level of descriptive or figurative language and be driven not just by plot, but by character development and thematic depth. We are looking for works that are of substantial length and contain situations, conflicts, and characters that spark discussion and intrigue. Example: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* does not fit this description while, *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen does. If students or parents have any questions, then they should please ask their Language Arts teacher or Mrs. Banse.

Students may not select books that will be read in middle school during the academic year. In addition, they cannot read required books from a previous year. For instance, eighth graders cannot read *The Outsiders* for a summer reading book. Books students will read in class include:

5th

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Holes by Louis Sachar

6th

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

The Giver by Lois Lowry

7th

In 7th grade this year we are moving to a book club format to provide more student choice in what they read. The students will choose and purchase a book in an area of interest to read with a small group so they may choose any books for their summer reading.

8th

Much Ado About Nothing

Here is a list of suggested summer reading books by Genre, Grade Level and Faculty recommendation. Please allow your child to choose for themselves. The following titles meet our “quality” criteria.

Realistic Fiction:

Counting by 7's by Holly Goldberg Sloan Mrs. Banse
House Arrest by K.A. Holt, 5-8, Mr. Ormiston
Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, 5-8, Mr. Ormiston
The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin, 5-8, Mr. Ormiston
Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar, 5-8, Mrs. Banse and Mrs. Deane
Framed by James Ponti, 5-8, Mr. Ormiston
Vanished by James Ponti – 5-8, Mr. Ormiston
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper – 5-8, Mr. Ormiston
Solo, The Crossover or Booked by Kwame Alexander, 5-6
Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine
Ghost (Track Series #1) by Jason Reynolds
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds (8th and up).
Hoot or Flush by Carl Hiaasen, 5-6 Mrs. Banse, Mr. Harris & Dr. Harmon
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park, 5-6
The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall, 5-6
Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms by Katherine Rundell, 6-8, Mrs. Banse and Mrs. Deane
The Truth About Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor (5-8) – Mr. O favorite!!

Fantasy:

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak, grades 7-8, by Mr. O, Dr. Harmon and Mrs. Banse
Cinder (The Lunar Chronicles series by Marissa Meyer) grades 6-8, Mrs. Banse
The Wild Robot by Peter Brown, grades 5-6, Mrs. Banse
The Wild Robot Escapes
The Phantom Tollbooth by Jules Feiffe
The BFG by Roald Dahl, 5-8
The Ranger's Apprentice Series by John Flanagan, 5-8, Mr. Ormiston, Dr. Harmon and Mr. Harris
Lockwood & Co Series by Jonathan Stroud, 5-8, Mr. Ormiston, Mr. Harris, and Mrs. Deane
Magisterium Series by Holly Black
Magnus Chase (or any series) by Rick Riordan
Eragon Series by Christopher Paolini, 5-8, Mr. Ormiston
The Bartimaeus Trilogy by Jonathan Stroud 5-8, Mr. Ormiston
Blackthorn Key Adventures by Kevin Sands: 5-8, Mr. Ormiston, Mrs. Deane and Mrs. Banse
The Blackstone Key Dr. Harmon, Mrs. Deane
The Mark of the Plague by Jennifer Nielson
The Assassin's Curse
The Raven Cycle series by Maggie Stiefvater
 The Raven Boys Dr. Harmon
 The Dream Thieves

Blue Lily, Lily Blue The Raven King
Dustlands Series by Moira Young (Post-Apocalyptic Fiction) Mrs. Deane
Blood Red Road
Rebel Heart
Raging Star
The Unwanteds Series by Lisa McCann, 5-8, Mrs. Banse
Gemma Doyle Trilogy by Libba Bray, Mrs. Deane
Sweet Far Thing
Rebel Angels
A Great and Terrible Beauty
The Midnighters Series by Scott Westerfeld, Mrs. Deane
Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi 7-8 Mr. Harris

Historical Fiction:

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk, 5-8, Mrs. Banse
The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara, 7-8, Dr. Harmon
The Button War: A Tale of the Great War by Avi
Suspect Red by L. M. Elliot
The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani
The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley Mr. Harris, Mrs. Deane
The War I Finally Won by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis Mr. Harris
The Watsons go to Birmingham: 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis Mr. Ormiston
Stella by Starlight by Sharon Draper
A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielson
Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson Dr. Harmon
Escape from Warsaw by Ian Serraillier, Mrs. Deane
Once by Morris Gleitzman

Non-Fiction:

Band of Brothers by Stephen Ambrose, 7-8, Dr. Harmon
The Longest Winter by Alex Kershaw, 7-8, Dr. Harmon
Dead Wake or In the Garden of Beasts by Eric Lawson Dr. Harmon
Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Sheinken, 6-8
Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac
Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation), 6-8 by Daniel James Brown, Mrs. Banse & Dr. Harmon
Maya Lin: Thinking with Hands by Susan Goldman Rubin
The United States v. Jackie Robinson by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science
The Diary of A Young Girl by Anne Frank
The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler by John Hendrix
Unbroken (Young Readers Adaptation), 6-8 by Laura Hillebrand, Mrs. Banse, Mr. Harris, & Dr. Harmon
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. Mrs. Banse
Charles Dickens and the Street Children of London by Andrea Warren

Chasing King's Killer by James L. Swanson

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet below the Chilean Desert by Marc Aronson

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March by Linda Blackmon Lowery

Worst of Friends: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and the True Story of An American Feud by Suzanne Jermain

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Young Reader's Edition by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer 5th - 6th grade

Two Truths and A Lie by Ammi-Joan Paquette and Laurie Ann Thompson , 5th grade

Swimming with Sharks: The Daring Discoveries Of Eugenie Clark by Heather Lang, 5th grade

Untamed: the Wild Life of Jane Goodall by Anita Silvey, 5th grade

Graphic Novels:

March series by John Lewis, Mrs. Banse, grades 7-8

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson Mrs. Banse grades, 5-6

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang, Ms. Glumic grades 6-8

Awkward or Brave by Svetlana Chmakova

Adventure/Mystery

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

The Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings Dr. Harmon

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Smith Mrs. Banse Mr. Ormiston

The Great Wide Sea by M.H. Herlong Dr. Harmon

Peak Series by Roland Smith

Alabama Moon by Watt Key

Deep Water by Watt Key

It Wasn't Me by Dana Alison Levy

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

Assessment:

During the summer, students will read their books and respond to the questions. It is strongly recommended that students do the written part of the summer reading as soon as the book is read. Oftentimes, students read the books early in the summer and have forgotten important details by the start of school. Students are also encouraged to highlight and annotate their summer reading books as they read. This is a skill that is used in the 7th and 8th grades and summer reading is a good time to practice. Students can highlight words or passages that they find important, and write in the margins of the book to show noteworthy information such as a character trait, a turning point in the story, a conflict, an example of irony, etc.