

## Rationale for Summer Reading

In MCPS, summer reading has been an expected practice in middle and high schools since 1998.

Reading is a life-long skill that a person not only needs to succeed as a student and a worker, but is also an essential skill in civic and personal activities. Perhaps even more importantly, reading opens a student's world through various types of literature. By reading, students have the opportunity to learn about people, times, religions, and ideas that may enhance their knowledge and development. Reading can also bring a lifetime of pleasure and mental acuity.

Research strongly suggests that reading, like most skills, improves with practice and decreases when we don't engage in it for even a short time. Therefore, consistent with our commitment to prepare all students for success during school and after graduation, we continue in MCPS to expect all students to read over the summer. \* **Students may take an Accelerated Reading Quiz (AR) when they return to school!**

**PARKLAND MAGNET  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FOR AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY**

## Summer Reading 2009 8th Grade

*What are **you** reading  
this summer?*

**Due Date:  
September 4, 2009**

**PARKLAND MAGNET  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FOR AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY**

4610 West Frankfort Drive  
Rockville, MD 20853

**Any Questions?**  
Call 301-438—5700 and ask for  
the English Resource Teacher,  
Ms. Barte-Lowe.



## Recommended Reading

Each year since 1992, the Black-Eyed Susan Book Award has been given in several categories. The purpose of this award is to promote literacy and lifelong reading habits by encouraging students to read quality, contemporary literature. The books selected to be placed on lists for each category are expected to broaden the human experience and provide accurate, factual information. The Black-Eyed Susan Book Award honors outstanding books, chosen annually by Maryland students. Committees of school library media specialists and other interested persons meet over the course of a year to determine which books will go on the lists. Here are the Black-Eyed Susan nominated books for 2008-2009 for grades 6-9:

Author	Title
Auch, M.J.	<i>One-Handed Catch</i>
Carter, Ally	<i>I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You</i>
Key, Watt	<i>Alabama Moon</i>
Kostick, Conor	<i>Epic</i>
Lord, Cynthia	<i>Rules</i>
Pfeffer, Susan Beth	<i>Life As We Knew It</i>
Salisbury, Graham	<i>Night of the Howling Dogs</i>
Shafer, Audrey	<i>The Mailbox</i>
Smith, Roland	<i>Peak</i>
Wells, Rosemary	<i>Red Moon at Sharpsburg</i>

We also recommend the following fiction authors:

\* Highly recommended by male students

Avi*	Gantos, Jack*	Naylor, Phyllis
Alexander, Lloyd*	Hadiix, Margaret*	Oppel, Kenneth
Armstrong, William	Hamilton, Virginia	Osborne, Mary P
Banks, Lynne Reid	Hesse, Karen	Philbrick, Rodman
Braun, Lillian Jackson	Hobbs, Will*	Pierce, Tamora
Bunting, Eve*	Hoffius, Stephen	Pinkwater, D.M.*
Carson-Hollander, Gail	Hughes, Dean	Roberts, Willio Davis
Choi, Sook Nyl	Konigsburg, E.L.	Rowling, J.K. *
Cisneros, Sandra	Korman, Gordon*	Schwartz, Alvin*
Cleary, Beverly	Kropp, Paul*	Scieszka, Jonathan*
Colfer, Eion*	Lasky, Kathryn	Scringer, Richard*
Cooney, Caroline*	Lee, Tanith	Snicket, Lemony
Creech, Sharon	L'Engle, Madeleine	Soto, Gary
Danzinger, Paula	Lewis, C.S.	Taylor, Mildred
DeFelice, Cynthia	Lisle, Janet	Uchida, Yoshiko
Dorris, Michael	MacHale, D.J.*	Vande Velde, Vivian*
Doyle, Brian	MacGregor, Roy	Temple, Frances
Duncan, Lois	Mazer, Harry*	Voight, Cynthia
Dyngard, Thomas	McCaffrey, Anne	Walters, Eric
Fenner, Carol	McKinley, Robin	Woodson, Jacqueline
Fleishman, Sid*	McKissack, Patricia	Yolen, Jane
Funk, Cornelia*	Myers, Walter Dean*	Zindel, Paul*

## Your Assignment

Students at Parkland Magnet Middle School are expected to read at least 3 books this summer. **In your English class during the first two weeks of school, you will be asked to give a book talk on one of the books that you read.** This will count in the



Homework/Practice category which makes up 10% of your grade. \*Due: 09/04/09

### What's a book talk?

A book talk is like a movie trailer or TV commercial. The purpose of a book talk is to "sell" the book or persuade others to read it.

### What do I say during a book talk?

- Highlight a few interesting points of details of the book.
- Answer questions like: What might the audience (your classmates) want to know about this book? Who would like this kind of book? What big event or important information caught my attention?
- Be sure to give enough of the plot or information to interest the listeners, but don't just give a summary of the book.
- Don't give away the most important parts of the book. *Never give away the ending!*
- Read a quote or short passage to your listeners.
- Tell some delicious detail. The main purpose of a book talk is to grab the audience's interest and make them want to read the book.
- End your book talk with a cliffhanger or a question.

### Here's an example of a fantastic book talk for the book **Hoot**:

Roy Eberhardt doesn't give a "hoot" about living in his new home state of Florida. His family moves often, so he's used to being the new kid in school. But this time is different. He misses his last home in Montana and isn't interested in anything in Florida until he sees "the boy at the school bus stop." The boy that catches Roy's attention is just a typical boy about his own age. What's different about him is that he's running away from the school bus instead of toward it. Plus, the boy has no books, no backpack, and even no shoes.

Roy is intrigued by the mystery surrounding the boy, so he starts to follow him. In his chase to find out about the secretive stranger, Roy encounters poisonous snakes with sparkles on their tails, alligators in toilets, a girl who bites a hole in his bicycle tire, burrowing owls, and trouble with the police. Will Roy ever find out who the mysterious boy is and what he's up to? Does Roy ever learn to enjoy living in Florida? Find out by reading the novel **Hoot** by Carl Hiaasen.

(Carolyn Davis, DCDAVIS1@homeexpressway.net, Sedgefield Intermediate Media Specialist, Berkeley County)

## How will my Book Talk be graded?

### Book Talk Rubric

Criteria	Quality		
<i>Did I get my audience's attention?</i>	Creative Beginning	Boring Beginning	No beginning
<i>Did I tell what kind of</i>	Tells exactly what type	Not sure, not clear	Didn't mention it
<i>Did I tell something about the main character or important point?</i>	Included details about character or facts about the important point	Slid over facts & details	Did not tell anything about facts & details
<i>Did I read a quote or two?</i>	Read a few great sentences from the book	Retold the book with vague descriptions	Didn't mention any quotes
<i>Did I tell a few interesting parts?</i>	Made it sound interesting—I want to	Told part and skipped on to something else	Forgot to do it
<i>Did I tell who might like this book?</i>	Did tell	Vaguely mentioned it	Forgot to tell
<i>How did I look?</i>	Made eye contact, faced the audience	Looked up at audience once	Head down, faced away from audience
<i>How did I sound?</i>	Clear, strong voice	No expression in voice	Difficult to understand, soft voice

### How should I plan my talk?

We recommend that while you are reading and when you are finished with your book, you take some notes remembering to include the following information:

1. Supporting information about main characters/important points
2. Two or three interesting points or events to highlight
3. Quote or short passage to read to your listeners
4. Question or cliffhanger to end your talk

It's a good idea to write out your book talk so you can practice at home before you present to the class. You can write in paragraph form like the example on the left or you can use note cards.

### Where can I go for help?

If you are having trouble choosing an appropriate book, we encourage you to bring this brochure to your neighborhood public library and ask the librarian for help. It's important that you choose a book that's just right for you. If you begin reading and you find that there are more than four or five words on the page that you can't pronounce or you don't know the meaning of, it may be a good idea to choose another book.

### Do I only have to read fiction?

No. Since our magnet focus is Aerospace, we understand that many of our students have interest in non-fiction too. We recommend the following topics and famous names:

#### World Studies

Citizenship  
American Revolution  
Slavery  
Civil War

#### Science

Earthquakes  
Volcanoes  
Heredit

#### Biography

Social Reformers  
Explorers  
Philosophers