



Briggs Chaney Middle School  
June 2016

Dear Briggs Chaney Bear,

We look forward to seeing you in our classes next school year. In order for you to maintain and strengthen your basic language skills, we urge you to read and write as much as you can during your months away from school.

In Montgomery County Public Schools, Summer Reading has been an expected practice in middle and high schools and an encouraged practice in elementary schools since 1998. The ability to read is crucial to an individual's success in school and on the job. Reading is a life-long skill that a person needs to succeed not only as a student but also as a worker and a citizen. Perhaps even more importantly, reading opens the world to a person through periodicals, textbooks, and literature. By reading, individuals have the opportunity to learn about people, times, regions, and ideas that they may never actually encounter in life. Reading can also bring a lifetime of pleasure and mental fitness.

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 during the summer.

For you to be better prepared for English, read at least one book of your choosing. This book must be at an appropriate reading level and contain at least 100 pages. We suggest you consider the list of books included with this letter and select titles that you have not previously read. Visiting your library and discussing your choice(s) with the librarian is another method to use in your search for appropriate books to read. Also, bookstores give you the opportunity to examine many books and to locate those that interest you.

As you read the novel, write down notes about the setting (where and when the story takes place), the characters (describe the characters' appearance and actions), and the plot (the problem, the main events, and the resolution to the problem). Use your notes to **complete the attached assignment**. Making connections is an important reading strategy. Be sure to note connections you have made with the major characters or situations/events that take place in each book. You will want to record related quotations or short passages from the texts to support your connections. Take enough notes so that you will remember your book in August. If you read any other books, keep a list of the titles and authors. **The notes sheet is a homework assignment worth 10 points.**

Remember to find some good summer reading and enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

The Literacy Department

*Below are some titles for you to consider as you choose your summer reading. Remember to choose a book of an appropriate reading level. Check out your local library for more suggestions and help!*

#### Sixth Grade Favorites

*Golden Fleece*  
*Hidden Talents*  
*Finding Buck McHenry*  
*Fires of Merlin*  
*Silverwing*  
*The Hunger Games (any of the series)*  
*Wrinkle in Time*  
*Going Home*  
*My Side of the Mountain*  
*The Sunita Experiment*  
*The Not-So-Star-Spangled Life of Sunita*  
*Journey to Jo'burg*  
*The 18<sup>th</sup> Emergency*  
*The Winter Room*  
*Touching Spirit Bear*  
*Tears of a Tiger*  
*Percy Jackson (any of the series)*  
*Tuck Everlasting*

#### Seventh Grade Favorites

*Freak the Mighty*  
*House of the Scorpion*  
*The Name of the Game is Murder*  
*Tears of a Tiger*  
*Raptor*  
*Bottled Up*  
*Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor*  
*Caught!*  
*Crossing the Divide*  
*Deep Water*  
*Digital Fortress*  
*Edge of Disaster*  
*Ender's Game (any of the series)*  
*Dragon's Gate*  
*The Hunger Games (any of the series)*  
*Dark Tide*  
*Divergent (any of the series)*

#### Eighth Grade Favorites

*The Hunger Games (any of the series)*  
*Harriet Tubman*  
*Jane Eyre*  
*Johnny Tremain*  
*King of the Shadows*  
*Let the Circle Be Unbroken*  
*Light in the Forest*  
*My Brother Sam is Dead*  
*Raptor*  
*Beauty*  
*Beautiful Creatures*  
*Between a Rock and a Hard Place*  
*Dacey's Song*  
*Digital Fortress*  
*Edge of Disaster*  
*Ender's Game (any of the series)*  
*Dark Tide*  
*Divergent (any of the series)*  
*Dragonwings*  
*Zen and the Art of Faking It*  
*Daphne's Book*

### **Books you may NOT read for your summer reading assignment**

**The Giver**  
**The Outsiders**  
**Diary of Anne Frank**  
**The Contender**  
**Tom Sawyer**  
**Warriors Don't Cry**  
**Daniel's Story**  
**Animal Farm**  
**Gifted Hands**  
**The Hobbit**  
**The Great Gilly Hopkins**  
**Call of the Wild**  
**Maniac Magee**  
**A Mango Shaped Space**  
**Miracle's Boys**  
**Hatchet**

**I Heard the Owl Call My Name**  
**Canyons**  
**The Bridge to Terabithia**  
**The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle**  
**The Cay**  
**The Midwife's Apprentice**  
**Chinese Cinderella**  
**Cuba 15**  
**Twelve Angry Men**  
**Out of the Dust**  
**Ruby Holler**  
**The Pearl**  
**Anything but Typical**  
**The Ear, The Eye, & The Arm**  
**Narrative of ... Frederick Douglass**

The following are sources for reading lists with recommended titles for grades K-12.

- American Library Association Children and Young Adults Book Awards
- Black Eyed Susan Award Winners
- MCPL Summer Reading
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summertime Favorites
- Pulitzer Prize winners
- Booker Prize winners



## **Summer Reading Assignment**

**DUE: September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Deadline: September 9<sup>th</sup>**

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

Complete the questions about your book. Be sure to complete each section thoroughly and neatly. Be sure to have your parent sign the bottom of this sheet.

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

Genre: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting (time and place): \_\_\_\_\_

In a well-developed paragraph, describe a character trait of one of the characters from your novel. Use information from the text to support your answer.

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In a well-developed paragraph, describe how the setting of the novel affects the plot of the story. Use information from the text to support your answer.

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Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?

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