

June 2009

Grade 8 Reading List

Students should read books they have not previously read, books that are on an appropriate reading level, and books that have parental approval.

- Redwall* – Brian Jacques
- 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* – Jules Verne
- Thunder Rolling in the Mountains* – Scott & Elizabeth O'Dell
- The Girl Who Owned a City* – O. T. Nelson
- Jurassic Park* – Michael Crichton
- My Brother Sam is Dead* – James & Christopher Collier
- Thief of Hearts* – Lawrence Yep
- Feed* by M.T. Anderson
- The Chocolate War* – Robert Cormier
- Boy: Titles of Childhood* – Roald Dahl
- When I Was Puerto Rican* -- Esmeralda Santiago
- Stargirl* – Jerry Spinelli
- So B. It* – Sarah Weeks
- Touching Spirit Bear* – Ben Mikaelson
- Speak* – Laurie Halse Anderson
- Fever 1793* – Laurie Halse Anderson
- The Skin I'm In* – Sharon Flake

Characters Taking A Stand

<i>Agnes Parker ... Girl in Progress</i> – Kathleen Odell	<i>Loser</i> – Jerry Spinelli
<i>The Bully</i> – Paul Langan	<i>Slam</i> – Walter Dean Myers
<i>Drowning Anna</i> – Sue Mayfield	<i>Stepping on the Cracks</i> – Mary Downing Hahn
<i>Feather Boy</i> – Nicky Singer	<i>Tangerine</i> – Edward Bloor
<i>The Girls</i> – Amy Koss	<i>The Quail Club</i> – Carolyn Marsden

Students who register in late summer or fall will complete the notes on two books by the last school day of September. Students coming from another MCPS school may complete that school's requirements instead. If a student plans to transfer to another MCPS school, contact the new school for information on its summer reading program.

Newport Mill Middle School Summer Reading Program Grade 8

READING: YOUR KEY TO SUCCESS

Program Rationale

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 not only needs to succeed as a student and a worker, but it is also an essential skill in civic and personal activities. Perhaps even more importantly, however, reading opens the world to a person through periodicals, references, essays, 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 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 during the summer.



June 2009

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

In order to maintain and increase students' reading levels, all students entering Newport Mill Middle School next fall are required to complete some reading over the summer. Reading is a fundamental life skill, which helps determine success in school as well as in the workplace.

The reading program for the summer is as follows:

- Students are required to read a minimum of **two books**.
- **One** of the books must be selected from the **Characters Taking A Stand list**.
- The other book may come from the grade level approved list. With parental approval, students may choose to read one book that is not on the list. All students are encouraged to read more than the minimum requirement.

Newport Mill Middle School English Department Requirements:

Students will take notes on the books they read. Notes should include specific details from the novels about the characters, setting, problems faced by the characters, and the theme of the book.

- Students will be evaluated on notes they bring with them in preparation for a Brief Constructed Response (BCR) that will be written in the reading class during the first week of school.
- The notes should cover these possible topics of the BCR:
 1. Title and author of each book.
 2. Select a main character and make notes on how this character has changed throughout the book; what has the character learned about himself or herself?
 3. Discuss the importance of the setting (time and place) and include specific details from the novel.
 4. Discuss the problems the characters face using details from the novel.
 5. Take notes on the theme of the novel and use details to support your answer.
- Each book will have its own set of notes.

- Use the enclosed graphic organizers or recreate the organizer on the computer if you wish to type the information.
- Notes will be turned in to your English teacher the first day of school and will count towards the first marking period grade.

Story Elements Graphic Organizer Criteria/Rubric

4 (97%)	All required elements are filled in completely; main details have enough description for clarity. No or few errors in convention.
3 (85%)	All required elements are filled in completely; main details have some description. Some errors in convention
2 (63%)	Some elements are complete; details are missing. Many errors in convention.
1 (50%)	Elements are incomplete; details are missing. Errors in convention interfere with meaning.

Explanation of Story Elements

Characterization—1) the character's physical description, 2) the character's thoughts, feelings and words, 3) the comments and reactions of other characters, 4) the actions of the character, & 5) the author's opinion of the character.

Setting—the time and place of the action in a story.

Problem—refers to the conflict in the story. There are several types of problems or conflicts that can appear in a story:

Internal - a conflict or problem that the character has within him/herself; an internal struggle (man vs. himself). For instance, if a character is faced with a decision to tell a secret to someone that they have promised not to tell anyone, they may be faced with an internal struggle or conflict.

External - a conflict or problem that the character has with someone or something outside of him/herself (man vs. man, man vs. society, man vs. nature).

Theme—the idea that the writer wishes to reveal about the subject or the point that he/she wants to get across to the reader. It is also the controlling idea or belief as to what is important and unimportant in life. The theme is not usually stated in a work but, rather, must be inferred based on analyzing the work as a whole.