



Briggs Chaney Middle School
June 2019

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 18th 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
Dicey'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**

*Books marked with an * are suggested readings for ELL and Special Education students.*

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
- MCPS Summer Reading
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summertime Favorites
- Pulitzer Prize winners
- Booker Prize winners



Summer Reading Assignment

DUE: September 8th

Deadline: September 12th

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.

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.

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