

Please read three books from this list during the summer. One of the three texts must be the required book listed below for your grade level. You can then choose the other two from this list. In the first few weeks of school, we will discuss and write about these books in English class. As you select your own texts, please note that some books may have mature themes; your parent/guardian is always the best judge of what is appropriate for your independent reading. Enjoy!

Required Summer Text:

Mortenson, Greg *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World* (Young Readers Edition)

This book will be distributed in May during Math Placement. Please read this before the school year begins.

Selected Summer Text List:

Adventure--Fiction

Alexander, Lloyd *The Rope Trick*
Motivated by her quest to learn a legendary rope trick, the magician Princess Lidi and her troupe embark on a journey to locate the elusive and legendary Ferramondo, the only one who knows how the trick is performed.

Allende, Isabel *City of the Beasts*
Fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, and experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians.

Evangelista, Beth *Gifted*
Arrogant, mentally gifted George Clark has dreaded the eighth-grade class camping trip and its inevitable bullying, but a hurricane and a friend's loyalty make him realize what is important in life.

Horvath, Polly *My One Hundred Adventures*
As summer and her 12th birthday approaches Jane prays for 100 new life-changing adventures.

Kipling, Rudyard *Captains Courageous*
Harvey Cheyne, the spoiled fifteen-year-old son of a millionaire, falls from an ocean liner off the coast of Newfoundland in the 1890's. Rescued by the crew of a fishing schooner, he must remain on board and work the season. His experiences and the bonds he forms with the crew change him to a self-reliant young man.

Korman, Gordon *Chasing the Falconers or Swindle*
Aiden and Meg Falconer are on the run after escaping from a juvenile detention center. They must find x in order to prove their parents are not spies. Look for the second, third, and fourth book in this action-packed thriller!

Shahan, Sherry *Death Mountain*
While traveling to visit the mother she has not heard from in almost a year Erin and another teenage girl become lost in the rugged Sierra Nevada mountains and must struggle for six days to survive.

Smith, Roland *Elephant Run*
A read filled with intrigue, danger, and suspense. As bombs fall on London, 14-year-old Nick is sent to Burma to live with his father on their teak plantation. Unforeseen in this plan is the invasion that puts him and the locals under Japanese rule. Escape through the jungle, with the help of a well-respected monk and great-grandfather and Nick's new friend Mya, is the only way out.

Contemporary Life--Fiction

Canales, Viola *The Tequila Worm*
When Sophia, a new scholarship student, is called a "taco head" by a student at her school she decides to "kick that girl" by getting better grades and being a better soccer player than her tormentor.

- Calonita, Jen *Sleepaway Girls*
When the exceptionally people-pleasing Sam spends a summer as a counselor-in-training, she learns how to say no and to stand up for herself.
- Cooley, Beth *Shelter*
When Lucy's dad dies and leaves her family in debt they are suddenly faced with leaving their upper-middle-class lifestyle, home, and private schools. Although life is increasingly difficult at the homeless shelter and in the rough neighborhood, Lucy and her brother make new kinds of friends and gain strength from the experience.
- DeFelice, Cynthia *Under the Same Sky*
While trying to earn money for a motorbike, fourteen-year-old Joe Pederson becomes involved with the Mexicans who work on his family's farm and develops a better relationship with his father.
- Fogelin, Adrian *The Sorta Sisters*
In Florida, Anna lives with what she hopes is the last in a long line of foster mothers, and Mica lives with her father on their small boat, and when the two of them begin corresponding, they discover they have a lot in common.
- Logsted, Greg *Alibi Junior High*
After thirteen-year-old Cody and his father, an undercover agent, are nearly killed, Cody moves in with his aunt in Connecticut, where he is helped with his adjustment to public school for the first time and investigating a threat in the nearby woods.
- Lupica, Mike *Miracle on 49th Street*
Twelve-year-old Molly is surprised to learn from her mother that Josh Cameron, a star player with the Boston Celtics and media darling, is her father, and once she gets to know him, Molly comes to realize why her mom kept his identity a secret for so long.
- Mass, Wendy *A Mango-Shaped Space*
Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab *Habibi*
Fourteen-year-old Liyana Abboud, her younger brother, and her parents move from St. Louis to a new home between Jerusalem and the Palestinian village where her father was born--and where Liyana makes friends with an appealing Jewish boy.
- Tashjian, Janet *The Gospel According to Larry*
Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is suddenly receiving national attention.
- Winerip, Michael *Adam Canfield of the Slash*
While serving as co-editors of their school newspaper, middle-schoolers Adam and Jennifer uncover fraud and corruption in their school and in the city's government.
- Wolff, Virginia Euwer *The Mozart Season*
Allegra spends her twelfth summer practicing a Mozart concerto for a violin competition and finding many significant connections in her world.

Historical Fiction

- Blackwood, Gary *Shakespeare's Scribe*
In plague-ridden 1602 England, a fifteen-year-old orphan boy, who has become an apprentice actor, goes on the road with Shakespeare's troupe, and finds out more about his parents along the way.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul *Bud, Not Buddy*
Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.
- Cushing, Karen *Matilda Bone*
Fourteen-year-old Matilda, an apprentice bonesetter and practitioner of medicine in a village in medieval England, tries to reconcile the various aspects of her life, both spiritual and practical.
- Hopkinson, Deborah *Into the Firestorm: a Novel of San Francisco, 1908*
Days after arriving in San Francisco from Texas, eleven-year-old orphan Nicholas Dray tries to help his new neighbors survive the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and the subsequent fires.
- Ibbottson, Eva *The Dragonfly Pool*
Tally and her friends at Dalderton Boarding School form a dance troupe and travel to Bergania, where she befriends Karil, the crown prince, and helps him flee the Nazis after his father is assassinated.

Jiang, Ji Li

Red Scarf Girl: a Memoir of the Cultural Revolution

A highly successful student, Ji-Li's life begins to unravel during the Cultural Revolution when her family wants her to turn down a chance to be trained by the government as a gymnast. Self-centered at first, the effects that propaganda have upon the lives of people she respects - including her own family - expand her concerns beyond her own.

Klages, Ellen

The Green Glass Sea

While her father works on the Manhattan Project, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp, and becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.

Larson, Ellen

Hattie Big Sky

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

Nelson, Peter

Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis

Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.

Ryan, Pam Munoz

Esperanza Rising

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the multiculturalism and the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Salisbury, Graham

Under the Blood Red Sun

Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

Mystery—Fiction

Balliett, Blue

The Calder Game

When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him.

Bosch, Pseudonymous

The Name of This Book is Secret

Author Bosch tells the story with fake names in Your Hometown, as long as you agree to "forget everything you read as soon as you read it." Then follows a not terribly shocking story wherein two heroic kids uncover a mysterious society whose goal is immortality.

Buzbee, Lewis

Steinbeck's Ghost

Unhappy after his parents move to a weird subdivision and become workaholics, thirteen-year-old Travis returns to his old Salinas neighborhood and becomes actively involved in saving the John Steinbeck Library and, at the same time, begins seeing characters from Steinbeck's books who seem to have a message for him.

Hoeye, Michael

No Time Like Show Tiime: a Hermux Tantamoq Adventure

Watchmaker-mouse Hermux Tantamoq enters the exciting and somewhat shady world of show business to investigate a mysterious blackmailer at the Varmint Theater.

Hoobler, Dorothy & Thms.

The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan. Multicultural.

Konigsburg, E.L.

The Second Mrs. Giaconda

Relates, from the point of view of his servant Salai, how Leonardo da Vinci came to paint the Mona Lisa.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Barry, Dave & Pearson, Ridley ***Peter and the Starcatchers***

This prequel to Peter Pan introduces Molly as an apprentice starcatcher. Molly and Peter form the core of a secret group charged with keeping evildoers from getting starstuff, the magic material that brings happiness, power, and the ability to fly.

Beddor, Frank

The Looking Glass Wars

When she is cast out of Wonderland by her evil aunt Redd, young Alyss Heart finds herself living in Victorian Oxford as Alice Liddell and struggles to keep memories of her kingdom intact until she can return and claim her rightful throne.

Bradbury, Ray

Dandelion Wine

In a small town in 1928, a twelve year-old boy savors the magic of childhood and the wonders of summer.

- Colfer, Eoin *The Supernaturalist*
 In futuristic Satellite City, fourteen-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from an abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures.
- Divakaruni, Chitra *The Conch Bearer*
 Twelve-year-old Anand is entrusted with a conch shell that possesses mystical powers and sets out on a journey to return the shell to its rightful home many hundreds of miles away.
- Dunmore, Helen *Ingo*
 Sapphy and her older brother discover Ingo, the mysterious undersea world of the Mer. As they search for their missing father they discover a hidden ability that enables them to swim powerfully and breathe underwater for hours.
- Flanagan, John *The Ruins of Gorlan (Ranger's Apprentice series)*
 When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.
- Haig, Matt *Samuel Blink and the Forbidden Forest*
 Samuel and Martha move to Norway to live with their Aunt Edna following the death of their parents and are drawn to the attic and the Shadow Forest behind the house in spite of their aunt's warning to stay away from them.
- Hale, Shannon *Book of a Thousand Days*
 Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids.
- Kessler, Liz *The Tail of Emily Windsnap*
 After finally convincing her mother that she should take swimming lessons, twelve-year-old Emily discovers a terrible and wonderful secret about herself that opens up a whole new world.
- Law, Ingrid *Savvy*
 Mibs Beaumont simply cannot wait for her 13th birthday. There's the allure of finally becoming a teenager, of course, but in the Beaumont family, 13 is when family members get "savvy" or unworldly power. For Mibs's older brother Fish, it's control over the elements . . .
- Lewis, C. S. *The Chronicles of Narnia*
 Four children travel repeatedly to a world in which they are far more than mere children and everything is far more than it seems. Richly told, populated with fascinating characters, perfectly realized in detail of world and pacing of plot, and profoundly allegorical, the story is infused throughout with the timeless issues of good and evil, faith and hope. Seven volumes.
- Lowry, Lois *Gathering Blue*
 Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.
- Reisman, Michael *Simon Bloom, the Gravity Keeper*
 Sixth-grader Simon Bloom finds a book that enables him to control the laws of physics; but when two thugs come after him, he needs the formulas in the book to save himself.
- Stewart, Trenton Lee *The Mysterious Benedict Society*
 After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.
- Stroud, Jonathan *The Amulet of Samarkind*
 Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinn Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace.

Other Fiction, Nonfiction, and Biography

- Bolden, Tonya *MLK: The Journey of a King*
 King's life from birth to death, with beautiful photo reproductions and direct quotes, gives young readers a real sense of the greatness of the man, his guiding principles and purpose in life.
- Dash, Joan *A Dangerous Engine: Benjamin Franklin, from Scientist to Diplomat*
 At the time of his famous kite experiment, Benjamin Franklin was unaware that his theories about electricity had already made him a celebrity all over Europe.

- Enzensberger, Hans M. ***The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure***
Annoyed with his math teacher who assigns word problems and won't let him use a calculator, twelve-year-old Robert finds help from the number devil in his dreams.
- Fleischman, Sid ***Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini***
A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926.
- Golabek, Mona & Cohen, Lee ***The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport***
Teenager Lisa Jura's passion was to become a concert pianist. When the threat of Hitler's armies forced her mother to choose which daughter to send on the safe Kindertransport, the gifted Lisa was chosen.
- Hamilton, Bethany ***Soul Surfer***
A teenage surfer lost her arm in a shark attack off the coast of Kauai, Hawaii. Not even the loss of her arm keeps her from returning to surfing, the sport she loves.
- Poe, Edgar Allan ***Short Stories***
Tales of horror, mystery and madness.
- Severance, John B. ***Gandhi: Great Soul***
A biography of Mohandas K. Gandhi, a man who gave up his successful law practice and dedicated his life to helping free the people of India from British rule through a program of peaceful resistance.
- Soto, Gary ***Baseball in April***
A collection of eleven short stories focusing on the everyday adventures of Hispanic young people growing up in Fresno, California.
- Wadsworth, Ginger ***Julia Morgan, Architect of Dreams***
Recounts the life of the architect whose projects included designing the Hearst Castle at San Simeon, California.