

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. 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:**

Riordan, Rick *The Lightning Thief*

Please purchase a fresh copy of this book (if you do not already own a copy) in which you will write margin notes. You should read this book in August, along with a study guide which will be distributed at the end of the spring semester.

### **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.

Bosse, Malcolm *Deep Dream of the Rain Forest*

While on an expedition with his uncle in the jungles of Borneo in 1920, fifteen-year-old Harry Windsor is captured by Bayang, a Young Iban, who believes that Harry has some power to help him and an outcast Iban girl on their dream quest.

Farmer, Nancy *A Girl Named Disaster*

While journeying to Zimbabwe, eleven-year-old Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

Higgins, Jack *Sharp Shot*

British twins Rich and Jade Chance are back for a third adventure with their spy father as they try to save the Middle East and the President of the United States from a terrorist government coup.

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 into a self-reliant young man.

Klass, David *Firestorm*

After learning that he has been sent from the future for a special purpose, Jack receives help from an unusual dog and a shape-shifting female fighter.

Rottman, S. L. *Rough Waters*

When tragedy hits, Scott and his brother Gregg move to Colorado to help their uncle with his white water rafting business. With the thrill of the rapids, realistic family dynamics, a little romance, and likable characters, this book is a great read.

Pratchett, Terry *Nation*

Worlds are destroyed and cultures collide when a tsunami hits islands in the ocean. The survivors are Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village, their lives, and a new civilization that is deeply humane. Lots of humor, cannibals, and likeable characters in this book.

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.

Verne, Jules

***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (William J. Miller translation: Naval Institute Press, 1993)**

The "man who invented the future," Verne created the prototype for modern science fiction and is a master storyteller. His prophetic 1870 adventure novel, featuring a bizarre underwater craft commanded by the mysterious Captain Nemo, predated the submarine. This edition is newly translated from the 1870 French version and includes copies of the illustrations restored from the original.

## Contemporary Life--Fiction

Canales, Viola

***The Tequila Worm***

When Sofia 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.

Cheva, Cherry

***Duplicate: A Novel***

When she wakes up one morning to find her double has magically appeared from her Sims-like computer game in her room, Kate, already overburdened with homework, finals, and extracurricular activities, decides to put her to work.

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.

Lipsyte, Robert

***The Contender***

Legendary sports reporter Lipsyte writes a riveting story of a Harlem high school dropout who escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym. Just getting to the gym is challenging, and Alfred learns that being a good boxer is hard and often discouraging work. He also learns that before being a champion he must be a contender.

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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 a young Jewish boy.

Perkins, Mitali

***The Secret Keeper or First Daughter: Extreme American Makeover***

In 1974 when her father leaves New Delhi, India, to seek a job in New York, Ashi, a tomboy at the advanced age of sixteen, feels thwarted in the home of her extended family in Calcutta where she, her mother, and sister must stay.

Staples, Suzanne F.

***Shiva's Fire***

When Parvati is 11, a famous dance master, drawn by the tales of the miracles that surrounded her, comes to her village asking to take her to Madras where she will be trained in classical dance and music and become a devadasi, a servant of the gods.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer

***The Mozart Season***

Allegra, 12, describes the summer she spends preparing for a prestigious young musicians' competition in her home state of Oregon. When, against considerable odds, she becomes a finalist, both Allegra's loving musician parents and her empathetic teacher leave the decision of whether to proceed to her.

## 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.

- Compestrine, Ying Chang      ***Revolution is Not a Dinner Party***  
Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and robs people of laughter.
- 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.
- Ibbotson, 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.
- Kadohata, Cynthia      ***Kracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam***  
When Rick Hanski enlists in the army, he intends to "whip the world," but he soon finds out that he can't do it alone. As a dog handler, he relies on Cracker, a sharp-minded German shepherd to protect him from danger and provide him with companionship during his tour of duty in Vietnam.
- Klages, Ellen      ***The Green Glass Sea***  
Two girls spend a year in Los Alamos as their parents work on the secret "gadget" that will end World War II. Dewey gets along fine with the scientists at the site, is fascinated with the dump, which holds all sorts of mechanisms and tools she can use for her projects, but is teased by girls her own age.
- Larson, Kirby      ***Hattie Big Sky***  
What dreams would lead a 16-year-old to leave her safe home in Iowa in 1918 and take a chance on a homestead claim in Montana? Full of optimism and determination, Hattie receives her Uncle Chester's land claim, the house and its contents, one horse, and one cow. She soon learns that she has 10 months to cultivate 40 acres and set 480 rods of fence, or lose the claim. While the story relates the hardships of frontier life (in the days of the Model T Ford—not covered wagons) and how Hattie "proved up" to the challenge, it also tells of World War I bigotry and discrimination toward German Americans.
- Rostoff, Meg      ***How I Live Now***  
New Yorker Daisy is shipped off to cousins in England during a futuristic war. The cousins spend a dreamlike, sun-filled summer together against the backdrop of looming war and occupation. While waiting for her aunt to return from Norway Daisy enjoys a special, telepathic friendship with cousin Edmund.
- Schmidt, Gary      ***The Wednesday Wars***  
Seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood, stuck in Mrs. Baker's classroom during the 1967 school year while his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, learns much of value about the world in which he lives from the study of the plays of William Shakespeare.
- Mystery—Fiction**
- Buzbee, Lewis      ***Steinbeck's Ghost***  
Unhappy after his parent's move to a weird subdivision and their workaholic lifestyle, Travis, 13, 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.
- Feinstein, John      ***Cover Up***  
Fledgling fourteen-year-old sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie investigate suspicious activities at the Super Bowl after Stevie gets fired from his co-anchor job on a ground-breaking teen sports show.
- Hiaasen, Carl      ***Scat***  
During a field trip to Black Vine Swamp, a suspicious "wildfire" breaks out, and much-feared and -reviled science teacher Mrs. Starch vanishes. The school gets a letter stating she is away on a "family emergency," but no one believes that.
- Higson, Charlie      ***Blood Fever (Young James Bond series)***  
(Blood Fever) During a summer holiday in Italy, the teen-age James Bond tangles with an underground empire of criminals as he attempts the rescue of a kidnapped young girl.
- Hoobler, Dorothy      ***The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn***  
A priceless ruby has been stolen and an innocent family framed for the crime. Can Seikei prove himself a worthy samurai by uncovering the real thief? A Sherlock Holmes-style mystery set in 18th-century Japan.
- 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.

Sturman, Jennifer

***And Then Everything Unraveled***

Delia's life has just been turned upside down. Her mom has mysteriously vanished, and California-bred Delia is shipped off to a strange new world: New York City. She knows her mom is way too organized to fall off the face of the earth. Although Delia is determined to get to the bottom of her disappearance, she learns that some secrets—especially the dangerous ones—were never meant to be unraveled.

## Science Fiction/Fantasy

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

This new prequel to Peter Pan introduces Molly as an apprentice starcatcher. Molly and Peter create a secret group formed to keep Black Stache and others from obtaining starstuff, the magic material that brings happiness, power, increased intelligence, 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.

Card, Orson Scott ***Enders Game (or Seventh Son)***

(Enders Game) A veteran of years of simulated war games, Ender believes he is engaged in one more computer war game when in truth he is commanding the last fleet of Earth against an alien race seeking the complete destruction of Earth.

Collins, Suzanne ***Hunger Games***

In this futuristic story, reality TV broadcasts the annual fight for survival on dangerous terrain among teens chosen from each district. Food is scarce and the winner brings wealth and fame to his or her district.

Divakaruni, Chitra ***The Conch Bearer***

In India, a healer invites twelve-year-old Anand to join him on a quest to return a magical *conch* to its safe and rightful home, high in the Himalayan mountains.

Dunmore, Helen ***Ingo***

Sappy and her older brother discover Ingo, the mysterious world of the ocean. As they search for their missing father they both discover a hidden ability—a genetic fluke—that enables them to swim for hours, breathe underwater like fish, and ride the backs of dolphins.

Eddings, David ***The Belgariad: Vols. 1, 2 or 3***

Brought up on a quiet farm, how could Garion know that the Apostate planned to wake the dread Torak, or that he would be led on a quest of unparalleled magic and danger by those he loved—but did not know...

Farley, Terri ***Seven Tears into the Sea***

Gwen returns to her grandmother's inn for a summer job and falls for exotic wanderer Jesse, despite the warnings of her clairvoyant grandmother. She finds herself immersed in a modern, California version of a Scottish myth.

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.

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 their "savvy," or unworldly power. For Mibs's older brother Fish, it's control over the elements . . .

Le Guin, Ursula K. ***Voices***

Young Memer takes on a pivotal role in freeing her war-torn homeland from its oppressive captors.

MacHale, D. J. ***The Merchant of Death (Pendragon series)***

Fourteen-year-old Bobby Pendragon, having learned he is a Traveler—someone who can ride "flumes" through time and space, is soon off to the alternative dimension of Denduron where he teams up with Loor, a girl his age from the warrior-territory of Zadaa, in an attempt to save the gentle Milago people from slavery.

Patterson, James ***The Angel Experiment (Maximum Ride series)***

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Pierce, Tamora ***Terrier***

When Beka becomes "Puppy" to a pair of "Dogs," as the Provost's Guards are called, she uses her police training, natural abilities, and a touch of magic to help them solve a murder case in Tortall's Lower City.

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 Samarkand (Bartimaeus trilogy)***  
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.

Turner, Megan Whalen                 ***The Thief***  
Gen is a talented and clever thief who is dragged from his prison cell by the king's magus. He joins magus on a quest--a hunt for a prize wrought by the gods that creates a ruler from anyone who wears it. Look for a very unexpected ending in this award-winning book.

## Other Fiction, Nonfiction, Biography

Alvarez, Julia                            ***Once Upon a Quinceañera: Coming of Age in the USA***  
Explores a Latina girl's coming of age ceremony, discussing the origins and cultural importance of a quinceañera.

Dash, Joan                                ***The Longitude Prize***  
The story of John Harrison, inventor of watches and clocks, who spent forty years working on a time-machine which could be used to accurately determine longitude at sea.

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.

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.

Kurtz, Jane                                ***The Storyteller's Beads***  
During the political strife and famine of the 1980's, two Ethiopian girls, one Christian and the other Jewish and blind, struggle to overcome many difficulties, including their prejudices about each other, as they make the dangerous journey out of Ethiopia.

Mowat, Farley                            ***Never Cry Wolf***  
Describes an Arctic summer spent watching and tracking the activities of a wolf family.

Pepperberg, Irene                        ***Alex and Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Discovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence***  
Pepperberg discusses her relationship with Alex, an African grey parrot she worked with for over 30 years, telling of the discoveries she made about animal minds through her studies, and sharing stories of the emotional bond she formed with Alex.

Poe, Edgar Allan                        ***Short Stories***  
Tales of horror, mystery, and madness.

Soto, Gary                                 ***A Summer Life***  
Gary Soto writes that when he was five "what I knew best was at ground level." In this lively collection of short essays, Soto writes in vivid detail the sights, sounds, smells, and textures he knew growing up in his Fresno, California, neighborhood. The "things" of his boyhood tie it all together: his Buddha "splashed with gold," the taps of his shoes and the "engines of sparks that lived beneath my soles," his worn tennies smelling of "summer grass, asphalt, the moist sock breathing the defeat of basesall."