

Hawthorn Middle School South's 2008 Summer Reading List

6th Grade Summer Reading List

For your summer reading assignment you will be reading either a fantasy or adventure book of your choice. If needed, we have the novel, **Fear Place by Phyllis Naylor** for students to check out from the Middle School South library. In addition to reading your novel, you will be completing a book review as part of the 6th grade language arts requirement. Through your recommendations (or discouraging words), the objective is for you to display a solid understanding of this book through your review. By using the following format, the hope is to provide a prospective reader with a substantial amount of information about the book you read, so that they can make an educated and well-informed decision about that novel through your ideas and insight. Like any recommendation or review, **the more information you can provide, the better!**

A review for your book should include:

- **Title**
- **Author**
- **Genre** - type of book (for example: mystery, historical fiction, fantasy, realistic fiction, adventure, etc.)
- **Pages**
- **Who** - main characters and detailed description about each
- **What** - short summary of the story (2-3 paragraphs) with details about the various events
- **When** - time period of the story
- **Where** - setting of the story
- **Personal Rating:** from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, plus your reasons for the rating.
- **Awards-** list any awards the book may have received
- **Your Name**
- **Date**

Please make sure that each paper is typed in **12-point font, times new roman**. You should also **single space each section**, while double spacing between paragraphs, all while following the above listed order and **must be labeled**. Additionally, please make sure to bold the same words that are listed above, so that each of those elements is easy to locate when reading or glancing at the review.

This assignment will be due to your 6th grade language arts teacher on Friday, August 29th.

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Incoming sixth graders can choose any fantasy or adventure book. Here are some suggestions:

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (600 Lexile) Select any in the Artemis Fowl series.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George (810 Lexile) A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau (680 Lexile) In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis Select any in The Chronicles of Narnia series.

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine (670 Lexile) In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (1020 Lexile) After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. Includes an introduction and sidebar commentary by the author.

Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling Select any in the series.

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Peak by Roland Smith (780 Lexile) A fourteen-year-old climber has the opportunity to climb Mt. Everest. If he's successful, he'll be the youngest climber to scale the world's tallest peak. The catch, though, is that he'll have to climb it with his long-lost father who has unexpectedly re-entered his life. In his own words, read about the climb that changed everything for this boy.

Red Pony by John Steinbeck (810 Lexile) This book is a series of connected short stories about young Jody Tifflin as he grows up with the guidance of his parents and Billy Buck in California during the 1930s. This is a great introduction to one of America's literary giants, the author of *Grapes of Wrath*.

Bull Run by Paul Fleischman (810 Lexile) In a short period of time, Fleischman's Civil War novel has become a teen classic that rivals Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage* as a war novel.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor (680 Lexile) Legally blind from a childhood accident, teenager Paul Fisher tells the story of his family's quest for perfection and his football hero brother Erik's deceptions. There are many ways people can be blind and they don't all involve eyesight.

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck (750 Lexile) A brother and sister leave their home in Chicago to go visit their grandmother for the summer. They witness romance, feuding and robbery in a small town far from the big city. What they originally believed would be a simple, boring town; the young siblings learned that every small town has a big city story.

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery (990 Lexile) A young girl, Anne, is adopted by siblings from an orphanage and raised as their daughter. Anne is outspoken and free spirited and finds ways to adapt to her new environment. The novel takes the reader through a young girl's life and allows the reader to watch her grow and change.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (740 Lexile) Is jumping through dimensions a possibility? What is the 5th dimension? A young boy is sucked in to worlds where his special abilities are desperately needed and desired. The young boy's brother, sister and friend try to bring him back to the world where he belongs, but they are met with great resistance.

Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett (970 Lexile) A young girl, born in India of wealthy means, is rejected by her parents and sent to live at an isolated country house. While exploring the grounds, Mary, the young girl, finds a key that leads her to a secret, neglected garden. Here she decides to tend to the garden and bring it back to life. After Mary has found the garden, she discovers a young man that has never allowed himself to walk. From their meeting a friendship blossoms and their adventures with the secret garden begin.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson (1070 Lexile) Jim Hawkins, a decent young man, is pulled in to the pirate world of Long John Silver. A pirate crew seeks revenge on Long John Silver and the adventure begins. The novel focuses on the adventures of pirates on the open sea.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding (770 Lexile) A group of boys ranging from toddlers to young adults survive a plane crash and find themselves living on a tropical island without an adult to care for them. The boys must take on the roles of hunters, leaders and caregivers. The roles must be carried out, but the young men and children find themselves turning in to savages and hunting each other.

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson (670 Lexile) After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

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8th Grade Summer Reading List

Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury (880 Lexile) In a small town in 1928, a twelve year-old boy savors the magic of childhood and the wonders of summer.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis (1000 Lexile) The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (1300 Lexile) Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in mid-nineteenth-century New England. Includes review questions.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien (1000 Lexile) Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, becomes a thief for a band of dwarves and soon finds himself in the midst of a war with the evil goblins and wargs, and forced to make a decision between the call of duty and the pull of the simple life.

Murder on the Orient Express: a Hercule Poirot mystery by Agatha Christie (640 Lexile) Detective Hercule Poirot has a wealth of suspects to choose from when a wealthy American is stabbed to death en route to Paris on the Orient Express.

Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame (920 Lexile) Follows the escapades of four animal friends--Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger--who live along a river in the English countryside. Includes illustrations.

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings (800 Lexile) Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech (770 Lexile) After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Penny From Heaven by Jennifer Holm (730 Lexile) As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death.

Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park (690 Lexile) Julia, a Korean-American, and her friend Patrick learn about tolerance, friendship, and patience while working together on a project about silkworms.

Shug by Jenny Han (680 Lexile) A twelve-year-old girl learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South.

Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver (660 Lexile) Twelve-year-old Tarak and his guide, a wolf cub, set out on a dangerous journey to fulfill an oath the boy made to his dying father--to travel to the Mountain of the World Spirit seeking a way to destroy a demon-possessed bear that threatens all the clans.

Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima adapted for young people by Michael French (950 Lexile) Presents an account of the Marines who came together during the battle of Iwo Jima to raise the American flag in a moment that has been immortalized in one of the most famous photographs of World War II.