

## 7th Grade Summer '09 Reading List

### **Peak by Roland Smith (780 Lexile) \$9.00**

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) \$11.00**

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) \$7.00**

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) \$9.00**

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.

### **Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery (990 Lexile) \$8.00**

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 watch her grow and change.

### **Paulo's Wall by Rachelle DeSimone (690 Lexile) \$17.00 hardcover Barnes & Noble**

Paulo is known as being a nice, intelligent and responsible kid. Paulo lives with his mom and his dog Nikka. Their really hasn't been a dad on Paulo's life because his dad died when Paulo was just a little kid. The problem started when Paulo stayed after school to finish a report. Paulo missed both of the school busses and Paulo had to walk home. Paulo decided to take a shortcut and go through the alley. Everyone knew that going through alleys was a bad idea because the gangsters from "Tres Palmas" were always there.

### **Letters From a Nut by Ted L. Nancy (840 Lexile) \$19.00 hardcover**

This humorous book is a collection of letters written by a seemingly insane man to various American institutions. Critics suspect that this book was written by Jerry Seinfeld, the comedian who insists he only provided the introduction.

### **Even More Letters From a Nut by Ted L. Nancy (790 Lexile) \$21.00 hardcover**

**Schooled by Gordin Korman (740 Lexile) \$18.00 hardcover**

After his hippie grandmother ends up in the hospital, Cap Anderson is forced to leave the commune where he is being home schooled and attend Claverage Middle School, where his odd looks and behavior make him the target of bullies.

**The Boy Who Dared, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (760 Lexile) \$19.00 hardcover**

Raised during the rise of the Nazi party, Helmuth believed all that he was taught and joined the Nazi party with all the pride in the world. But as the country he once knew begins to fall apart and witnesses so many horrific events unfold, Helmuth finds it increasingly difficult to remain both loyal and silent.

**Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett (970 Lexile) \$9.00**

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 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) \$6.00**

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.

## 8th Grade Summer Reading List

### **Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury (880 Lexile) \$10.00**

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) \$9.00**

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) \$7.00**

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) \$10.00**

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) \$9.00**

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.

### **Andromeda Strain by Michael Crichton (840 Lexile) \$12.00**

Some biologists speculate that if we ever make contact with extraterrestrials, those life forms are likely to be one-celled or smaller creatures, more comparable to bacteria than little green men. And even though such organisms would not likely be able to harm humans, the possibility exists that first contact might be our last.

### **The Call of the Wild (classic edition) by Jack London (1170 Lexile) \$7.00**

In this book, you follow a dog named Buck. Buck has a good life with his owner. But one day, when no one is home, the gardener kidnaps Buck and he is sold again and again across the United States and Canada, all the way to the Klondike region of Canada, where a gold rush is going on. Buck is forced to pull sleds with other dogs, and finds that it is a dog-eat-dog world, literally, and that the only way to survive is to get to the top.

**Code Orange by Caroline B. Cooney (850 Lexile) \$9.00**

Mitty is a high school goof-off. He is a poor student who is more plugged into his music than his schoolwork. He is only taking Advanced Biology because he wants to be in the same class as the fair Olivia. He works just hard enough to get by which is why he has not started his research paper on infectious diseases. While looking through some old medical books he discovers an envelope marked VM. Inside are two nasty, ancient scabs that he examines and handles. His research leads him to the meaning of VM or smallpox.

**Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech (770 Lexile) \$9.00**

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) \$9.00**

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)\$9.00**

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) \$8.00**

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) \$10.00 Barnes & Noble**

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) \$12.00 Amazon**

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.

## 6th Grade Summer Reading List

Students are to select and read TWO books from the selected list below. Books are to be read by the first day of sixth grade, Monday, August 31, 2009. Students will receive an assessment and activity based upon the book they read, which will count as their first grade for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts.

### **Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick** (940 Lexile) \$9.00

Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece.

### **Heat by Mike Lupica** (940 Lexile) \$10.00

Growing up in the Bronx and playing Little League baseball in the shadow of Yankee Stadium, it's no surprise that 12-year-old Michael Arroyo loves baseball, especially the New York Yankees, even though he can't afford to buy a ticket to watch them play. Michael's the best Little League pitcher in the district, and seems destined to lead his all-star team to the championship game, which will be held inside Yankee Stadium, with a trip to the Little League World Series on the line. But all that changes when a jealous rival coach challenges whether Michael is as young as he claims.

### **Listening for Lions by Gloria Whelan** (900 Lexile) \$8.00

Orphaned by the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1919, 13-year-old Rachel is sent by conniving neighbors to visit an elderly man in England, passing as their daughter—his granddaughter—to pave the way for their return and the inheritance of his estate. Terrified that to reveal her secret would hasten Grandfather Pritchard's death, and fearing life in an orphanage, she goes along with her new identity as Valerie Pritchard. But she cannot help but get involved with his love for the birds on his land, and she entertains him with stories about what is happening outside his sickroom and what kinds of things her friend Rachel saw in their African world.

### **The Princess Academy by Shannon Hale** (890 Lexile) \$10.00

The thought of being a princess never occurred to the girls living on Mount Eskel. Most plan to work in the quarry like the generations before them. When it is announced that the prince will choose a bride from their village, 14-year-old Miri, who thinks she is being kept from working in the quarry because of her small stature, believes that this is her opportunity to prove her worth to her father. All eligible females are sent off to attend a special academy where they face many challenges and hardships as they are forced to adapt to the cultured life of a lowlander. First, strict Tutor Olana denies a visit home. Then, they are cut off from their village by heavy winter snowstorms. As their isolation increases, competition builds among them.

### **Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass** (770 Lexile) \$9.00

Jeremy's summer takes an unexpected turn when a mysterious wooden box arrives in the mail. According to the writing on the box, it holds the meaning to life! Jeremy is supposed to open it on his thirteenth birthday. The problem is, the keys are missing and the box is made so that only the keys will open it without destroying what's inside. Will Jeremy and Lizzy be able to find the keys to open the box in time?

**Flipped by Wendeline Van Draanen (720 Lexile) \$11.00**

Ever since she saw Bryce's baby blues back in second grade, Juli has been smitten. Unfortunately, Bryce has never felt the same. Frankly, he thinks Juli Baker is a little weird-after all, what kind of freak raises chickens and sits in trees for fun? Then, in eighth grade, everything changes. Bryce begins to see that Juli's unusual interests and pride in her family are, well, kind of cool. And Juli starts to think that maybe Bryce's brilliant blue eyes are as empty as the rest of Bryce seems to be. After all, what kind of jerk doesn't care about other people's feelings?

**Small Steps by Louis Sachar (690 Lexile) \$11.00**

Two years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is home in Austin, Texas, trying to turn his life around. But it's hard when you have a record and everyone expects the worst from you. Armpit seems to be on the right path until X-Ray, a buddy from Camp Green Lake, comes up with a get-rich-quick scheme. X-ray's moneymaking plan leads Armpit to a chance encounter with teen pop sensation Kaira DeLeon, and suddenly Armpit's life spins out of control. One thing is certain; he'll never be the same.

**The Old Willis Place by Mary Downing Hahn (630 Lexile) \$8.00**

Diana and her little brother, Georgie, have been living in the woods behind the old Willis place, a decaying mansion, for what seems like forever. A strict set of rules won't allow them to leave the property or even show themselves to anyone. Diana knows she must get help if she and Georgie are ever to be released from the secret that has bound them to the Willis place for so long.

**Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (590 Lexile) \$9.00**

From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile and sparks a school revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted... at first.