

Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade Seven

Students going into seventh grade are required to read two books over the summer. One book **must** come from the list of approved books. The students may choose any title for the second book. This book does not have to come from those listed below, but certainly can.

For those students who are entering Accelerated English in seventh grade, one of the two books must be a higher level book from the list that is marked with an asterisk.

Students will be assessed on the reading when they return to school in the fall. For this reason they should take notes on both books. Since they will be writing about the main character in each book, they will need details about the character's personality, appearance, age, family, friends, enemies, interactions with other people, thoughts, problems, needs, what the character says to others, and any other pertinent information.

They will be asked to describe and compare the main characters in both books.

Students are responsible for obtaining these books. If this presents a problem, see your current Language Arts teacher.

Questions regarding the assignment should be emailed to Ms. Brown at bbrown@bhpsnj.org or Ms. Einhorn at reinhorn@bhpsnj.org no later than June 17, 2009.

Approved Books:

*The A.B.C. Murders, by Agatha Christie (Mystery) Hercule Poirot is sent a series of letters by a murderer challenging him to stop a crime if he is clever enough.

Black Beauty, by Anna Sewell (Classic) A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters.

*Dune, by Frank Herbert (Science Fiction) The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained.

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents, by Julia Alvarez (Family Fiction) The story of the Garcia family's adjustment to life in the United States.

*Jim the Boy, by Tony Earley (Historical Fiction) Jim, living with his mother and three uncles in the small hamlet of Aliceville, North Carolina, comes of age in the Depression years and begins to realize the largeness of the world outside his happy home.

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, by Gary D. Schmidt (Newbery Honor, Historical Fiction) In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

The Lost Years of Merlin, by T. A. Barron (Fantasy/Legendary Character) A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

A Mango-Shaped Space: A Novel, by Wendy Mass (Friendship/Family/Senses) Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees 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.

Ryan White, My Own Story, by Ryan White and Ann Marie Cunningham (Biography) Ryan White describes how he got AIDS, engaged in a legal battle to return to school, and became a celebrity and spokesman for issues concerning the deadly disease.

War Horse, by Michael Morpurgo (Historical Fiction) Joey the horse recalls his experiences growing up on an English farm, his struggle for survival as a cavalry horse during World War I, and his reunion with his beloved master.

*Denotes more challenging reading.