Nyack Middle School Library's

2012
Suggested Summer Reading
Middle School Library’s Summer Reading List  
Summer, 2012

**GRADE 6**  
**Classic Fiction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>(Classic Fiction)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barrie, James</td>
<td><em>Peter Pan</em></td>
<td>J.M. Barrie's classic children's novel about a young boy, Peter Pan, who never grows up, and his adventures in Never Never Land with the three Darling children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burnett, Frances Hodgson</td>
<td><em>The Secret Garden</em></td>
<td>First published in 1911. Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.</td>
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<td>Leroux, Gaston</td>
<td><em>The Phantom of the Opera</em></td>
<td>Translation of: Le fantome de l'Opera; Presents the classic story about a viscount who seeks to unravel the mystery of the Paris Opera House and rescue the woman he loves from the threat of the phantom of the opera.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sewell, Anna</td>
<td><em>Black Beauty</em></td>
<td>First published in 1877. A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stevenson, Robert Louis</td>
<td><em>Treasure Island</em></td>
<td>First published in 1883. While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune as well as great danger.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wells, H. G. (Herbert George)</td>
<td><em>The Invisible Man</em></td>
<td>First published in 1897. A scientist, who has discovered how to make his body invisible, becomes violently insane when he realizes he cannot change back to visible form.</td>
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Mac, an Australian youth, has one week to prove that he can be a "coolhunter," identifying emerging trends and posting images on a Web site, but he is competing against a classmate on whom he has a crush and dealing with resistance from his best friend and his own confusion over what "cool" means.

A priceless Vermeer painting is missing and it is up to Petra and Calder to find it following the thief’s trail of clues printed in the newspaper.

No matter that few of its young readers will be Shakespeare buffs; this fast-paced story showcasing life behind the scenes at the Globe Theatre in its heyday artfully sets the stage for future reading and play-going.

Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private God.

Ignored by his father and sent to Derbyshire for the weekend, twelve-year-old Peter and his new friend, Kate, are accidentally transported back in time to 1763 England where they are befriended by a reformed cutpurse (a.k.a. pickpocket.) They encounter the evil “Tarman” and very nearly perish.

When a cartoon appears in the school newspaper making fun of his tendency to talk a lot, Mac, the goalie for the Cougars soccer team, is determined to find out who is responsible.
Vernon Dibbs is finding junior high tough. The grades that come so easily to others elude him. Despite extra hours of study, he feels he lost the one person who considered him in any way special when his mother suddenly passed away two years ago. Then acquaintance with alcoholic Maxine --the neighborhood "crazy lady"-- and her retarded son Ronald leads to some tutoring work, and soon he is involved in a scheme to send Ronald to the Special Olympics; the solutions to Vernon's problems seem to be within his grasp, and his confidence soars. If the lesson is that kindness begets kindness, this book is all heart.

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted, proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him. He travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

Edward, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.

While 12-year-old Joe Stoshack is cleaning out Miss Young's attic for spending money, he finds the world's most valuable baseball card, picturing Honus Wagner. She had instructed him to throw out all the junk in the attic, and he knows the money raised from selling the card would help his single mother. That night, Joe wakes up to see Wagner in his bedroom, and they eventually travel back in time to the 1909 World Series.

In this Chet Gecko adventure, "The best lizard detective at Emerson Hicky Elementary," recounts a truly scary case: his classmates are doing homework without complaint and being quiet in class. In short, they have become model students. Something is afoot, and the tough-talking, wisecracking PI wants to know what's going on. Suspects and red herrings abound: the new librarian, groovy Cool Beans, knows an awful lot about zombies; and what about slick Sammy Weasel? Fueled by ample snacks, Chet and Natalie Attired (a mockingbird) are on the case.
Kerr, Phillip

The Akhenaten Adventure  (Children of the Lamp series)

When twelve-year-old twins Philippa and John discover that they are descended from a long line of djinn, their mother sends them away to their Uncle Nimrod, who takes them to Cairo where he teaches them about their extraordinary powers.

Korman, Gordon

Schooled

Homeschooled on an isolated “alternate farm commune” that has dwindled since the 1960s to 2 members, 13-year-old Cap has always lived with his grandmother, Rain. When she is hospitalized, Cap is taken in by a social worker and sent—like a lamb to slaughter—to middle school. Smart and capable, innocent and inexperienced (he learned to drive on the farm, but he has never watched television), long-haired Cap soon becomes the butt of pranks. He reacts in unexpected ways and, in the end, elevates those around him to higher ground.

Lord, Cynthia

Rules

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "A peach is not a funny-looking apple," to "Keep your pants on in public,"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic who uses a book of pictures to communicate, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, she begins to question her idea of normal, and will begin to see things in an entirely different way. Set in coastal Maine, this sensitive story is about being different, feeling different, and finding acceptance.

Lupica, Mike

Travel Team

Danny Walker is crushed when he doesn't make the Vikings, the seventh-grade basketball team. He is told that he is too short, but he suspects that the real reason has something to do with the bad blood between his father (a former NBA star whose career was cut short by a car accident) and Mr. Ross, the father of the team's best player. Then Danny's father announces that he is starting his own youth team, but unexpected setbacks sideline his dad and the team until Danny steps in and coaches the team himself to the climatic game against their arch rivals.

Myracle, Lauren

Eleven

The year between turning eleven and turning twelve brings many changes. The year Winnie turns eleven is full of tumult as friendships shift. She learns to appreciate a girl she had previously overlooked and to stand up for her opinions. Winnie's growing pains are heartfelt, and the balance of funny and bittersweet makes the novel realistic and readable.
GRADE 6

McCaughrean, Geraldine  
(Contemporary Fiction)  
The Kite Rider

In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

Nimmo, Jenny  
(Contemporary Fiction)  
Midnight for Charlie Bone

Ten-year-old Charlie Bone doesn’t realize he’s inherited the family’s magical powers until one day he finds that he’s able to hear the conversations of people in photographs. When he’s packed off to Bloor’s Academy -- a school of magic, where he makes friends (and enemies), Charlie learns the strange history of the Red King, whose descendents still roam the earth.

Riordan, Rick  
(Contemporary Fiction)  
The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1)

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus’s lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

Riordan, Rick  
(Contemporary Fiction)  
The Red Pyramid

This fun, if formulaic, start to the Kane Chronicles series opens with a signature Riordan move: an explosion. Siblings Carter and Sadie have been living apart since their mother's mysterious death. On Christmas Eve, archeologist Julius Kane and son Carter, 14, show up in England for one of their two days a year with Sadie. Julius ushers his children to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone, unleashing five Egyptian gods and causing his own disappearance.

Ryan, Pam Munoz  
(Contemporary Fiction)  
Esperanza Rising

Esperanza, the daughter of an affluent Mexican rancher, she had been taught by her father to believe that the, "Land is alive," that she could lie down beneath the arbors in her family's vineyards, press her ear to the ground, and hear a heartbeat. Yet can this still hold true for Esperanza when she no longer reigns as queen of the harvest but labors in the fields of a foreign country, picking grapes on someone else's land for pennies an hour?
At birth, Septimus Heap is carried away for dead, and his wizard father, Silas Heap in entrusted with a baby girl. When the villains try to assassinate the now 10-year-old Jenna, who, it turns out, is the daughter of the murdered queen, her wizard family flees to the Marram Marshes in search of the legendary Queen’s Dragon Boat, along with the ExtraOrdinary Wizard, and a young army guard known only as “Boy 412.”

Meet plucky Fone Bone, scheming Phony Bone, and easygoing Smiley Bone who leave their home in Boneville and are swept up in a Tolkien-esque epic of royalty, dragons and unspeakable evil forces out to conquer mankind.

Once again, Newbery Medal-winning author Jerry Spinelli uses great wit and humor to create the unique story of Zinkoff as he travels from first through sixth grades. *Loser* is a touching book about the human spirit, the importance of failure, and how any name can someday be replaced with, "Hero."

Pursued by her much older brother, famed detective Sherlock Holmes, fourteen-year-old Enola, disguised and using false names, attempts to solve the kidnapping of a baronet’s sixteen-year-old son in nineteenth-century London.

Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared. While exploring their palatial yet decrepit new home tucked away in the Adirondacks, the children discover a magical green book, which transports them into the recent past. There they do battle with a beautiful witch who has terrorized and enslaved the local people in her unsuccessful search for the very book the children possess.

After Reynie Muldoon responds to an advertisement recruiting "Gifted children looking for special opportunities," he finds himself in a world of mystery and adventure.
GRADE 6

Non-Fiction

Markle, Sandra (Non-Fiction)

_Animals Marco Polo Saw: An Adventure on the Silk Road_

Generously illustrated short chapters describe Marco Polo's journey from Italy to the court of Kublai Khan with his merchant father and uncle. Each double-page spread features a full-page painting; spot art accompanies boxed information, usually about an animal. A useful, "Map of Marco Polo's Travels," is appended.

Montgomery, Sy (Non-Fiction)

_Saving the Ghost of the Mountain: An Expedition Among Snow Leopards in Mongolia_

Children will be swept up in the buoyant account of the journey through Mongolia led by Tom McCarthy, conservation director of the Snow Leopard Trust, in search of the elusive cat known as the "ghost of the mountain."

Nobleman, Marc Tyler (Non-Fiction)

_Boys Of Steel: The Creators Of Superman_

Ask kids where the Man of Steel comes from, and they may answer "Metropolis" or "Krypton." In fact, he came from Cleveland, the invention of two "meek, mild and myopic" Depression-era teenagers. Drawing incidents and dialogue directly from a range of published interviews and other accounts, Nobleman shows how Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster parlayed a steady diet of Tarzan, Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon into a new kind of Hero, with superhuman abilities and a secret identity not so different from, well, themselves.

Thimmesh, Catherine (Non-Fiction)

_Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 On The Moon_

Here is a rare perspective on a story we only thought we knew. For Apollo 11, the first moon landing, is a story that belongs to many, not just the few and famous. It belongs to the seamstress who put together twenty-two layers of fabric for each space suit; to the engineers who created a special heat shield to protect the capsule during its fiery reentry. It belongs to the flight directors, camera designers, software experts, suit testers, telescope crew, aerospace technicians, photo developers, engineers, and navigators. This is the story of the team that worked to first put man on that great gray rock in the sky with dedication, ingenuity, and perseverance.

Fleischman, Sid (Non-Fiction)

_The Trouble Begins At 8: A Life Of Mark Twain In The Wild, Wild West_

When Mark Twain first started giving speeches, the poster advertising them read, “Doors open at 7. The trouble begins at 8.” This is the spirit in which this author writes about Twain, talking about Twain as an author, of course, but also as steamboat pilot, a journalist, a prospector, and a lecturer—in other words, as an adventurer who didn’t mind a little trouble. Fleischman spends time on Twain’s earlier years, showing how young Samuel Clemens’ myriad adventures became the building blocks for his stories. What will probably delight readers are Twain’s amazing exploits aboard stagecoaches and steamboats, making and losing fortunes, and trying to find his place in the world.