Suggested Summer Reading

Nyack Middle School Library’s

2012

Suggested Summer Reading
GRADE 7  Classic Fiction

Carroll, Lewis  
*Alice in Wonderland*  
(Classic Fiction)

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

Dodge, Mary Mapes  
*Hans Brinker, Or, The Silver Skates*  
(Classic Fiction)

A Dutch boy and girl work toward two goals, finding the doctor who can restore their father's memory and winning the competition for the silver skates.

Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir  
*The Hound Of The Baskervilles*  
(Classic Fiction)

Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.

Montgomery, Lucy Maud  
*Anne of Green Gables*  
(Classic Fiction)

When Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert of Green Gables, Prince Edward Island, send for a boy orphan to help them out at the farm, they are in no way prepared for the error that will change their lives. The mistake takes the shape of Anne Shirley, a redheaded 11-year-old girl who can talk anyone under the table. Anne's feisty spirit soon draws many friends--and much trouble--her way. This feminine yet independent spirit has given generations of girls a strong female role model, while offering a taste of another, milder time in history.

Spyri, Johanna  
*Heidi*  
(Classic Fiction)

A Swiss orphan is heartbroken when she must leave her beloved grandfather and their happy home in the mountains to go to school and to care for an invalid girl in the city.

Irving, Washington  
*The Legend Of Sleepy Hollow*  
(Classic Fiction)

Gawky Ichabod Crane, a school master, vies for the affections of a local maid and comes up against rival, Brom Bones but even more terrifying, the Headless Horseman himself, in this Hudson Valley classic.
Anderson, Laurie Halse  
*Chains*  

"'Freedom and liberty' has many meanings," but enslaved Isabel knows that while Loyalists and Patriots battle for their own versions of freedom, she is, "Chained between two nations," that upheld slavery. She wonders, "If an entire nation could seek its freedom, why not a girl?" Anderson brilliantly recreates New York City in the summer of 1776, viewed through the eyes of a remarkable heroine.

Bell, Ted  
*Nick Of Time*  

Twelve-year-old Nick McIver tries to help his father and sister send vital information to England about an imminent Nazi invasion, until he finds himself transported through time to help his ancestor stop a mutinous captain who is aiding the French fleet and endangering British sailors.

Blacker, Terence  
*Boy2girl*  

Matthew's American cousin, Sam, has come to London to live with the family. Sam is a charismatic, funny kid, but can he be trusted to be a reliable friend? Matthew and his "mates" decide that Sam must undertake a challenge in order to prove himself: he must start off his new year at their school posing as a girl. It turns out that Sam makes a great girl. He fools everyone and has an electrifying effect at Bradbury Hill School. And the longer the prank goes on, the more hilarious -- and serious -- the repercussions.  This brilliant novel shines a laser-sharp beam into the perilous territory of early-teen life, in an unforgettable story of chaos, confusion, and cross-dressing.

Colfer, Eoin  
*Airman*  

Born in a hot-air balloon at the Paris World's Fair in 1878, Conor Broekhart is destined to fly. Grippingly written, this is a fast-paced, highly entertaining tale of flying machines, criminals, martial arts, swordplay, princesses, poisons, and evil villains. While the often dark and gruesome subject matter is not for the faint of heart, the moral underpinnings of the story are solid.

Creech, Sharon  
*Walk Two Moons*  

Thirteen-year-old Native American Salmanca Tree Hiddle travels from Ohio to Idaho to visit her mother who had left the year before, but never returned.
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Ellis, Deborah  
*The Breadwinner*  
*(Contemporary Fiction)*

Ever since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, 11-year-old Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Unable to attend school or shop at the market, she is trapped inside her family’s home until the Taliban hauls her father away. Now it is up to Parvana to risk her life by disguising herself as a boy to support her family.

Flanagan, John  
*The Ruins of Gorlan (Ranger’s Apprentice series book 1)*  
*(Contemporary Fiction)*

Like the other 15-year-old wards of Castle Redmont, Will is nervous about Choosing Day, when each of them will be assigned to a different master for training. Though his dearest wish is to enter the Battleschool, his small stature prevents it. Instead, Will is apprenticed to the grim-faced, mysterious Ranger. Soon Will learns that becoming a ranger is more difficult, dangerous, and worthwhile than he had imagined.

Farmer, Nancy  
*The House of the Scorpion*  
*(Contemporary Fiction)*

To most people around him, Matt is not a boy, but a beast. To El Patron, lord of a country called Opium, a strip of land between the U.S. and what used to be Mexico, Matt is a guarantee of eternal life. El Patron loves Matt as he loves himself because Matt is himself. They share identical DNA.

Gaiman, Neil  
*Coraline*  
*(Graphic Novel- uses artwork panels to tell a full-length story.)*

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Hoffman, Mary  
*Stravaganza: City Of Masks*  
*(Contemporary Fiction)*

While sick in bed with cancer, a boy named Lucien begins making journeys to a place in a parallel world that resembles Venice, Italy, and he becomes caught up in the political intrigues surrounding the Duchessa who rules the city.
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Lockhart, E.  (Contemporary Fiction)
*The Disreputable History Of Frankie Landau-Banks : A Novel*

Fifteen-year-old Frankie is attractive, extremely bright, and a student at an academically challenging boarding school. But everyone underestimates her: her family who affectionately calls her Bunny Rabbit, and even her boyfriend who thinks she is adorable. Frankie longs for recognition. She seizes the opportunity with a secret organization on campus, but Basset Hounds membership is only for males and highly exclusive. Frankie uses her computer to manipulate the unknowing club members to do her bidding. When Frankie reveals herself as the girl behind the pranks she . . . [unexpectedly ] gains the respect and admiration of family and classmates.

Lupica, Mike  (Contemporary Fiction)
*Hero*

Fourteen-year-old Zach learns he has the same special abilities as his father, who was the president's globe-trotting troubleshooter until "the Bads" killed him, and now Zach must decide whether to use his powers in the same way at the risk of his own life.

Meloy, Colin  (Contemporary Fiction)
*Wildwood*

Prue's life shifts from ordinary to extraordinary when her baby brother is kidnapped by a murder of crows and she must embark into the Impassable Wilderness, a dense forest in the center of Portland, Oregon, with her friend Curtis in tow, where the pair will encounter warring creatures, peaceful mystics, and other dark-minded, powerful figures.

Scott, Michael  (Contemporary Fiction)
*The Alchemyst*

Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemysts, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

Schmidt, Gary D.  (Contemporary Fiction)
*Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*

The year is 1912, and Turner Buckminster III has a mighty cross to bear: his family has just moved from Boston to Phippsburg, Maine; no one in Maine seems to throw a baseball so he can hit it; and, worst of all, he is the minister's son. His misery is just about complete until he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, an African-American girl from nearby Malaga Island, who teaches him how to hit a Maine baseball and doesn't hold his parentage against him. Schmidt takes his time with his tale, spinning gloriously figurative language that brilliantly evokes both place and emotion. Turner himself is a wonderfully rich character; his moral and intellectual growth developing naturally from the boy the reader first meets.
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Vanderpool, Clare (Contemporary Fiction)
Moon over Manifest

It's 1936 and Abilene's father, himself looking for work, sends her to his hometown of Manifest, Kansas, to live with Pastor Shady, a bootlegger-turned-preacher. There Abilene uncovers secrets about her family and the entire community. The setting jumps between the Depression era and WWI; mysterious letters and enlightening newspaper articles help set the scene for this captivating tale.

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Springer, Nancy (Contemporary Fiction)
Dussie

At age thirteen Dussie makes the horrifying discovery that she, like her New York artist mother, is a Gorgon--a Greek mythological monster sprouting snakes from her head and capable of turning humans into stone with one angry look.

Updale, Eleanor (Contemporary Fiction)
Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?

Merge the dark fetid sewers of London in 1875 with a newly released thief from a prison where he was a doctor's specimen for pioneering treatments of complex wounds and the stage is set for good ole Victorian crime, deceit, and intrigue. Montmorency devises a plan to use the sewers as his escape routes, using his thefts to finance his refined life as a gentleman. Creating dual identities, Scarper as the sewer rat and Montmorency as the man of upper class, his scheme transforms his life.

Walden, Mark (Contemporary Fiction)
H.I.V.E.: Higher Institute of Villainous Education

H.I.V.E. is operated on a volcanic island in a distant ocean by G.L.O.V.E., a shadowy organization of worldwide wickedness. And, as 13-year-old master of mischief Otto Malpense soon discovers, here the slickest of young tricksters, thieves, and hackers have been brought against their will to be trained as the next generation of super villains. Otto and his friends refuse to be held prisoner at the institution and develop a scheme to escape from the island, however they must first defeat the all-seeing computer system, a seemingly undefeatable assassin in black, and a giant carnivorous plant to succeed. Warden's first novel is a real page-turner; those who love superhero stories will eat it up and not want to put it down.
Armstrong, Jennifer (Non-Fiction)
*Shipwreck At The Bottom Of The World: The Extraordinary True Story Of Shackleton And The Endurance*

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey to reach inhabited land.

Green, Jen (Non-Fiction)
*S surviving Natural Disasters*

This book contains true stories of fifteen young people who survived earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, and extreme weather, and offers facts about natural disasters. The book is split into two sections: the first on earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis; the second on extreme weather events. Each section begins with general information about these disasters; real-life stories of young survivors follow.

Levenkron, Steven (Non-Fiction)
*The Best Little Girl in the World*

After being a model daughter all her life, fifteen-year-old Francesca suddenly begins to starve herself and is diagnosed as suffering from a psychological disorder known as anorexia nervosa. Francesca begins the battle of her life.

Mitchell, Barbara (Non-Fiction)
*The Wizard of Sound: Thomas Edison.*

This book chronicles the life and contributions of an inventor, from his sickly childhood to the creation of his own favorite invention, the phonograph.

Murphy, Jim (Non-Fiction)
*The Great Fire*

A vivid account of the catastrophe that decimated much of Chicago in 1871, forcing more than 100,000 people from their homes.

Myers, Walter Dean (Non-Fiction)
*Bad Boy*

Walter Dean Myers richly weaves the detail of his Harlem childhood in the 1940’s and 1950’s; the values he had been taught at home, in school, and his community seemed worthless, and he turned to the streets.