

Summer Reading Program

Rising Sixth Graders

Please pick one book from the list below. When complete, please pick one of the projects on the A-Z Project List (see back). You will return your completed project to your NEW sixth grade reading teacher when you return to school next year. Have a great summer!! Keep Reading!!

☺Ms. Norton

The Name of this Book is Secret, by Pseudonymous Bosch (or any book in this series)

In enormous lettering the first page warns: "Do not read beyond this page!" The reason? The book contains a secret so nefarious as to be dangerous even to innocent page-turners daring enough to venture forth. The first few chapters present a tricky little exercise in metafiction in which the story about a secret is revealed as being itself too secret to tell, a ploy sure to tickle more puzzlesome readers. But then the intrusive narrator, who is equal parts snarky and delightful, strikes a deal and deigns to tell the story with fake names in *Your Hometown*, as long as you agree to "forget everything you read as soon as you read it." Then follows a not terribly shocking story wherein two intrepid kids uncover a mysterious society bent on immortality, which gets them in and out of all manner of trouble. While some may be disappointed that there is no mind-bending secret at the bottom of it all as promised, most junior Da Vinci Coders will likely be having too much fun to notice.
Chipman, Ian (Booklist)

Any book from the **Percy Jackson Series**, by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson & the Olympians is a series of fictional adventure and fantasy books authored by Rick Riordan. Set in the United States, the books are predominantly based on Greek mythology. The series consists of five books, as well as spin-off titles such as *The Demigod Files* and *Demigods and Monsters*.

Scat, Carl Hiaasen

Hiaasen starts off this story—a hybrid madcap swamp adventure and cast-driven environmental whodunit—with the disappearance of a biology teacher after a fire breaks out during a field trip in the Everglades. The immediate suspect for the fire, at least, is a young miscreant, but friends Nick and Marta figure something else is afoot: it might have something to do with the nefarious oilmen slinking about nearby, as well as the rumor of an endangered panther and her cubs in the swamp. A generous cast of characters—each imbued with a few unexpected traits—flits about and provides most of the impetus to keep things rolling. Adding some emotional heft is the subplot involving Nick's father; he returns home from Iraq minus his right arm, and Nick binds his own arm so that they can learn to become lefties together. Hiaasen's gumbo tastes a lot like his previous efforts, pitting conservation against reckless greed and setting the can-do of youth among determined Floridian quirks. But there's a reason why a recipe tastes so good time and again.
Grades 5-8. (Booklist)

A to Z Project List – 6th grade

Add-On: write an additional segment to the book

Book Mark: create a book mark

Comic Strip: write and illustrate a comic strip

Diary: compose a diary for one of the characters

Elegy: write a poem lamenting the death of a character in the book

Flag: create a flag that shows the books meaning

Greeting Card: create a card explaining the book and inviting someone to read it

Hymn: write a song of praise or joy from one of the character's perspective

Interview: write and interview with a character or the author

Jacket: create a jacket for the book

Kite: create a kite that reflects the book's meaning

Letter: compose a letter to a character or author

Monologue: write a speech that a character could give to an audience

Newspaper Article: write an article about a character or event in the book

Oration: compose a speech that a character in the book would give

Poem: write from a character 's point of view or to a character

Quiz: write a 10 questions quiz about the book

Review: write a review of the book for a magazine

Song: about a character, setting, or event in the book

Timeline: place events on a creative timeline

Uh-Huh and Ugh: create a list of things you agree with (uh-huh) and disagree with (ugh)

Video Book: act out a scene in the book and videotape it

Web Page: create an imaginary webpage about the book

X-Ray: look beyond the words and find a hidden meaning in the book

Yell: compose a cheer

Ziplock Bag Project: collect items that relate to the story and put in a bag and write an explanation

Summer Reading Program

Rising Seventh Graders

Please pick one book from the list below. When complete, please pick one of the projects on the A-Z Project List (see back). You will return your completed project to your NEW seventh grade reading teacher when you return to school next year. Have a great summer!! Keep Reading!! ☺Ms. Norton

Wednesday Wars, by Gary Schmidt

Starred Review On Wednesday afternoons, while his Catholic and Jewish schoolmates attend religious instruction, Holling Hoodhood, the only Presbyterian in his seventh grade, is alone in the classroom with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, who Holling is convinced hates his guts. He feels more certain after Mrs. Baker assigns Shakespeare's plays for Holling to discuss during their shared afternoons. Each month in Holling's tumultuous seventh-grade year is a chapter in this quietly powerful coming-of-age novel set in suburban Long Island during the late '60s. Seamlessly, he knits together the story's themes: the cultural uproar of the '60s, the internal uproar of early adolescence, and the timeless wisdom of Shakespeare's words. Holling's unwavering, distinctive voice offers a gentle, hopeful, moving story of a boy who, with the right help, learns to stretch beyond the limitations of his family, his violent times, and his fear, as he leaps into his future with his eyes and his heart wide open. Engberg, Gillian – (*Booklist*)

Island of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell

The Newberry Medal-winning story of a 12-year old girl who lives alone on a Pacific island after she leaps from a rescue ship. Isolated on the island for eighteen years, Karana forages for food, builds weapons to fight predators, clothes herself in a cormorant feathered skirt, and finds strength and peace in her seclusion. (Amazonreviews.com)

Flipped, Wendelin Van Draanen

Two distinct, thoroughly likable voices emerge in Van Draanen's (the Sammy Keyes series) enticing story, relayed alternately by eighth graders Bryce and Juli. When Juli moved in across the street from Bryce, just before second grade, he found the feisty, friendly girl overwhelming and off-putting, and tried to distance himself from her but then eighth grade rolls around. Within the framework of their complex, intermittently antagonistic and affectionate rapport, the author shapes insightful portraits of their dissimilar families. Ages 10-14. (Publisher's Weekly)

A to Z Project List – 7th and 8th grade

- **Add-On:** write an additional chapter the book
- **Book Mark:** create a book mark with setting, characters, and plot
- **Comic Strip:** write and illustrate a comic strip with 10 boxes
- **Diary:** compose a diary for one of the characters
- **Elegy:** write a poem lamenting the death of a character in the book
- **Flag:** create a flag that shows the books meaning
- **Glossary::** create a glossary of 10 new words with illustrations for each
- **Hymn:** write a song of praise or joy from one of the character's perspective
- **Interview:** write and interview with a character or the author – both questions & answers – at least 5 questions
- **Jacket:** create a jacket for the book with a summary and author biography.
- **Kite:** create a kite that reflects the book's meaning
- **Letter:** compose a letter to a character or author
- **Monologue:** write a speech that a character could give to an audience
- **Newspaper Article:** write an article about a character or event in the book
- **Oration:** compose a speech that a character in the book would give
- **Poem:** write from a character 's point of view or to a character – min 20 lines
- **Quiz:** write a 10 questions quiz about the book
- **Review:** write a review of the book for a magazine
- **Song:** about a character, setting, or event in the book
- **Timeline:** place events on a creative timeline
- **Uh-Huh and Ugh:** create a list of things you agree with (uh-huh) and disagree with (ugh)
- **Video Book:** act out a scene in the book and videotape it
- **Web Page:** create an imaginary webpage about the book
- **X-Ray:** look beyond the words and find a hidden meaning in the book
- **Yell:** compose a cheer
- **Ziplock Bag Project:** collect items that relate to the story and put in a bag and write an explanation for each item

Eighth Grade Summer Reading List and Projects

1. **Football Genius** by Tim Green 800L Troy White has a phenomenal gift: he can predict any football play before it happens. When his single mom gets a job working in public relations for the Atlanta Falcons, Troy figures it's his chance to prove what he can do. But first he has to get to the Falcons --- and with tight security and a notoriously mean coach, even his mom's field passes aren't much help. Then Troy and his best friends devise a plan to get the attention of star linebacker Seth Halloway. With Seth's playing and Troy's genius, the Falcons could be unstoppable --- if they'll only listen.

2. **Rebecca** by Dame *Daphne du Maurier* 880L "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again." This opening line from *Rebecca* is one of the most powerful, most recognized, in all of literature. For more than sixty years, audiences around the world have praised Daphne du Maurier's novel as a spellbinding blend of mystery, horror, romance, and suspense. In this book, readers can see the traditions of romantic fiction, such as the helpless heroine, the strong-willed hero, and the ancient, imposing house that never seems to unlock its secrets. Using elements familiar to audiences of romances through the ages, from the moody and wind-swept novels of the Brontë sisters in the 1840s to the inexpensive entertainments of today, *Rebecca* stands out as a superb example of melodramatic storytelling. Modern readers considered this book a compelling page-turner, and it is fondly remembered by most who have read it.

3. **The Thief Lord** by Cornelia Funke 640L tale about two young boys, Prosper and Bo, who flee to Venice after being orphaned and dumped in the care of a cruel auntie. Hiding in the canals and alleyways of the city, the boys are befriended by a gang of young urchins and their enigmatic leader, the Thief Lord. From their home base of an old cinema theater, the children steal from the rich to support themselves and soon capture the interest of a bumbling detective. However, a greater threat to the children is something from a forgotten past—a beautiful magical treasure with the power to spin time itself.

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