



# Summer Reading

Pierce Middle School

Students entering  
Grades 6 , 7, 8

2009

## For Help choosing summer reading books:

- ✚ **Book stores** have a summer reading section where many suggested books are grouped.
- ✚ Go **online** to the following links. Take your time to read up and find books that will interest you. Many of these sites give a brief summary of the book.

### Suggestions from the National Council of Teachers of English

- [http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/grades6\\_8/](http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/grades6_8/)

### Summer Reading suggestions with lists divided into categories

- <http://www.kathimitchell.com/summread.htm>

### Nancy Keane's Book Talks

- <http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/>

### Links to many great sites dealing with summer reading books, awards and authors

- <http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/lists.html>

### The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) announces its best books for Young Adults. These lists were compiled by a wide range of groups. Their recommendations should keep you reading well into the next year!

- <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/09bbya.cfm>

### Outstanding Nonfiction for Children

- <http://www.ncte.org/awards/orbispictus?source=gs>

## **Pierce Middle School Summer Reading 2009**

The philosophy of the Pierce Middle School in regards to Summer Reading is to guide students to read for pleasure and enjoyment. We feel continuous reading ensures an enhanced academic transition to the next school year.

The list of suggested novels was compiled with the following goals: to present excellent literature in a variety of genres, to have the authorship be culturally diverse and also to recommend “classics” of long-standing.

### **Here is the format for Summer Reading 2009:**

- Each student is to read at least four (4) novels over the summer.
- Provided in the booklet are suggested titles for you to read. This is meant as a guide only. Students can select titles not on the list with the permission of a parent and or guardian. Also included is a list of links to view booklists to help you broaden your selections. Take time to choose books that interest you and you will enjoy reading.
- Parents and or guardians need to sign off using the form provided in the back of the booklet. Your child’s English teacher will collect this form during the first week of school.
- Each student will also have a written component to summer reading. For this part you will have three options from which to choose: an essay, a postcard, or a collage. These options are explained in the back of the booklet. Your child’s English teacher will collect this project during the first week of school.

## Suggested titles

Author	<u>Title</u>	Genre
Alcott, Louisa May	<u>Little Women</u> : Classic timeless tale based on the author's childhood of the four young March sisters who grow to maturity in their mother's strong, loving care.	Fiction
Allen, Thomas B.	<u>George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War:</u> Codes and ciphers, invisible ink and secret messages, spies and counterspies! Covert operations win the Revolutionary War under mastermind Washington in this intriguing take on early American history.	Biography
Almond, David	<u>Fire-Eaters:</u> In 1962, with the Cuban Missile Crisis looming, adolescent Bobby Burns finds himself intensely aware of endings and beginnings. (Also by the author: <u>Skellig, Heaven Eyes</u> )	Fiction
Alvarez, Julia	<u>In the Time of the Butterfly</u> : Fictionalized account of real life sisters growing up in the Dominican Republic under the dictator Trujillo. ( Also by the author: <u>Yo and How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents</u> )	Fiction
Ashbranner, Brent	<u>Always Remember: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial</u> : Story of Vietnam veteran Jan C. Scrugg's struggle to build a national monument honoring Americans who died or are still missing from the Vietnam War.	Nonfiction
Avi	<u>The Man Who Was Poe</u> : Edmund and his sister are left alone in their apartment. Worried they will starve, Edmund leaves Sis to find food. When he returns, she has disappeared. He asks a mystery man for help.	Fiction/ Mystery
Avi	<u>Nothing But the Truth</u> : It's against the regulations to hum the national anthem in school. Philip decides to disobey the rule and the whole nation watches what happens. He becomes a national news story.	Fiction
Bauer, Marian Dane	<u>On My Honor</u> : Tony is a daredevil and Joel just goes along for the ride. When they go for a bike ride to Starved Rock, they're in for an adventure. They stop at the river for a swim. But Tony doesn't know how to swim. (Also by the author: <u>Hope was Here, Rules of the Road, Best Foot Forward</u> )	Fiction
Beals, Melba Patillo	<u>Warriors Don't Cry</u> : Uplifting but depressing account of the integration of Central High in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957.	Autobiography
Bissinger, H.G.	<u>Friday night lights : a town, a team, and a dream:</u> Follows the 1988 season of the Permian Panthers, a high school football team in Odessa, Texas, exploring the lives of the players and the impact of the championship team on the small town.	Nonfiction
Bloor, Edward	<u>Tangerine</u> : A sinkhole swallows a middle school, lightning strikes, and all newcomer Paul Fisher wants to do is play soccer, despite his thick glasses, his parents' indifference, and his evil brother. (Also by the author: <u>Taken</u> )	Fiction

Brashares, Ann	<u>The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants</u> : Carmen decides to discard an old pair of jeans, but her friends think they are great and decide that whoever the pants fit best will get them. When the jeans fit everyone perfectly, a sisterhood and a memorable summer begin. ( Look for the sequels)	Fiction
Cart, Michael	<u>Tomorrowland: 10 Stories About the Future</u> : Young adult literature critic and author invites nine well-known writers to join him in crafting a story about the future. You will find something for every taste here.	Science Fiction
Choldenko, Jennifer	<u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u> : A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.	Fiction
Christie, Agatha	<u>And Then There Were None</u> : Acclaimed masterpiece of murder and suspense. Ten strangers are gathered together on an isolated island. One by one, the guests share dark secrets, and one by one they die.	Fiction/ Mystery
Cleary, Beverly	<u>Girl From Yamhill: A Memoir</u> : Follows the popular children's author from her childhood years in Oregon through high school and into young adulthood, highlighting her family life and her growing interest in writing.	Biography
Colfer, Eoin	<u>Artemis Fowl</u> : When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. (Sequels: <u>The Arctic Incident</u> , <u>The Eternity Code</u> )	Fiction
Cooney, Caroline	<u>Among Friends</u> : Six high school juniors discover surprising, often painful, things about themselves and their relationships with the people around them in the diaries they are asked to keep as a three-month English assignment.(Also by the author: <u>Out of Time</u> , <u>Driver's Ed</u> , <u>Code Orange</u> )	Fiction
Crane, Stephen	<u>Red Badge of Courage</u> : Civil War story of Henry Fleming who was drawn to the glory of a military conflict. Eventually he learns about the horrors of war and some things about himself in the process.	Historical Fiction
Creech, Sharon	<u>Walk Two Moons</u> : Salamanca is looking for her mother and travels from Ohio to Idaho with her grandparents. She hears the amazing story of Phoebe Winterbottom and also learns how her mother disappeared. ( Also by the author: <u>Granny Torrelli Makes Soup</u> )	Fiction
Crutcher, Chris	<u>Ironman</u> : Beauregard Brewster yearns to excel in the upcoming swimming-biking-running triathlon. This is a funny yet heartbreaking story about growing up in the heart of a struggle. (Others by the author: <u>Stotan</u> , <u>Whale Talk</u> , <u>Running Loose</u> , <u>The Sledding Hill</u> , <u>Athletic Shorts: Short Stories</u> )	Fiction
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<u>Bud, Not Buddy</u> : Ten-year-old Bud Caldwell runs away from a foster home in search of his father. The only clues are old flyers left by his deceased mother that point to a legendary jazz bandleader.	Historical Fiction
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<u>Bucking the Sarge</u> : Set in Flint, Michigan, the protagonist, Luther T. Farrell, is fifteen going on thirty. Luther must deal with the moral bankruptcy of his mother, an unscrupulous loan shark, a slumlord, and scam artist known as The Sarge. Luther is a vintage Curtis hero.	Fiction

Cushman, Karen	<u>The Midwife's Apprentice</u> : Beetle, a homeless girl, is found in a dung heap and apprentices to the village midwife. She finds out she's not ugly or stupid or alone in this sensitive 14th century tale set in England.	Historical Fiction
Dean, Zoey	<u>The A-List</u> : Seventeen-year-old blueblood Anna Percy leaves Manhattan to spend the second half of her senior year with her father in Los Angeles and quickly becomes involved in the lives of the rich and famous at Beverly Hills High School.(Also by the author: <u>Girls on Film, Blonde Ambition, Tall Cool One, Back is Black</u> )	Fiction
DePaulo, Tommie	<u>26 Fairmount Avenue</u> : It's 1938 when the DePaulo family overcome fire and flood and builds a new house. Tommie " quits" kindergarten, shares " chocolates" with Nana, critiques a movie, and finally moves into 26 Fairmount Avenue.	Memoir
Deuker, Carl	<u>On the Devils' Court</u> : 17-year-old Joe Faust must decide if it's worth selling his soul to the devil for one perfect season of basketball. (Also by the author: <u>Night Hoops, High Heat</u> )	Fiction
DiCamillo, Kate	<u>Because of Winn-Dixie</u> : Opal, the minister's daughter and new to Florida, finds her life changing dramatically once she finds and adopts a smiling mongrel named Winn-Dixie.( Also by the author: <u>The Tale of Despereaux, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</u> )	Fiction
Dorris, Michael	<u>Behind the Trees</u> : Walnut doesn't see as well as others.He must prove he's ready to be an adult by the accuracy of his arrow shooting. Practicing using his other senses, he earns the respect of his people.	Fiction
Draper, Sharon	<u>Copper Sun</u> : offers young adult readers an exciting, yet sobering story of the slave trade and plantation life in the 18th Century	Fiction
Earley, Tony	<u>Jim the Boy</u> : The story of a ten-year-old boy growing up in the Depression-era town of Aliceville, North Carolina. It captures the pleasures and struggles of the days when America itself was struggling to come into its own.	Fiction
Enzensberger, Hans Magnus	<u>The Number Devil: a Mathematical Adventure</u> : Annoyed with his math teacher who assigns word problems and won't let him use a calculator, twelve-year-old Robert finds help from the number devil in his dreams.	Fiction
Farmer, Nancy	<u>The Ear, the Eye and the Arm</u> : When General Matsika's children are kidnapped, their mother hires the best detective team available in Zimbabwe in 2194.	Science Fiction
Flake, Sharon	<u>Who Am I Without Him?</u> : Presents ten short stories about teenage girls struggling with issues of self-worth. (Others by the author: <u>Money Hungry and Sequel, Begging for Change, The Skin I'm In</u> )	Fiction
Flinn, Alex	<u>Nothing to Lose</u> : A year after running away with a traveling carnival to escape his unbearable home life, sixteen-year-old Michael returns to Miami, Florida, to find that his mother is going on trial for the murder of his abusive stepfather.	Fiction

Fox, Paula	<u>The Slave Dancer</u> : Fourteen-year-old Jessie is kidnapped and forced aboard an American slave ship bound for Africa.	Historical Fiction
Freedman, Russell	<u>The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights</u> : Freedman tells Anderson's triumphant story, with numerous black-and-white documentary photos and prints that convey her personal struggle, professional artistry, and landmark civil rights role.	Biography
Gaiman, Neil	<u>The Graveyard Book</u> (Newbery Winner 2008):This is a coming-of-age story modeled after The Jungle Book with slight nods to Harry Potter. A child named Nobody, an assassin, a graveyard and the dead are the perfect combination in this creepy tale, which is humorous, haunting and surprising.	Fantasy
Gantos, Jack	<u>Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key</u> : Joey battles with attention deficit disorder and struggles to pay attention and gain some control of his life. He is a survivor with an enormous heart. ( Sequel: <u>Joey Pigza Loses Control</u> )	Fiction
Gardner, Graham	<u>Inventing Elliot</u> : Elliot, a victim of bullying, invents a calmer, cooler self when he changes schools in the middle of freshman year, but soon attracts the wrong kind of attention from the Guardians who "maintain order" at the new school.	Fiction
Gipson, Fred	<u>Old Yeller</u> : A stray dog adopts the family of a former confederate soldier living in frontier-Texas. Old Yeller wins his way into everyone's hearts.	Fiction
Glenn, Mel	<u>Jump Ball: A Basketball Season in Poems</u> : A portrait of a boys' basketball team is presented through a series of poems, each written from the perspective of players, teachers, girlfriends, family, and others. Interwoven are poems about the tragic bus crash near the end of the season.	Poetry
Hautman, Pete	<u>Godless</u> : When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own. (Also by the author: <u>Rash</u> )	Fiction
Herriot, James	<u>All Creatures Great and Small</u> : A delightful collection of the adventures of an English veterinarian. A must read for animal lovers.	Autobiography
Hesse, Karen	<u>Out of the Dust</u> : A 14 year old and her father struggle to survive a drought in Oklahoma, written in poetry form; a story of strength, courage, and love.	Historical Fiction
Hiaasen, Carl	<u>Flush</u> : With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. (Also by the author: <u>Hoot</u> )	Fiction
Holt, Kimberly Willis	<u>When Zachary Beaver Came to Town</u> : Toby comes to gawk at Zachary Beaver, maybe the fattest boy in the world. But when Toby gets to know this angry, vulnerable boy, he confronts his own anger and hurt.	Fiction

Horowitz, Anthony	<u>Skeleton Key</u> : Reluctant teenage spy Alex Rider, on a routine mission at the Wimbledon tennis championships, gets caught up in Chinese gangs, illegal nuclear weapons, and the suspect plans of his Russian host, General Sarov. ( Also by the author: <u>The Falcon's Malteser</u> , <u>Eagle Strike</u> , <u>Evil Star</u> , <u>Point Blank</u> )	Fiction
Hoose, Phillip M.	<u>The Race to Save the Lord God Bird</u> : The story of the ivory-billed woodpecker's extinction in the United States, describing the encounters between this species and humans, and discussing what these encounters have taught us about preserving endangered creatures.	Nonfiction
Horvath, Polly	<u>Everything on a Waffle</u> : Eleven-year-old Primrose, who lives in a small fishing village in British Columbia, recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea. (Also by the author: <u>The Trolls</u> , <u>The Happy Yellow Car</u> , <u>The Canning Season</u> )	Fiction
Jiang, Ji li	<u>Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution</u> : Jiang recalls how her life turned upside down when China's Cultural Revolution branded her family as enemies of the people.	Autobiography
Johnson, Angela	<u>Bird</u> : Devastated by the loss of a second father, thirteen-year-old Bird follows her stepfather from Cleveland to Alabama in hopes of convincing him to come home, and along the way helps two boys cope with their difficulties.	Fiction
Jones, Ron	<u>The Acorn People</u> : An honest and humorous book about children attending a summer camp for handicapped kids where the author served as a counselor and developed a special bond with the children.	Fiction
Kadohata, Cynthia	<u>Kira-Kira</u> : This Newbery Award 2005 winner captures both the specific experience of being Japanese American in the 1950s and the wider experience of illness and loss. (Also by the author: <u>Weedflower</u> , <u>Cracker</u> )	Fiction
King, Kevin	<u>All the Stars Came Out That Night</u> : A fictionalized account of the 1934 baseball game between an all-white, non-Jewish team and the African-American all-stars.	Fiction
Konigsburg, E.L.	<u>A View From Saturday</u> : For the first time in history, a sixth grade class may win an Academic Bowl, find out how friendship plays a part in winning. (Also by the author: <u>Silent to the Bone</u> , <u>The Second Mrs. Gioconda</u> )	Fiction
Konigsburg, E.L.	<u>The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place</u> : Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.	Fiction
Krakauer, Jon	<u>Into Thin Air</u> : A true account of survival and death in the 1996 climbing disaster atop Mt. Everest that resulted in the deaths of five people.	Memoir
Lowry, Lois	<u>Gathering Blue</u> : Kira's mother has been dead for four days. She lives in a futuristic community who get rid of the weak, and Kira is physically flawed. She is brought before the Council to justify her existence. A gripping story. ( Also by the author: <u>A Summer to Die</u> , <u>Messenger</u> , <u>Gossamer</u> )	Fiction

Martinez, Victor	<u>Parrot in the Oven, Mi Vida</u> : Story of a young Mexican-American teenager growing up in the projects of Central Valley, California. His family faces many battles within itself and the outside world.	Fiction
Mazer, Harry	<u>A Boy at War : A Novel of Pearl Harbor</u> : While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.	Historical Fiction
McKissack, P. and M.	<u>Black Diamond</u> : The story of the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues. For nearly a century, African-Americans were shut out of Major League Baseball. Many amusing anecdotes and fascinating quotes.	Nonfiction
Montgomery, L.M.	<u>Anne of Green Gables</u> : Eleven-year-old Anne Shirley wins the heart of her foster mother. First novel in the Anne Series which has delighted readers since its publication in 1908.	Fiction
Moriarty, Jaclyn	<u>The Year of Secret Assignments</u> : Three female students from Ashbury High write to three male students from rival Brookfield High as part of a pen pal program, leading to romance, humiliation, revenge plots, and war between the schools.	Fiction
Murphy, Jim	<u>The Great Fire</u> : October 8, 1871, beginning in the O'Leary barn, Murphy traces the great fire through its three horror-filled days. He combines details of the fire with personal anecdotes taken from newspaper accounts and books. (Also by the author: <u>An American Plague, A Young Patriot</u> )	Nonfiction
Myers, Walter Dean	<u>Monster</u> : Sixteen-year-old Steve is on trial for felony murder. Told in an innovative format, events from the past and present are revealed. Many moral questions will definitely make the reader think.	Fiction
Myers, Walter Dean	<u>Somewhere in the Darkness</u> : Things are going okay for Jimmy until he meets Crab, a man with something to prove. Crab has one last chance to show Jimmy who he was, and who he is. ...his father. (Also by the author: <u>Hoops, Fallen Angels, Slam, Shooter, The Outside Shot</u> )	Fiction
Naidoo, Beverly	<u>Out of Bounds: Seven Stories of Conflict and Hope</u> : Each of these short stories, set in a different decade in South Africa, from the 1950s onward, personalizes the political oppression and struggle from the viewpoint of a child.	Nonfiction
Nelson, Marilyn	<u>Carver: A Life in Poems</u> : A new biography of George Washington Carver told from multiple perspectives, a breathtaking collection of 59 poems.	Poetry
O'Dell, Scott	<u>Sing Down the Moon</u> : The story of the forced migration of the Navajos from their homeland described from the Indian point of view.	Fiction
Paolini, Christopher	<u>Eldest</u> : After successfully evading an Urgals ambush, Eragon is adopted into the Ingeitum clan and sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire. (Sequel to <u>Eragon</u> )	Fiction

Park, Linda Sue	<u>A Single Shard</u> : A timeless story of dedication to one's dreams. Drawn by his exquisite craftsmanship, an adolescent boy begins to assist the master potter in 12th century Korea.	Fiction
Patron, Susan	<u>The Higher Power of Lucky</u> : Lucky is a true heroine, especially because she's not perfect: she does some cowardly things, but she takes pains to put them to rights. (The 2007 Newbery Award Winner)	Fiction
Peck, Richard	<u>A Year Down Yonder</u> : During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.	Fiction
Peck, Richard	<u>A Long Way From Chicago</u> : Joey and his sister make their annual summer visits from Chicago to Grandma's seemingly sleepless Illinois town. They make seven summer trips, each one funnier than the year before.	Fiction
Peck, Richard	<u>The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts</u> : In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."	Fiction
Perkins, Lynne Rae	<u>Criss Cross</u> : (Newbery Award 2006): The author of the popular <u>All Alone in the Universe</u> returns with another character study involving those moments that occur in everyone's life-moments when a decision is made that sends a person along one path instead of another.	Fiction
Pierce, Tamora	<u>Trickster's Choice</u> : Alianne must call forth her mother's courage and her father's wit in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy. (Also by the author: <u>Trickster's Queen</u> )	Fantasy
Pullman, Philip	<u>The Golden Compass</u> : Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North. (Also by the author: <u>The Subtle Knife</u> , <u>The Amber Spyglass</u> , <u>The Ruby in the Smoke</u> )	Fantasy
Rinaldi, Ann	<u>Cast Two Shadows</u> : Set in the So. Carolina in the 1780's, the story of a family torn apart by the American Revolution.	Historical Fiction
Robinson, Sharon	<u>Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America</u> : A biography of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the major leagues, as told by his daughter.	Biography
Rubin, Susan Goldman	<u>Art against the odds : from slave quilts to prison paintings</u> : Tells the stories of adults and children who are moved to create art even in the most difficult circumstances; people with mental disabilities, prisoners, slaves, ghetto students, and others, and includes examples of their art.	Nonfiction
Sachar, Louis	<u>Holes</u> : Stanley didn't steal the shoes, but the judge doesn't believe him. He ends up in Camp Green Lake where he is forced to dig holes and then discovers himself. (Also by the author: <u>Small Steps</u> )	Fiction

Schmidt, Gary	<u>Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy</u> : 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 . The town fathers as well as Turner's father want to change it into a tourist spot.	Fiction
Smith, Betty	<u>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</u> : The story of three generations in a poor, proud American family. Eleven-year old Francie tells their story as they struggle and dream.	Fiction
Sones, Sonya	<u>One of those Hideous Books where the Mother Dies</u> : Fifteen-year-old Ruby Milliken leaves her best friend, her boyfriend, her aunt, and her mother's grave in Boston and reluctantly flies to Los Angeles to live with her father, a famous movie star who divorced her mother before Ruby was born.	Fiction
Spinelli, Jerry	<u>Wringer</u> : The story of a boy who cannot bear to be a part of his town's annual pigeon massacre, especially when one pigeon becomes his beloved pet. (Also by the author: <u>Loser, Stargirl, Sequel: Love, Stargirl</u> )	Fiction
Stroud, Jonathan	<u>The Golem's Eye: The Bartimaeus Trilogy, Book Two</u> : Picking up two years after <u>The Amulet of Samarkand</u> ended, this sequel continues the original's fast-paced excitement and is enriched by a broader moral view and a third main character.	Fiction
Taylor, Mildred	<u>The Land</u> : Set in Mississippi in the late 1800's, this book chronicles the triumphs and struggles of life for Paul-Edward Logan, the son of a white slave owner and an enslaved African-Indian woman. (Also by the author: <u>The Road to Memphis</u> )	Fiction
Testa, Maria	<u>Becoming Joe DiMaggio</u> : This powerful story, told in 24 poems, describes the relationship of an Italian boy and his grandfather and their love of listening to another Italian, Joe DiMaggio, as he achieve success as a ballplayer. Joe learns to dream and finds that he can "soar" in his own way.	Poetry
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<u>The Hobbit</u> : This a fantasy that begins the tale of the hobbits. Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who wanted to be left alone in quiet comfort. But the wizard Gandalf came along with a band of homeless dwarves. Bilbo is soon drawn into their quest facing evil orcs, savage wolves, giant spiders, and unknown danger.	Fantasy
Twain, Mark	<u>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</u> : Like many young people, Tom would rather be having fun than going to school and church. This desire to enjoy life is always getting him into trouble.	Fiction
Various	<u>Cool Salsa: bilingual poems on growing up Latino in the United States</u> : Celebrates the tones, rhythms, sounds, and experiences of growing up Latino in America. Includes works by poets such as Sandra Cisneros, Martin Espada, Gary Soto, Ed Vega, and others.	Poetry
Voigt, Cynthia	<u>Homecoming</u> : A mother abandons her four children in a mall parking lot. The oldest tries to keep the group together and make the right decisions for everyone. (Also by the author: <u>Dacey's Song, A Solitary Blue</u> )	Fiction
Weeks, Sarah	<u>So B.It: A Novel</u> : After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.	Fiction

Winthrop, Elizabeth	<u>Castle in the Attic</u> : William encounters many adventures in a fantasy world. A magical castle comes alive in his hands. A story of sorcery, wizards, and magic.	Fantasy
Woodson, Jacqueline	<u>I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This</u> : A story about race, friendship, and growing up. Marie is rich, Lina is poor, but they are connected by a similar experience. They both have lost their mothers.	Fiction
Woodson, Jacqueline	<u>Behind You</u> : After fifteen-year-old Jeremiah is mistakenly shot by police, the people who love him struggle to cope with their loss as they recall his life and death, unaware that 'Miah is watching over them. (Also by the author: <u>Miracle's Bosy, Hush, Feathers, After Tupac &amp; D Foster</u> )	Fiction
Favorite Young Adult Authors	Julie Alvarez, Luairé Halse Anderson, Avi, Marian Dane Bauer, Ann Brashares, Eoin Colfer, Caroline Cooney, Robert Cormier, Sharon Creech, Chris Crutcher, Zoey Dean, Sarah Dessen, Carl Deuker, Kate DiCamillo, Sharon Flake, Carl Hiaasen, Anthony Horowitz, Cynthia Kadohata, E.L. Konigsburg, Lois Lowry, Mike Lupica, Walter Dean Myers, Garth Nix, Kenneth Oppel, Christopher Paolini, Gary Paulsen, Richard Peck, Tamara Pierce, Philip Pullman, Lois Sacher, Jerry Spinelli, Jonathan Stroud, Mildred Taylor, Cynthia Voight, Jacqueline Woodson,	

# Option #1

## Summer Reading Essay

From any one of your books, choose one character. Explain how he/she changes during the course of the novel. Provide 3 specific examples of that change. Use the format below as a guide to organize your ideas, and then write your essay in paragraph form on a separate sheet.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Essay format:

<b>Introduction:</b>
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Detail # 1
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Detail # 2
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Detail # 3
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<b>Conclusion:</b>
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## Option #2 Postcard

Choose one of your books and design and write a postcard to a friend. One side should show an image related to the book and the other side should include a written recommendation to a friend about your book. Use specific examples from the book. Address it to someone you think might enjoy the book. Include the title and author somewhere on your postcard. Be creative and neat.

The diagram illustrates the layout for a postcard. On the left is a large empty rectangular box representing the front side. Below it is a smaller box labeled "Front side image". On the right is a larger rectangular box representing the back side. Inside this box, there is a smaller box on the left containing the text "Written recommendation" followed by five horizontal lines for writing. To the right of this is another box containing the text "Name", "Address", and "City, St. Zip" on separate lines. Below the entire back-side box is a small box labeled "Back".

## Option # 3 Collage

Choose one of your books and design a collage. Use words, drawings and/or cut out images to create a collage that shows an understanding of the characters and plot of the book you choose. Include the title and author somewhere on your collage. On a separate sheet, write a short explanation of what you included and why. Be creative and neat.

