



# District Summer Reading List



Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Graders for the 2016 – 2017 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage students to read an approved novel that appeals to their own personal interests, instilling a love of reading as well as increasing literacy across the district. The following books were chosen based on many criteria, including reading level, content, interest, and more. Students should choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below\*. Happy reading!

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>The Westing Game</i>	Ellen Raskin	Fiction - Mystery	A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!
<i>The River</i>	Gary Paulsen	Fiction	These words, spoken to Brian Robeson, will change his life. Two years earlier, Brian was stranded alone in the wilderness for 54 days with nothing but a small hatchet. Yet he survived. Now the government wants him to go back into the wilderness so that astronauts and the military can learn the survival techniques that kept Brian alive. Soon the project backfires, though, leaving Brian with a wounded partner and a long river to navigate. His only hope is to build a raft and try to transport the injured man a hundred miles downstream to a trading post--if the map he has is accurate. Sequel to <i>Hatchet!</i>
<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	Fiction - Mystery	Venture back in time to Victorian London to join literature's greatest detective team — the brilliant Sherlock Holmes and his devoted assistant, Dr. Watson — as they investigate a dozen of their best-known cases. Originally published in 1892, this is the first and best collection of stories about the legendary sleuth. It's also the least expensive edition available. Featured tales include several of the author's personal favorites: "A Scandal in Bohemia" — in which a king is blackmailed by a former lover and Holmes matches wits with the only woman to attract his open admiration — plus "The Speckled Band," "The Red-Headed League," and "The Five Orange Pips." Additional mysteries include "The Blue Carbuncle," "The Engineer's Thumb," "The Beryl Coronet," "The Copper Beeches," and four others.
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	Wilson Rawls	Fiction	A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn, Little Ann had the brains -- and Billy had the will to train them to be the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. And close by was the strange and wonderful power that's only found... An exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget.

<i>The Face on the Milk Carton</i>	Caroline B. Cooney	Fiction	No one ever really paid close attention to the faces of the missing children on the milk cartons. But as Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl with her hair in tight pigtails, wearing a dress with a narrow white collar—a three-year-old who had been kidnapped twelve years before from a shopping mall in New Jersey—she felt overcome with shock. She recognized that little girl—it was she. How could it possibly be true? Janie can't believe that her loving parents kidnapped her, but as she begins to piece things together, nothing makes sense. Something is terribly wrong. Are Mr. and Mrs. Johnson really her parents? And if not, who is Janie Johnson, and what really happened?
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**\*Teachers may request that a book be added to this list by submitting it through the school's novel selection process.**



# District Summer Reading List



Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders for the 2016 – 2017 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

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## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	Stephen Crane	Historical Fiction	Henry Fleming, a private in the Union Army, runs away from the field of war. Afterwards, the shame he feels at this act of cowardice ignites his desire to receive an injury in combat—a “red badge of courage” that will redeem him. Stephen Crane’s novel about a young soldier’s experiences during the American Civil War is well known for its understated naturalism and its realistic depiction of battle.
<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	Jack London	Fiction	<i>The Call of the Wild</i> , considered by many London's greatest novel, is a gripping tale of a heroic dog that, thrust into the brutal life of the Alaska Gold Rush, ultimately faces a choice between living in man’s world and returning to nature. Adventure and dog-story enthusiasts as well as students and devotees of American literature will find this classic work a thrilling, memorable reading experience.
<i>The Contender</i>	Robert Lipsyte	Fiction	Alfred Brooks is scared. He's a high school dropout and his grocery store job is leading nowhere. His best friend is sinking further and further into drug addiction. Some street kids are after him for something he didn't even do. So Alfred begins going to Donatelli's Gym, a boxing club in Harlem that has trained champions. There he learns it's the effort, not the win, that makes the man -- that last desperate struggle to get back on your feet when you thought you were down for the count.
<i>Gathering Blue</i>	Lois Lowry	Fiction – Utopia/Dystopia	Lois Lowry won her first Newbery Medal in 1994 for <i>The Giver</i> . Six years later, she ushered readers back into its mysterious but plausible future world in <i>Gathering Blue</i> to tell the story of Kira, orphaned, physically flawed, and left with an uncertain future. This second book in the Giver Quartet has been stunningly redesigned in paperback. <i>Gathering Blue</i> challenges readers to imagine what our world could become, how people could evolve, and what could be considered valuable.
<i>The Man in the Brown Suit</i>	Agatha Christie	Fiction - Mystery	Agatha Christie, the acknowledged mistress of suspense brings her entire oeuvre of ingenious whodunits, locked room mysteries, and perplexing puzzles to William Morrow Paperbacks. <i>The Man in the Brown Suit</i> is Christie at her best, as a young woman makes a dangerous decision to investigate a shocking “accidental” death she witnesses at a London tube station.

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