

Immaculate Conception School

Middle Grades Summer, 2011 Reading List

For Ms. Panos' Middle Grades Language Arts Classrooms: 2011/12 School Year

Reading over the summer months is shown to improve comprehension and test scores as well as to help children avoid the summer brain drain. To this end, middle grades students are encouraged to read, and read, and read some more!

All students will be required to read over the summer. This document has been created to help students, and parents, choose books which stimulate interest in reading as well as maintain, and possibly extend, students' comprehension and critical thinking skills.

While all of these books are great reads, I encourage parents to choose each book with their children as well as conduct internet searches to be sure the book is right for the child.

All middle grades students will be required to do two different types of reading this summer. The table below shows the **REQUIRED READING BOOKS** for each grade level. Additionally, students will be required to read **INDEPENDENT BOOKS**, which should be chosen from the attached lists. Students are welcome to read books not included in the attached lists, but they will not count toward summer reading requirements.

Grade Level	Required Reading	# of Independent Reading Books	Total # of Books to Read
6 th	<u>The Greek Myths: Complete Edition</u> by Robert Graves	3 Books <i>At least...but please feel free to read more!</i>	4 Books Total
7 th	<u>Ender's Game</u> by Orson Scott Card	3 Books <i>At least...but please feel free to read more!</i>	4 Books Total
8 th	<u>War of the Worlds</u> by HG Wells	3 Books <i>At least...but please feel free to read more!</i>	4 Books Total

RECOMMENDED: *If students or parents are interested in vocabulary retention or extension, we recommend Kaplan's Word Power. This book is used by students studying for the ACT, SAT, GRE, GMAT, and other standardized tests.*

After reading each book, students must fill out a 5"x7" note-card with the following:

Front Side:

- WHO: Who are the main characters and what are they like? (character)
- WHERE: Where does the story take place and in what time? (setting)
- WHAT: What happens in the beginning, middle and end of the story? (plot)
- WHY: Why is this story important? What makes it worth reading? (theme)

Back Side:

Write a few sentences recommending or not recommending this book. Be sure to explain **WHY** someone should or should not read this book!

* Place the 5" x 7" note-card inside the book once you have completed reading it and have completed the note-card requirements and it will be ready for you to bring to school and to reference in August.

Classics

Some books just never get olde!

The Count of Monte Cristo, Alexandre Dumas

Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens

Emma, Jane Austen

Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott

The Red Pony, John Steinbeck

The Horatio Hornblower Series, C.S. Lewis

The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Victor Hugo

Le Morte D'Arthur, Sir Thomas Mallory

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Irving Washington

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, Frederick Douglas

Story of My Life, Hellen Keller

Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Poems, Robert Frost

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Jules Verne

Historical Fiction

A blast from the past!

My Brother Sam is Dead, James & Christopher Collier

All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother Sam. Sam's smart and brave -- and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion He soon will have to make a choice between his brother and his father.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith

A girl in the slums tries to find her way with the help of her devoted mother and alcoholic father.

Fever, 1793, Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1793 sixteen year-old Matty, who is forced to leave her home to avoid the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia, learns self-reliance and perseverance.

For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy, Bradley

During World War II, a 13-year-old French girl finds her life changed and in danger when she becomes a spy for the French Resistance.

Burying the Sun, Whelan

While trying to survive the cold and starvation during the WW II siege of Leningrad, fourteen-year-old Georgi, his family and their neighbors try to keep hope alive by focusing on the beauty in the world.

Uprising, Haddix

After 16 years, Bella Livingston finally shares the story of the fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory that killed her two best friends in 1911 and the poor

When My Name was Keoko, Parker

Teenage siblings describe the struggles of their Korean family to preserve its culture during WWII Japanese occupation.

The River Between Us, Richard Peck

During the Civil War, two mysterious young ladies travel from New Orleans to Illinois and are taken in by a family. As the story unfolds so does the mystery of their lives.

A Break with Reality: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials, Rinaldi

In 1706, the town of Salem is in an uproar due to the Salem witch trials. The story is told from the perspective of Susanna English, who is caught between her desire to join the malicious group of girls who are spreading the mischief and her fear of what they are doing.

The Shakespeare Stealer, Blackwood

Widge, a likeable orphan, finds himself in the middle of an adventure to steal and copy the play HAMLET from Shakespeare. He soon discovers that life in the Globe Theatre is much better than the other places he has apprenticed.

Stealing Freedom, Carbone

This story is based on the true experiences of a young slave girl who escapes to Canada on the Underground Railroad.

The Ballad of Lucy Whipple, Cushman

Lucy isn't happy when her mother moves the family from New England to California for the Gold Rush.

Why I Fight, J. Adams Oaks *For five years, Wyatt travels the country with his drifter Uncle Spade, first as a companion, then as a money-making bare-fisted fighter, until realizing Spade doesn't exactly have Wyatt's best interests at heart.*

Realistic Fiction

Life as we know it...

The Secret Within, Golding

Carly's domineering father has a painful family secret that causes Carly to face danger and seek freedom at night.

Music of the Dolphins, Karen Hesse

The thoughts of a young girl, who was raised by dolphins from 4 years old after a plane crash, are recorded by a scientist as she is reintroduced to a civilized way of life.

Hush, Woodson

A twelve-year-old African American girl encounters many challenges when her family enters the Witness Protection Program.

Red Kayak, Cummings

After a young boy is killed in a kayaking accident, Brady struggles with whether he should divulge the prank that caused the accident or keep silent to protect the pranksters.

Stargirl, Jerry Spinnelli

A sixteen-year-old eccentric high school girl and her boyfriend discover the ill effects of her unconventional behavior. Warning: This book may contain inappropriate material and are for mature students.

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac, Zevin

After a nasty fall down the front steps of her high school, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years. This includes her parents' divorce and remarriage, and why the people in her life are her friends, when some of them aren't really decent friends at all! Naomi re-evaluates a lot of her life.

Homecoming, Cynthia Voigt

Abandoned first by their father, and then also by their mother in a shopping mall parking lot, four children begin an epic journey on foot following Route 1 from Bridgeport down into Maryland in search of a home.

All the Broken Pieces, Anne E. Burg

12-year-old Matt struggles to cope with his memories of family left behind in war-torn Vietnam with the help of his adoptive parents, his music teacher, and his baseball coach.

Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer, John Grisham

A kid with loads of courtroom knowledge tries to save the day.

Flipped, Wendelin Van Draanen *A fun story of friendship that flips back and forth between a male and female perspective.*

That Girl Lucy Moon, Amy Timberlake *A Middle School girl who promotes animal rights launches a campaign to fight against corruption in her hometown.*

Action & Adventure & Mystery

Holy cannoli, Batman! Did you just read that?

The Recruit, Robert Muchamore

*James is recruited into CHERUB, a secret division of MI5 which consists of teenage spies. He successfully completes his training and goes on his first mission. *series**

Jimmy Coates: Assassin?, Joe Craig

*While escaping from the strange men that are after him in London, Jimmy discovers he possesses many unusual talents for an eleven-year-old boy. *series**

Hatchet, Gary Paulsen

*After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. *series**

Soldier Boys, Dean Hughes

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge. Pay attention to the wartime propaganda on both sides!

The Wanderer, Sharon Creech

Told through journal writings, Sophie and her cousin, Cody, share the experiences of their journey on a sailboat, The Wanderer, from Connecticut to England with six crew members, including her uncles and cousins.

Code Orange, Caroline B. Cooney

While conducting research for a biology class paper on infectious diseases, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City, and attracted the attention of terrorists who want to use the disease as a weapon.

Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery, John Feinstein Sports writer John Feinstein weaves a tale of mystery as a middle school student discovers a plan to throw the NCAA Final Four games.

Bat 6, Virginia Euwer Wolff *Bat 6 is the softball game played every year by the sixth-grade-girls of two schools. It's 1949, with the effects of World War II still active. Find out what happens at the big game through the eyes of the 21 players at the game.*

Hoot, Hassen

Roy, a middle school boy who is the target of a school bully, gets involved in a mysterious case of vandalism and a barefoot boy's commitment to save burrowing owls living on a construction site.

Undercurrents, Roberts

Fourteen-year-old Nikki has trouble accepting her new stepmother Crystal, and the problem grows worse when they visit the Northern California house where Crystal lived as a child and experienced some horrible event that she is trying to keep secret.

Cryptic Hunters, Smith

Adventurous and orphaned twins, Grace and Marty, are sent to live with their mysterious uncle who is an authority on cryptids. They find themselves being dropped from a plane in the Congolese jungle, where they discover truths about themselves and their family.

Airborn, Opper

A cabin boy and wealthy young girl on luxury airship team-up to search for mysterious creatures that a dying balloonist claimed he saw.

Double Identity, Haddix

Bethany becomes curious about her past when her parents unexpectedly disappear after leaving her with an aunt who she did not know existed. As the story unravels, the conclusion uncovers a shocking secret.

Fantasy & Sci-Fi

A long, long time ago, in a book far, far away...

Inkheart, Cornelia Funke

A girl and her father, a bookbinder who can "read" fictional characters into real life, are abducted by one of the characters, who tries to force them into his service.

Airman, Eoin Colfer

After being branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to work in the diamond mines under horrible conditions, Conor Broekhart encounters many adventures while planning a prison escape in a flying machine that he must build

The City of Ember, DuPrau

Twelve-year-old Lina lives in the 241 year-old ruined, underground city of Ember where she and a friend embark on a harrowing journey to find a way out of the city and save their people before it is too late.

The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan

*Percy learns that he has special powers after he makes his pre-algebra teacher disappear. Further investigation reveals that he is the son of Greek god Poseidon. To save humankind Percy embarks on an adventure to return a lightning bolt his father stole from Zeus.
*series**

The House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer

In the future, clones are looked down upon by humans. However, Matt, a clone of a powerful leader, experiences special privileges.

The Looking Glass Wars, Frank Beddor

*When she is cast out of Wonderland by her evil aunt Redd, young Alyss Heart finds herself living in Victorian Oxford as Alice Liddell and struggles to keep memories of her kingdom intact until she can return and claim her rightful throne. *series* The current sequel is Seeing Redd*

Everlost, Neal Shusterman *When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.*

Dealing with Dragons, Patricia Wrede *Bored with traditional palace life where she is supposed to be doing needlepoint and dancing instead of cooking and swordfighting, Princess Cimorene goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards. *series**

Epic, Conor Kostick *Gamers will LOVE this one! On New Earth, a world in which your status is based on your performance in a global video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to aid him in some unusual gambits in order to save Erik's father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.*

Life as We Knew It, Susan Beth Pfeffer *Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.*

Star Crossed, Elizabeth C. Bunce *Escaping the city, Digger, a thief, ends up in a remote castle full of nobles and becomes involved in political intrigue in a country where magic has been forbidden.*

Nonfiction/Memoir/Autobiography

Just the facts.

No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War, Lobel *Anita Lobel, a Polish Jew and an illustrator of children's books, writes of her experiences during World War II and in Sweden after the war.*

Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High, Beals *Melba Patillo Beals, one of the nine students who integrated Central High in 1957, shares the horrific experiences she and the others encountered and how they were able to survive.*

The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens, Covey *Hints and strategies for success in life, communicated through engaging stories, cartoons and quotations.*

Swimming to Antarctica, Cox *Follow the story of Lynne Cox as she deals with achieving her dreams of conquering some of the roughest waters in the world. The story shows that even young people can accomplish great things.*

Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens & Hitler's Olympics, Schaap *This book uncovers the history of one of sports greatest track and field stars, Jesse Owens. It traces the racial struggles he faced in America and the dramatic contests in 1936 at the Olympics in Nazi Berlin.*

The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum, Candace Fleming *The AMAZING and THRILLING life of the GREAT P.T. Barnum is laid bare in this STUPENDOUS biography. Come one, come all and learn about this truly AMERICAN icon.*

The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe, Theodore Gray *The 118 elements of the periodic table are photographed and described with humor, style and authority.*

Charles and Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith, Deborah Heiligman *This lively biography of Charles Darwin focuses on the family life of one of the world's most famous scientists, including the impact differing religious beliefs had on the family's relationships.*

Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting, Jim Murphy *Bored and miserable after months in the trenches along Europe's Western Front during WWI, German and Allied soldiers brought fighting to a halt to celebrate Christmas together in 1914.*

Chasing Lincoln's Killer, James L. Swanson *Much more than just Lincoln's killing went on that night of the Ford Theater assassination, this book will inform and entertain you with the gory details.*

Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland, Sally M. Walker *This book offers an incredible look at how ancient bones can reveal the details about the daily lives of colonial Americans.*

The Dark Game: Tru Spy Stories, Paul Janeczko *This compilation of different spies carries readers from the Revolutionary War through the infamous Cold War era. Delve into stories about the Choctaw Code Talkers of WWI, Soviet moles, Mata Hari and more as you uncover just how they changed the course of history.*

Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement, Rick Bowers *In 1958, the state of Mississippi began an undercover operation, The Sovereignty Commission, to spy on and potentially squelch the Civil Rights movement. Bowers' expose of this unknown organization reveals the extent to which some were willing to go to see segregation remain the law of the state.*