

S-E Middle School Summer Reading Challenge

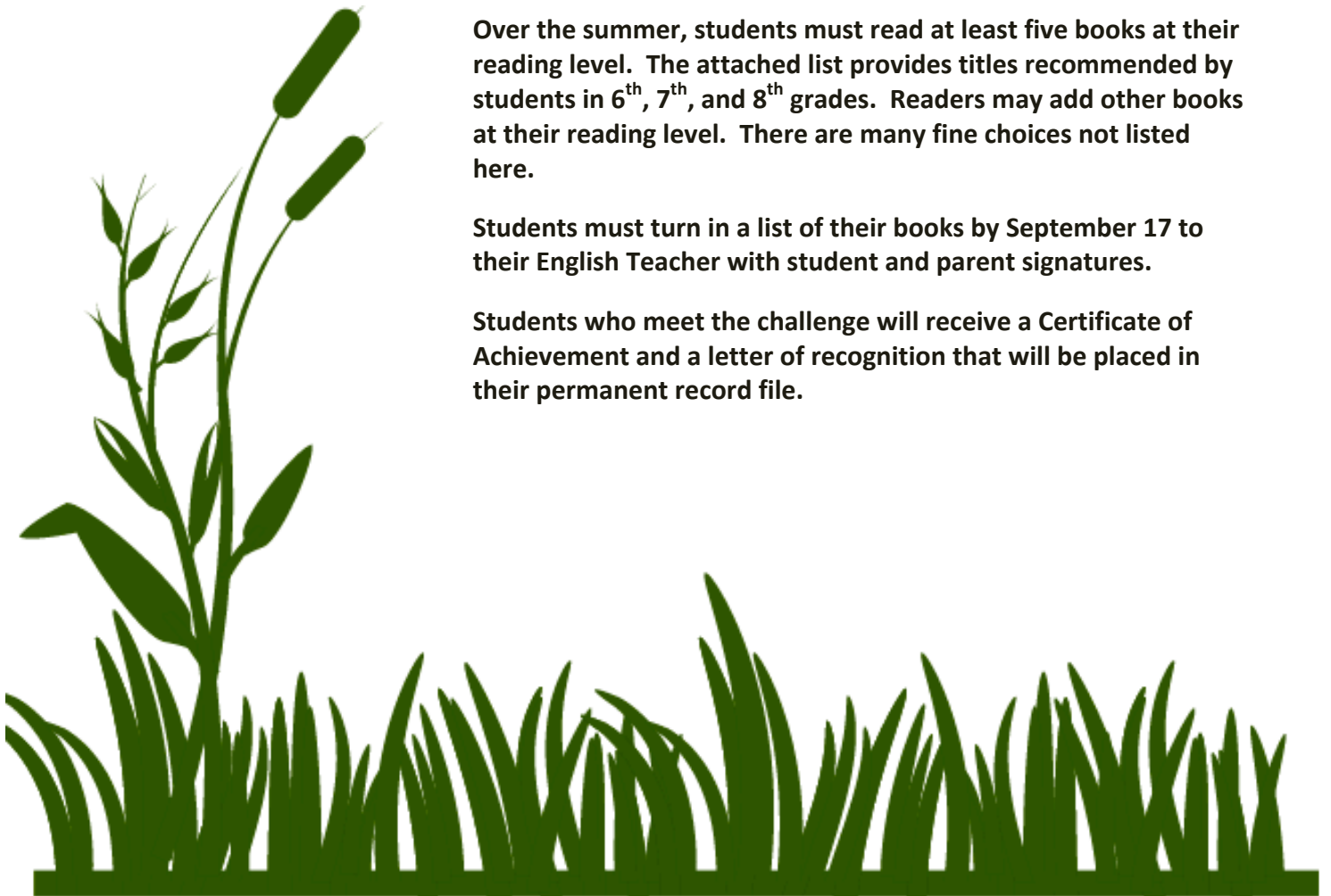
Sponsored by: Sherburne-Earlville School Library &
Middle School English Department

To Participate:

Over the summer, students must read at least five books at their reading level. The attached list provides titles recommended by students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Readers may add other books at their reading level. There are many fine choices not listed here.

Students must turn in a list of their books by September 17 to their English Teacher with student and parent signatures.

Students who meet the challenge will receive a Certificate of Achievement and a letter of recognition that will be placed in their permanent record file.



Great Books Recommended by 6th Grade Students

Adventure & Mystery

The Cay by Theodore Taylor - When the ship they are traveling on is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, a 12-year-old white boy (blinded by a blow on the head) and an old black man are stranded on a small island in the Caribbean, where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion.

Flush by Carl Hiaasen - 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.

How to Catch a Bogle by Catherine Jinks - In 1870s London, a young orphan girl becomes the apprentice to a man who traps monsters for a living.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate – When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo - The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Three Bird Summer by Sara St. Antoine - Adam heads to Three Bird Lake to spend the summer with his grandmother at her cabin, and soon finds himself involved in the search for a mysterious treasure with Alice, the girl next door.

Funny

The Good, the Bad, & the Beagle by Catherine Lloyd Burns - Shy eleven-year-old Veronica Louise Morgan of New York City is not happy about having to attend Randolph School for Girls, but by the end of her first year she not only has some new friends, she may have finally convinced her parents that she is ready to own a dog.

How Angel Peterson Got His Name by Gary Paulsen - Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen - Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

Lunch Money by Andrew Clements - Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

Realistic

Marley: A Dog Like No Other by John Grogan - Follows the true story of an out-going Labrador retriever as he gets into trouble and has inspiring adventures.

Smile by Raina Telgemeier - The author relates, in graphic form, her experiences after she injured her two front teeth and had to have surgeries and wear embarrassing braces and headgear, all while also dealing with the trials and tribulations of middle school.

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli - As Palmer comes of age he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his Pennsylvania town's annual Pigeon day or find the courage to oppose it.

Sports

Crash by Jerry Spinelli - Crash Coogan, rising football sensation, and his friend, Mike make a regular practice of tormenting the school nerd, Penn Webb, but when Mike takes a prank too far, Crash finds himself locked in a moral dilemma.

Slam Dunk by Donna King - Talented basketball player Ashlee Carson works hard to win a place in the nationals, but her strict mother wants her to focus on academics and Ashlee must ask her deadbeat father, a former professional basketball player, for support.

Summer Ball by Mike Lupica - Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.



Great Books Recommended by 7th Grade Students

Adventure/Mystery

Alabama Moon by Watt Key - After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boys' home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love, and humanity.

Ghostopolis by Doug TenNaple - Garth Hale, accidentally zapped into the ghost world by ghost wrangler Frank Gallows, teams up with Cecil, his grandfather's ghost, in an effort to save him from the evil ruler of Ghostopolis and get him back home again.

The Boundless by Kenneth Oppel – Aboard “The Boundless,” the greatest train ever built, on its maiden voyage across Canada, teenaged Will enlists the aid of a traveling circus to save the train from villains.

The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford - A young Labrador Retriever, an old Bull Terrier and a Siamese cat undertake a 250-mile trek through the Canadian wilderness in order to return to their home.

Kat Incurrigible by Stephanie Burgis - In Regency England, when twelve-year-old Kat discovers she has magical powers, she tries to use them to stop her sister from marrying a man she does not love.

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer - After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

The Snowball Effect by Deb Loughead - In order fit in with his friends, Dylan throws snowballs filled with rocks at passing cars, but when there is an accident, he is the only one to go to the driver's aid, for which he gets hailed as a hero, which makes him increasingly uneasy.

Funny

I Funny by James Patterson - Resolving to become the world's greatest stand-up comedian despite less-than-funny challenges in his life, wheelchair-bound middle school student Jamie Grimm endures bullying from his mean-spirited cousin and hopes he will be fairly judged when he enters a local comedy contest.

Realistic

Along for the Ride by Sarah Dessen - When Auden impulsively goes to stay with her father, stepmother, and new baby sister the summer before she starts college, all the trauma of her parents' divorce is revived, even as she is having new experiences such as learning to ride a bike and dating.

The Last Song by Nicholas Sparks - Her teenage life turned upside-down by her parents' divorce, Ronnie remains bitter three years later when her mother urges her to spend a summer with her father.

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen - When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

So B. It by Sarah Weeks - After spending her life with her mentally challenged mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Nevada to New York to find out who she is.

Sports

Box Out by John Coy - High school sophomore Liam jeopardizes his new position on the varsity basketball team when he decides to take a stand against his coach.

Crossover by Kwame Alexander - Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Pretty Tough by Liz Tigelaar - Two feuding sisters from Malibu, California, take their rivalry to the soccer field when both girls make the high school team.

The Underdogs by Mike Lupica - Small but fast twelve-year-old Will Tyler, an avid football player in the down-and-out town of Forbes, Pennsylvania, takes matters into his own hands to try and finance the city's football team, giving the whole community hope in the process.



Great Books Recommended by 8th Grade Students

Adventure/Mystery

Beautiful Lies by Jessica Warman - Eighteen-year-old identical twins Alice and Rachel have always shared a very special bond, so when one is abducted the other uses their connection to try to locate her.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak - Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer - In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the one hundred forty-two-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs - Sixteen-year-old Jacob, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and, after some investigating, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined and may also still be alive.

World War Z by Max Brooks – The author chronicles the fictitious "zombie wars" that nearly decimated the human population, with first-hand accounts from people who have had a brush with the undead and facts and figures documenting how many undead currently roam the planet.

Funny

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews - Seventeen-year-old Greg has managed to become part of every social group at his Pittsburgh high school without having any friends, but his life changes when his mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl he once knew in Hebrew school who has leukemia.

Realistic

A Child Called "It" by Dave Pelzer – The true story of an abused child's journey from victim to victor.

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green - Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.

If I Stay by Gayle Forman - While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

Lock and Key by Sarah Dessen - When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about what makes a family, how to allow people to help her, and that she too has something to offer others.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry - In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton - 14-year-old Ponyboy, living with his older brothers since his parents' death, runs with his gang from the wrong side of the tracks. When his best friend kills a member of a rival gang, Ponyboy is caught up in a violent chain of events that changes all of their lives.

Perfect by Natasha Friend - Following the death of her father, a thirteen-year-old uses bulimia as a way to avoid her mother's and ten-year-old sister's grief, as well as her own.

A Soldier's Heart by Gary Paulsen - Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

Sports

Tangerine by Edward Bloor - Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Winger by Andrew Smith - Two years younger than his classmates at a prestigious boarding school, fourteen-year-old Ryan Dean West grapples with living in the dorm for troublemakers, falling for his female best friend who thinks of him as just a kid, and playing wing on the Varsity rugby team with some of his frightening new dorm-mates.

8th Grade

Great Books in Series for Middle School

Adventure/Mystery/Fantasy

39 Clues by multiple authors

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (Good vs. evil)

Ashfall by Mike Mullin (Volcano Sci-Fi)

Bartimaeus Trilogy by Jonathan Stroud (Magic)

Chronicles of Vladimir Tod by Heather Brewer (Vampires)

The Dark Tower by Stephen King (Epic quest)

Deadly Little Secrets (Touch Series) by Laurie Faria Stolarz

Divergent by Veronica Roth (Courage/Individuality –Sci-Fi)

Eragon by Christopher Paolini (Dragon fantasy)

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman (Stolen children)

Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling (Magic, good vs. evil)

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (Wilderness survival)

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (Survival Sci-Fi)

I am Number Four by Pittacus Lore (Aliens)

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke (Books come to life)

Legends of Ga'Hoole by Kathryn Lasky (Owls, good vs. evil)

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien (Epic quest)

Maximum Ride by James Patterson (Sci-Fi)

The Maze Runner by James Dashner (Sci-Fi)

The Missing by Margaret Haddix Peterson (time-travel)

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Theron Lee Stewart

The Name of This Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch

Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan

Riley Bloom by Alyson Noel (ghosts)

Tunnels by Roderick Gordon (Mystery under London)

Twilight by Stephenie Meyer (Vampires & werewolves)

Uglies/Pretties/Specials/Extras by S. Westerfeld (Sci-Fi)

Warriors by Erin Hunter (Cats – fantasy, good vs. evil)

Sports

Canterwood Crest by Jessica Burkhart (horseback riding)

Football Hero by Tim Green

Sluggers by Loren Long

Graphic Novels

Bleach by Tite Kubo

Bone by Jeff Smith

Naruto by Masashi Kishimoto

Yu-Gi-Oh by Kazuki Takahashi

Funny

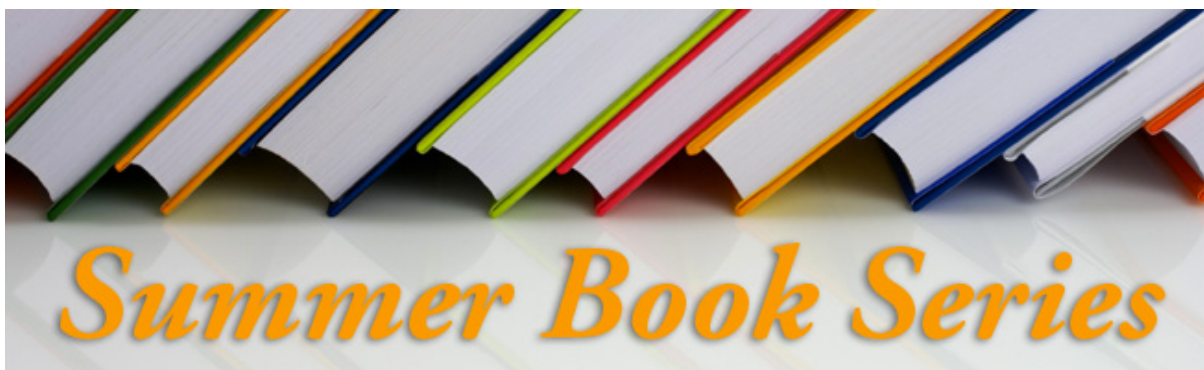
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell

Realistic

Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (dogs, family, injustice)

TTYL by Lauren Myracle (Friendship, school stories)



Official S-E Middle School
Summer Reading Challenge Book Log



I, _____, (Student's name & grade) have read the following books in response to the Summer Reading Challenge:

Title AND Author

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Others:

Please sign below:

(Student's signature)
(Parent's signature)

Completed forms must be submitted to your English Teacher by September 17.