

West Hartford Middle Schools

# Summer Reading



Summer - 2008

*Thank you  
to the  
West Hartford Public Library  
for their continued support  
of the  
Summer Reading Program.*



**West Hartford Middle Schools  
Summer Reading 2008**

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**To Parents and Students:**

To promote a student's lifelong interest in reading, the English, reading and library media professionals at Bristow, King Philip and Sedgwick Middle Schools encourage parents and students to devote a portion of their summer to reading. All students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grade must read one or more books by any of the authors included in this brochure. Additionally, students should be encouraged to explore other authors on their own.

When students return to school in September, they will be assessed on their summer reading. Opportunities for discussion and reflection on common themes are a goal of the summer reading assignment. As an aid to comprehension a variety of graphic organizers are located at the end of this brochure and on the summer reading web site: <http://www.whps.org/library/summerreading.htm>













Students may want to choose books with their friends, perhaps using a Book Club format, which would provide further motivation to read. We encourage parents to read with their children, showing them that reading is a pleasurable activity. Books written by these authors are available at town libraries and local bookstores.

These are only suggested authors. Since some authors sometimes write for a variety of audiences and age levels, students should follow any guidelines for selecting books that their parents/guardians have established.



## Book Selection Tips

If you need some help finding a good book to read, then ask yourself the following questions.

-  What is the title of the last book that you read and enjoyed?
-  Do you enjoy long books or short stories?
-  Do you have a favorite author?
-  Have you read anything recently that you did not like?
-  What was the last movie that you watched?
-  Do you prefer fiction or nonfiction?
-  What characteristics do you prefer in your reading? For example, do you like a book with a fast-moving plot or one with strong characters?
-  Have you tried reading the summary of the book on the inside flap of the book cover or the back of the book?
-  What does your teacher recommend?
-  What does your school library media specialist recommend?
-  What does the town librarian recommend?
-  What do your friends recommend?



**2009 Nutmeg Book Award Nominees**

**Grades 4-6**

- Blood on the River: James Town 1607 by Elisa Carbone
- Close Encounters of a Third-World Kind by Jennifer J. Stewart
- Eager by Helen Fox
- Free Baseball by Sue Corbett
- Golden and Grey: An Unremarkable Boy and a Rather Remarkable Ghost by Louise Arnold
- Gossamer by Lois Lowry
- The Homework Machine by Dan Gutman
- MVP\* Magellan Voyage Project by Douglas Evans
- Shakespeare's Secret by Elise Broach
- Three Good Deeds by Vivian VanDe Velde

**Grades 7-8**

- Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko
- Ask Me No Questions by Marina Budhos
- The Case of the Missing Marquess by Nancy Springer
- Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
- Day of Tears by Julius Lester
- Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin
- Heat by Mike Lupica
- The Schwa Was Here by Neal Shusterman
- Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
- Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

For more information about these books visit:  
<http://www.nutmegaward.org>

**Humor**

- Clements, Andrew
- Coville, Bruce
- Gantos, Jack
- Hiaasen, Carl
- Kinney, Jeff
- Pratchett, Terry
- Sachar, Louis
- Sleator, William
- Van Draanen, Wendelin

**Adventure**

- Horowitz, Anthony (Stormbreaker series)
- Korman, Gordon (Adventure trilogies)
- Mazer, Norma Fox
- Namioka, Lensey
- Napoli, Donna Jo
- Paulsen, Gary
- Shusterman, Neal
- Yolen, Jane

**Classic Adventures**

- Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Robinson Crusoe by Daniel DeFoe
- Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson
- 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

**Mystery**

- Abrahams, Peter
- Bellaire, John
- Cooney, Caroline B.
- Dixon, Franklin (Hardy Boys series)
- Keene, Carolyn (Nancy Drew series)
- Kehret, Peg
- Korman, Gordon (On the Run series)
- Nixon, Joan Lowery
- Van Draanen, Wendelin (Sammy Keyes series)
- VanDe Velde, Vivian



## **Fantasy**

Avi  
Barron, T. A.  
Bell, Hilari  
Byng, Georgia (Molly Moon series)  
Colfer, Eoin  
D'Lacey, Chris  
Farmer, Nancy  
Funke, Cornelia  
Hunter, Erin  
Ibbotson, Eva  
Kessler, Liz (Emily Winsnap series)  
L'Engle, Madeleine  
Nimmo, Jenny (Charlie Bone series)  
Paolini, Christopher  
Pierce, Tamora (Circle of Magic series)  
Riordan Rick  
Skye, Obert (Leven Lumps series)  
Stroud, Jonathan (Bartimaeus trilogy)  
Yep, Laurence

## **Science Fiction**

Abela, Deborah  
Armstrong, Jennifer  
Armstrong, Kevin (Star Wars series)  
Asimov, Isaac  
Cabot, Meg (Mediator series)  
Card, Orson Scott (Ender's Game, Ender's Shadow series)  
Coville, Bruce  
DuPrau, Jeanne (City of Ember trilogy)  
Farmer, Nancy  
Haddix, Margaret Peterson (Children of the Shadows series)  
MacHale, D. J. (Pendragon series)  
Pullman, Phillip  
Waugh, Sylvia (Ormingat trilogy)



## **Realistic Fiction**

Bauer, Joan  
Cabot, Meg (Princess series)  
Creech, Sharon  
Dowell, Frances O'Roarke  
Draper, Sharon  
Mikaelsen, Ben  
Myers, Walter Dean  
Paterson, Katherine  
Spinelli, Jerry

## **Historical Fiction**

Blackwood, Gary  
Collier, James Lincoln  
Curtis, Christopher Paul  
Cushman, Karen  
Dear America books – various authors  
Hansen, Joyce  
Hesse, Karen  
Karr, Kathleen  
Lasky, Kathryn  
Mazer, Harry  
Peck, Richard  
Rinaldi, Ann  
Selznick, Brian

## **Sports Stories**

Christopher, Matt  
Deuker, Carl  
Dygaard, Thomas  
Feinstein, John  
Gutman, Dan  
Lipsyte, Robert  
Lupica, Mike  
Myers, Walter Dean  
Ritter, John H.  
Wallace, Rich (Winning Season series)  
Weaver, Will  
Withers, Pam (Xtreme Sports series)



## **Science**

Grossology by Sylvia Branzei

Math Doesn't Suck: How to Survive Middle School Without

Losing your Mind or Breaking a Nail by Danica McKellar

Oh Yuck! The Encyclopedia of Everything Nasty!

by Joy Masoff

What a Great Idea- Inventions That Changed the World

by Stephen Tomecek

## **Social Studies**

Black Diamond by Patricia and Fred McKissack

Blizzard: The Storm That Changed America by Jim Murphy

Fields of Fury: The American Civil War James McPherson

Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of

Independence by Russell Freedman

Oh Yikes! Histories Grossest Moments by Joy Masoff

## **Reading Suggestions**

If you are looking for more reading suggestions please try these web sites.

Carol Hurst's Children's Literature Site

Book Review for 6th Grade

<http://www.carolhurst.com/titles/6th.html>

Book Reviews for 7th Grade

<http://www.carolhurst.com/titles/7th.html>

Book Reviews for 8th Grade

<http://www.carolhurst.com/titles/8th.html>

Children's Fiction Set in Connecticut

<http://www.cslib.org/childfiction.htm>

International Reading Association Choices Booklists

<http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices.html>

Scroll down to select either Children's Choices or Young Adult's Choices.

Newbery Award Books

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/newberymedal/newberymedal.cfm>

Select the current year or the link to Newbery Medal and Honor Books 1922-Present.

Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People

<http://www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable/?print-friendly=true>

Scroll down and select lists by year.

Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

<http://www.nsta.org/publications/ostb/>

Scroll down and select lists by year.

Teachers and Families: Reading Lists

<http://www.teachersandfamilies.com/open/summerread.html>

Developed by teachers for students and their parents this site was created by the Network for Instructional TV, Inc. (NITV). This section on reading lists provides access to reading lists by grade level, reading themes, lifetime reading list and author's last name. A link at the bottom of the page links to a section entitled *Reading Tips for Parents*.



## Double Entry Journal

(Prepare by folding a piece of white lined paper vertically)

### Left Side

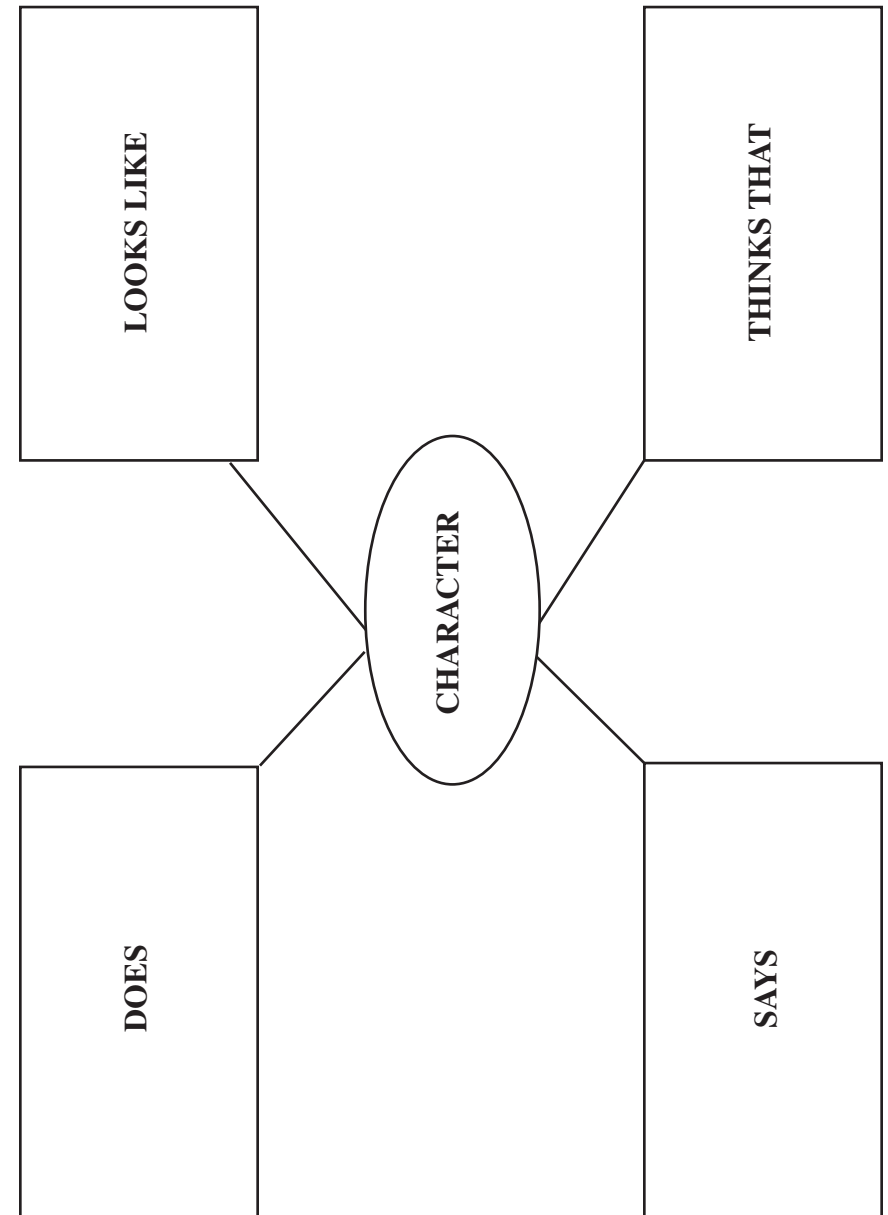
Copy anywhere from two to five phrases or sentences from your reading. Align each one with a comment on the right. You could pick any passage that you find:

- important
- interesting
- an example of colorful writing
- thought-provoking
- confusing

### Right Side

Consider and respond to what you copied on the left side. Responses can be:

- a comment or reflection on the passage
- a connection to a personal experience of yours or what it reminds you of
- a connection to another book
- an explanation of what you think it means
- a prediction of what you think is going to happen next
- an explanation of why this quote is important to the book
- a thought-provoking question based on this quote
- something you learned from this passage
- the picture inside your head looks like...
- An "I wonder how (why, who, when, where, what...)"





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Setting:**

When:  
Where:

**Story Web**

**Main Characters:**

**Title:**  
**Author:**

