

Summer Reading List Woodside School 2011

Summer Reading for Incoming Fifth Graders

All incoming fifth grade students are required to read at least three books from the list below over the summer.

In addition, students should be prepared to complete an essay due the first week of school based on one of the fiction books from the list below. The essays will focus base one of the following: (1) a character, (2) the theme, or (3) the setting as it pertains to the conflict in the story. Language arts teachers will provide more detailed information about the assignment on the first day of school.

Guided Reading Level is Noted in Parentheses

(R) *Quake! Disaster in San Francisco, 1906* by, Robert Papp: Tells the story of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake as seen through the eyes of Jacob, a thirteen-year-old Jewish boy who lives in a boarding house with his father and younger sister.

(R) *Frindle* by, Andrew Clements: When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

(R) *Shiloh* by, Phyllis Naylor: When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man.

(R) *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs* by, Betty Birney: Life in Sassafras Springs has always been predictable, boring even, but one afternoon that changes when Eben McAllister's pa challenges him to find Seven Wonders in Sassafras that rival the real Seven Wonders of the World.

(R) *The Capture* by, Kathryn Lansky: When Soren is pushed from his family's nest by his older brother, he is rescued from certain death on the forest floor by agents from a mysterious school for orphaned owls, St. Aggie's. When Soren arrives at St. Aggie's, he suspects there is more to the school than meets the eye.

(R) *The Trumpet of the Swan* by, E.B. White: Louis is a trumpeter swan. But unlike his four brothers and sisters, Louis can't trumpet joyfully. In fact, he can't even make a sound. And since he can't trumpet his love, the beautiful swan Serena pays absolutely no attention to him.. Then his father steals him a real brass trumpet. Is a musical instrument the key to winning Louis his love?

(S) *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by, Jeanne Birdsall: While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

(S) *Half Magic* by, Edward Eager: Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.

(S) *The Million Dollar Shot* by, Dan Gutman: Eddie Ball has the chance of a lifetime: to win a million dollars by sinking a foul shot during halftime at the NBA finals, no less. But someone really wants Eddie to shoot an air ball on the big day, and will do anything to sabotage the million dollar shot.

(S) *Enemy in the Fort* by, Sarah Buckley: In 1754, with her own parents taken captive, twelve-year-old Rebecca must confront her fear and hatred of the Abenaki when a boy raised by members of that tribe is brought to the fort at Charleston, New Hampshire, just before a series of thefts occurs. Great mystery series called History Mysteries.

(S) *The Lightning Thief* by, Rick Riordan: Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Book one of Percy Jackson & the Olympians series.

(S) *Project Mulberry* by, Linda Sue-Park: While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more.

(T) *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* by, Karen Cushman: Moving out West to Lucky Diggins, California, was Lucy's mama's dream-come-true. But Lucy finds that Lucky Diggins is hardly a town at all -- just a bunch of ramshackle tents and tobacco-spitting miners. Even the gold her mama claimed was just lying around in the fields isn't panning out. Worst of all, there's no library! Lucy must take action to survive her future here...

(T) *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by, Gennifer Choldenko: A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there. There has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. (Newbery Honor Book 2005)

(T) *Al Capone Shines My Shoes* by, Gennifer Choldenko: Moose Flanagan lives on Alcatraz Island along with his family and the families of the other prison guards. He becomes frightened when he discovers that noted gangster, Al Capone, a prisoner on the island wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose.

(T) *A Boy No More* by, Harry Mazer: After his father is killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Adam, his mother, and sister are evacuated from Hawaii to California, where he must deal with his feelings about the war, Japanese internment camps, his father, and his own identity.

(T) *The Great Brian* by, John Fitzgerald: The best con man in the Midwest is only ten years old. Tom, a.k.a., the Great Brain, is a silver-tongued genius with a knack for turning a profit. When the Jenkins boys get lost in Skeleton Cave, the Great Brain saves the day.

(T) *Dragon Rider* by, Cornelia Funke: After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy.

(T) *Midnight for Charlie Bone* by, Nimmo: The fabulous powers of the Red King were passed down through his descendants, after turning up quite unexpectedly, in someone who had no idea where they came from. This is what happened to Charlie Bone who has discovered an unusual gift-he can hear people in photographs talking!

(T) *Ticket to Curlew* by, Celia Lottridge: Sam discovers that life on the prairie can be both awesome and terrifying when one day his little brother has suddenly disappeared. Sam learns to survive the prairie's brutal winters and devastating isolation and makes new friends with a brave and resourceful horse named Prince.

(T) *Gregor the Overlander* by, Suzanne Collins: When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

(T) *Atherton: The House of Power* by, Patrick Carman: Edgar, an eleven-year-old orphan, finds a book that reveals significant secrets about Atherton, the strictly divided world on which he lives, even as geological changes threaten to shift the power structure that allows an elite few to live off the labor of others.

(T) *Whittington* by, Alan Armstrong: Whittington is a roughneck tomcat who arrives one day at a barn full of rescued animals and asks for a place there. He spins for the animals, as well as for Ben and Abby, the kids whose grandfather does the rescuing, and a yarn about his ancestor, the nameless cat who brought Dick Whittington to the heights of wealth.

(U) *City of Ember* by, Jean DuPrau: The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever!

(U) *Chasing Vermeer* by, Blue Balliett: When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen: Seemingly unrelated events connect; an old woman seeks their company; an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, they themselves are at the center of an art scandal, where no one is spared from suspicion. Can they decipher a crime that has stumped even the FBI?

(U) *On The Wings of Heroes* by, Richard Peck: A boy in Illinois remembers the home front years of World War II, especially his two heroes--his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.

(U) *Boston Jane* by, Jennifer Holm: The arrival from Philadelphia of her spiteful nemesis Sally Biddle and the return of her corrupt ex-fiancé Richard Baldt spell trouble for seventeen-year-old Miss Jane Peck, who has survived on her own in Shoalwater Bay, a community of white settlers and Chinook Indians in 1850s Washington Territory.

(V) *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by, Avi: As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

(V) *Esperanza Rising* by, Pam Munoz Ryan: Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, & servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers.

(V) *Letters From Camp* by, Klise, Kate: The brother-sister pairs who arrive for the summer at Camp Happy Harmony are almost too busy fighting with each other to notice how strange the camp really is. Not only are the campers forced to wear bizarre uniforms, eat gross food, and do chores all day, but the members of the family that runs the camp fight constantly--with each other. Are the campers in danger?

(V) *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Riley Giff: A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

(X) *The White Giraffe* by, Lauren St. John: After a fire kills her parents, eleven-year-old Martine must leave England to live with her grandmother on a wildlife game reserve in South Africa, where she befriends a mythical white giraffe.

(X) *All of a Kind Family* by, Sydney Taylor: Ella, Henny, Sarah, Charlotte, and Gertie -- who live with their parents in New York City at the turn of the century. Together they share adventures that find them searching for hidden buttons while dusting Mama's front parlor and visiting with the peddlers in Papa's shop on rainy days. The girls enjoy doing everything together, especially when it involves holidays and surprises. But no one could have prepared them for the biggest surprise of all!

(X) *Where the Red Fern Grows* by, Wilson Rawls: Billy and his precious coonhound pups romp relentlessly through the Ozarks, trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon and win the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest.

(X) *The Birchbark House* by, Louise Erdrich: Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

(X) *The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio* by, Llyodd Alexander: A beautiful Kirkassi girl, cold-eyed villains and smiling killers, a bazaar merchant peddling slightly used dreams—could any young adventurer ask for more? Not Carlo Chuchio, who is seeking hidden treasure on the legendary Road of Golden Dreams.

(X) *Christopher Mouse: the Tale of a Small Traveler* by, William Wise: After being sold to an unscrupulous pet store owner, a young mouse lives with several owners and has many adventures, before ending up with an appreciative family.

(X) *Dark is Rising* by, Susan Cooper: Will Stanton discovers on his 11th birthday that he is no mere boy. He is the last of the Old Ones, dedicated to fighting the forces of evil. Will searches for the six magical signs that will be needed for the battle between the Dark and the Light.

(X) *Running Out of Time* by, Margaret Peterson Haddix: When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, and thirteen year old Jessie discovers a major secret, she is the only hope for her village and the key to saving the lives of the dying children.

Nonfiction

***We Are The Ship: The story of Negro League Baseball* by, Kadir Nelson; Forward by Hank Aaron:** Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through the decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947.

***Bodies From The Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past* by, James M. Deem:** Recounts the discovery of the oldest human mummy in the 1990s by two mountain climbers on the Austrian border, in this exciting volume that reveals how glaciers, hulking masses of moving ice, are now offering up many secrets from the past.

***What to Do About Alice?: How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy!* by, Barbara Kerley:** Growing up as the daughter of the President was not easy, but being the President and father of Alice Roosevelt was not easy either. Find out more about this famous father and daughter relationship.

***Lightship* by, Brian Floca:** In simple, stately prose that perfectly complements his luminous watercolors, Floca introduces the lightship *Ambrose*, its crew and cat. Masterful use of the historical present tense, deft, humorous touches and detailed endpapers engage young children while acknowledgments and notes in the book, fore and aft, provide context.

***Spiders* by, Nic Bishop:** Bishop's oversized, dramatic and vibrant up-close color photographs of more than a dozen types of spiders will awe even the squeamish. Like this, try his latest called *Frogs*, or the popular Chameleon, *Chameleon*.

***Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon* by, Catherine Hehner:** Here is a rare perspective on a story we only thought we knew. For Apollo 11, the first moon landing is a story that belongs to many, not just the few and famous. Culled from direct quotes from the people behind the scenes, NASA transcripts,

national archives and NASA photos, the whole story of Apollo 11 and the first moon landing emerges.

***Oh, Rats! The Story of Rats and People* by, Albert Marrin:** Able to claw straight up a brick wall, squeeze through a pipe the width of a quarter, and gnaw through iron and concrete, rats are also revealed in this fascinating book to be incredibly intelligent and capable of great compassion. Weaving science, history, culture, and folklore this is a new look a look at rats that goes from curious to repulsive, horrifying to comic, fearsome to inspiring.

***Go Figure!: A Totally Cool Book About Numbers* by, Johnny Ball:** Experience the mysterious and magical world of numbers as never before. This unique book investigates mathematical marvels such as why daisies always have 34, 55, or 89 petals, why the world's phone numbers appear in pi, and other patterns and paradoxes that will make readers look at numbers in a whole new way.

***Ice Story: Shackleton's Lost Expedition* by, Elizabeth Cody Kimmel:** Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition, when the ship the Endurance was crushed in a frozen sea and the men made the perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

***Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems* by, John Grandits:** With technical brilliance and goofy good humor this fun-filled collection of poems, dramatically is brought to life through a brilliant book design. Simple drawings, varied typefaces, unusual arrangements of text, and different colors are used to call attention to the words.

***A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems* by, Paul Janeczko:** Thirty concrete poems of all shapes and sizes are carefully laid on large white spreads, extended by quirky watercolor and paper-collage illustrations. Some of the poems bend or turn or fall down the page, some are shaped like an object. Kids with a taste for the unusual and tricky will have no end of fun with these puzzlers.

***Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess* by, Richard Platt:** Eleven-year-old Toby's vivid diary entries offer an insider's view of day-to-day castle life, including tips on etiquette (where do you spit at a feast?) and exciting descriptions of hunting, jousting, and harvesting. Complete with glossary, index, and detailed endnotes, this is a rich look at medieval life that informs as much as it entertains.

***G is for Google and Q is for Quark* by, David Schwartz:** Explains the meaning of mathematical and scientific terms that begin with the different letters of the alphabet from abacus to zillion and atom to Zzz

List compiled by Sharon LaCrosse, Woodside School Librarian 2011