



# District Summer Reading List



Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Graders for the 2019 – 2020 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, one thing's 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 to add a book 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 2019 – 2020 School Year

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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 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.



# District Summer Reading List



Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders for the 2019 – 2020 School Year

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

Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>Travels with Charley</i>	John Steinbeck	Nonfiction - Travelogue	John Steinbeck (Feb. 27, 1902 - December 20, 1968) embarks on a journey to discover America in the fall of 1960. He drives a brand new three-quarter ton pickup camper truck and travels with his dog Charley. His purpose is to learn something about the vast United States and write a book about his experiences.
<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>	Mitch Albom	Philosophical Nonfiction	<p>Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it.</p> <p>For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.</p> <p>Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you, receive wisdom for your busy life today the way you once did when you were younger?</p> <p>Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.</p> <p>Tuesdays with Morrie is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.</p>
<i>Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins	Utopia/Dystopia Fiction	In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed.

<p><i>Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story</i></p>	<p>Ben Carson</p>	<p>Inspirational Nonfiction</p>	<p>Ben Carson, M.D., works medical miracles. Today, he's one of the most celebrated neurosurgeons in the world. In <i>Gifted Hands</i>, he tells of his inspiring odyssey from his childhood in inner-city Detroit to his position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital at age 33. Ben Carson is a role model for anyone who attempts the seemingly impossible as he takes you into the operating room where he has saved countless lives. Filled with fascinating case histories, this is the dramatic and intimate story of Ben Carson's struggle to beat the odds -- and of the faith and genius that make him one of the greatest life-givers of the century.</p>
<p><i>Little Women</i></p>	<p>Louisa May Alcott</p>	<p>Coming-of-Age Fiction</p>	<p>This novel follows the lives of four sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March – detailing their passage from childhood to womanhood, and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters. <i>Little Women</i> was an immediate commercial and critical success. It is a fiction novel for girls that veered from the normal writings for children, especially girls, at the time. The novel had three major themes: “domesticity, work, and true love, all of them interdependent and each necessary to the achievement of its heroine’s individual identity.” <i>Little Women</i> itself “has been read as a romance or as a quest, or both. It has been read as a family drama that validates virtue over wealth.” <i>Little Women</i> has been read “as a means of escaping that life by women who knew its gender constraints only too well.” Alcott “combines many conventions of the sentimental novel with crucial ingredients of Romantic children’s fiction, creating a new form of which <i>Little Women</i> is a unique model.” Elbert argued that within <i>Little Women</i> can be found the first vision of the “American Girl” and that her multiple aspects are embodied in the differing March sisters.</p>

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**District**