

Name-

## 2009 Summer Reading Information: Grades 6-8

This year's summer reading program will involve reading **one book** from the grade appropriate category listed below; students must select the grade they **will be entering** in September 2009.

Students entering grade 6 will be required to write an essay in class during September based on their summer reading title.

Bloomability by Sharon Creech

When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Switzerland to attend school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers her world expanding. The use of a first-person narrative and some insightful dream flashes conveys a teenager's coming of age.

11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass

After celebrating their first nine birthdays together, Amanda and Leo do not speak to each other for an entire year. But peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday approaches.

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism, exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself. This novel begins with a boy's early days of invisibility and bliss to being dubbed a loser. The author demonstrates the difference between those who can see with compassionate eyes and those who lose sight of what is truly important.

Rules- by Cynthia Lord

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old, Catherine longs for a normal existence. Her world is further complicated by a friendship with an young paraplegic.

### Grade seven recommended selection

Students entering grade 7 are required to read 1 of the books listed below. Students must keep a journal with an entry for each chapter. The journal will be turned in during the first week of school and will be used to create an outline in class during September.

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

A young girl lives with her family in the room of a bombed-out apartment in Afghanistan during the Taliban rule. Her father works reading letters for those who cannot read but is

arrested. As conditions grow desperate for the family, Parvana must disguise herself as a boy and become the breadwinner of the family.

No Promises in the Wind by Irene Hunt

In 1932, Josh and his brother cope with living during the Depression. They leave their abusive home and struggle to survive by trading work for food. The boys learn lessons about the importance of family, poverty and love.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death. Jesse struggles as he tries to accept the loss of his friend. Newbery Medal winner.

The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain

Set in Renaissance England, a pauper that looks like Edward VI, the son of King Henry VIII, gets involved in a tale of mistaken identity. The boys learn that men are basically the same.

**Students entering grade 8 will be required to write an essay in class during September based on their summer reading title. Students are encourage to keep a journal or log for reflections, questions about the plot, characterizations, theme, etc. This journal or log should be brought to class in September.**

The Angel Factory by Terence Blacker

A twelve-year-old boy breaks into a secret computer file and discovers that his whole life is a lie; he is being groomed to cooperate with angels in a project to save humankind. This is a riveting, futuristic tale set in an intriguing world of remarkable possibilities and chilling consequences.

Among the Hidden by Margaret Haddix

In the future, the population police enforce a law limiting a family to only 2 children. Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

A Night to Remember by Walter Lord

A riveting account published in 1955 of the *Titanic's* fatal collision and the behavior of the passengers and crew. Some sacrificed their lives, while others fought like animals for their own survival. The moonlit night in 1912 is brought to life.

Dog Friday by Hilary McKay

A boy overcomes his fear of dogs when a starving mutt needs his help. Interesting dialogue and fast moving with an animated plot. Good choice for both boys and girls. Some British colloquialisms may be difficult for readers. The story is entertaining, funny, thoughtful and the characters have depth.