

## Summer Reading 2010-2011

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

**This is your chance to make a fantastic first impression on your English teacher! Make sure that you come to class with a summer reading assignment that is neat, fulfills all requirements, and is representative of your conscientious nature as a student. Teachers will be analyzing your ability to follow directions and the level of thoughtfulness reflected in the assignment.**

### English/Literature Class

Choose one of the following books to read:

Blackwood, Gary. **THE SHAKESPEARE STEALER.** (Historical Fiction) Widge is an orphan whose fearsome master has just one demand: steal Shakespeare's play "Hamlet"--or else. Widge has no choice but to follow orders, so he works his way into the heart of the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare's players perform.

Cobb, Vicki. **MARIE CURIE.** (Nonfiction) This is the biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Polish scientist who discovered radium and changed the world.

Corbett, Sue. **FREE BASEBALL.** (Realistic Fiction) Eleven-year-old Felix is angry with his mother for having too little time for him. The boy from Florida takes advantage of an opportunity to become bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder. Glossaries of baseball terms and Spanish words and phrases are included in the book.

Cox, Clinton. **UNDYING GLORY.** (Nonfiction) This is the story of the courageous men of the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts, who fought as Union soldiers to free their brothers and sisters from slavery. Included are black-and-white archival photographs that bring the "Glory" brigade to life.

Dakos, Kali. **IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND.** (Nonfiction) Favorite poems such as "Math is Brewing and I'm in Trouble," "My Homework isn't Done," and "I Left My Book in Hawaii" are included.

Erdich, Louise. **THE BIRCHBARK HOUSE.** (Historical Fiction) Omakayas is a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe. She lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Freedman, Russell. **FREEDOM WALKERS.** (Nonfiction) The author breathes life into the key personalities and events that contributed to the yearlong civil rights struggle. The struggle became known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Freedman, Russell. **GIVE ME LIBERTY!: THE STORY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.** (Nonfiction) When the delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution, they knew it wasn't perfect. The book describes events leading to the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments aimed to preserve and protect the rights and liberties of all citizens, and its continuing importance today.

Ibbotson, Eva. **THE STAR OF KAZAN.** (Historical Fiction) Twelve-year-old Annika, an orphan living in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry. A woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strange old mansion in Germany.

Lubar, David. **PUNISHED!** (Fiction) While Logan and his friend Benedict are playing tag in the library, Logan runs into a mysterious man. As punishment, the man causes Logan to speak in puns. To return to normal, Logan must now find examples of oxymorons, anagrams, and palindromes.

Macaulay, David. **MOSQUE.** (Nonfiction) A mosque, with its enormous central dome of the prayer hall and minaret tower, rises above the city. How was such a structure built? Why was it built? Who are the architects?

White, Ruth. **THE SEARCH FOR BELLE PRATER.** (Historical Fiction) In 1955, Woodrow and his cousin Gypsy befriend a new girl in their seventh grade class in rural Virginia. The three of them set off to find Woodrow's missing mother, encountering unlikely and intriguing coincidences along the way.

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Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Choose one (1) book from the following list

Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Choose two (2) books from the following list

Schlosser, Eric and Charles Wilson. **CHEW ON THIS: EVERYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT FAST FOOD.** Adapted from the best-selling adult book *Fast Food Nation*, this is a look at fast food: what's in it, how it's made, and what it does to our bodies. (NF)

Woodford, Chris. **COOL STUFF AND HOW IT WORKS.** Computer-generated images explain how many devices and processes of modern technology work, covering such inventions as HDTV, game consoles, robot cars, helicopters, space probes, oil rigs, mass dampers, biometric IDs, and tsunami alert systems. (NF)

Taylor, Peter Lane and Christos Nicola. **THE SECRET OF PRIEST'S GROTTO: A HOLOCAUST SURVIVAL STORY.** Two explorers survey caves and relate the true story of how several Jewish families survived the Holocaust of WWII by hiding in the caves of western Ukraine for over three years. (NF)

Mortenson, Greg. **THREE CUPS OF TEA: ONE MAN'S MISSION TO FIGHT TERRORISM AND BUILD NATIONS – ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME.** Climber Greg Mortenson found himself lost after attempting to summit K2. After a Pakistani village took him in, he promised to return and build the village a school. His inspirational efforts have resulted in over 50 schools built in Pakistan. (NF)

Murphy, Jim. **AMERICAN PLAGUE.** Drawing on firsthand accounts, medical and non-medical, Murphy re-creates the fear and panic of the yellow fever epidemic that hit the nation's capital more than 200 years ago, the social conditions that caused the disease to spread, and the arguments about causes and cures. (NF)

Murphy, Jim. **TRUCE: THE DAY THE SOLDIERS STOPPED FIGHTING.** This is a close-up view of the Great War, WWI, and the extraordinary story of the December 25, 1914 truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas. (NF)

Mah, Adeline Yen. **CHINESE CINDERELLA: THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNWANTED DAUGHTER.** Chinese Cinderella is the perfect title for Adeline Yen Mah's memoir of her childhood growing up in China during the 1940s as she endures life ruled by a cruel stepmother. (NF)

Montgomery, Sy. **QUEST FOR THE TREE KANGAROO: AN EXPEDITION TO THE CLOUD FOREST OF NEW GUINEA.** Traveling on a tiny missionary plane into the remote areas of New Guinea, researchers reveal the secrets of the rare tree kangaroo and the realities of field work. (NF)

Collins, Suzanne. **THE HUNGER GAMES.** America, now Panem, requires each of its twelve territories to select two children between the ages of 12 and 18 to participate in the Hunger Games. On television, these twenty-four kids will fight to the death, and only one will survive. The first in the **Hunger Games** series. (F)

Compstine, Ying Chang. **REVOLUTION IS NOT A DINNER PARTY.** Ling, protected privileged daughter of two doctors, struggles to understand the Communist's Cultural Revolution in China. Job loss, hunger, incarceration are all apart of this autobiographical novel. (F)

Connor, Leslie. **WAITING FOR NORMAL.** Wanting a "normal" life, Addie is forced to make it on her own when her mother neglects to live up to her responsibilities. (F)

Cooney, Caroline B. **CODE ORANGE.** While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City. (F)

Cooney, Caroline B. **DIAMONDS IN THE SHADOW.** An unusual family of African refugees immigrates to America with the hope of starting over, but the horrors and violence of their past continue to haunt them in their new life. (F)

Gore, Albert. **AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL WARMING.** Gore examines the climate crisis of the planet, describes what world governments are doing, and offers reasons for serious consideration of the problems. (NF)

Austen, Jane. **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.** In this comedy of manners, Elizabeth Bennet, a spirited heroine, doesn't always agree with her opinionated beau, Mr. Darcy. (F)

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **THE BOY WHO DARED.** Awaiting his execution in jail, a German teenager recalls Hitler's rise to power and the courage he found to stand up against the Nazi regime. (F)

Alcott, Louisa M. **LITTLE WOMEN.** The March family endures trials and tribulations while their father is involved in the Civil War. (F)

Wulffson, Don. **THE KID WHO INVENTED THE POPSICLE AND OTHER EXTRAORDINARY STORIES BEHIND EVERYDAY THINGS.** Brief, factual stories of how various familiar things were invented, many by accident, make for an informative read. Also, **THE KID WHO INVENTED THE TRAMPOLINE: AND OTHER EXTRAORDINARY STORIES ABOUT INVENTIONS.** (NF)

Westerfeld, Scott. **UGLIES.** Tally resists the mandatory operation that every sixteen-year-old must endure to change all teens into "new pretties." Adventure is the result in this futuristic novel. The first of the **Uglies Trilogy.** (F)

White, Andrea. **SURVIVING ANTARCTICA: REALITY TV 2083.** It's 2083 and winning a reality TV show is the only way out of poverty for many people. Chosen from thousands, five teenagers will reenact Robert F. Scott's 1910 expedition to the South Pole on the popular show, *Historical Survivor*. Little do they know what is ahead. (F)

Whitesel, Cheryl Aylward. **BLUE FINGERS: A NINJA'S TALE.** Having failed an apprenticeship as a dye maker, Koji is captured and forced to train as a ninja, where he remains disloyal until he discovers Samurai have burned his former village. (F)

## Projects (due on Monday, August 30, 2010)

Choose one project for your chosen novel and have it completed by **the second full week of school, Monday, August 30, 2010.**

### 1. Power point project:

Complete an **eight slide** power point presentation and present it to the class.  
Slides must contain the following:

- 1) **introduction slide** with title of novel, writer's name and your name;
- 2) **character slide** with a list of the major characters and a few notes about them;
- 3) **plot slide** with a list of major events that took place in the novel;
- 4) **conflicts slide** with a list of the major conflicts that occurred throughout the novel. Also, determine if the conflicts are man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. himself, etc.;
- 5) **themes slide** with a list of the thematic statement(s) that the writer is conveying throughout the novel;
- 6) **key passages slide** with at least two quotes that detail important statements made in the novel;
- 7) **favorite "thing" about the book slide** that contains anything or any character in the book that you enjoyed and why;
- 8) **wrap up slide** that is your own so do something creative or "eye catching".

a. Must present power point the second week of school. Save the powerpoint to a flash drive to bring into school to present or use school email.

b. Refer to the **PowerPoint Presentation Design Qualities** sheet attached when creating your power point. The goal is to use your slides as a presentation tool **not** to fill each slide with many notes and tiny font the audience can't read.

### 2. Character collage:

Choose one significant central character in the story. Some characters will be easier to portray than others will be. On a poster board, standard size (22 in. x 28 in.), you will be creating a collage reflecting your character.

From various sources (magazines, newspapers, etc) **at least 30** cut out words phrases, and pictures that represent the character (described by himself, the narrator or other characters from the book.)

Objects connected to the character, people the character knew, or events that affected this character may all be represented in the collage. You will then paste or glue these images, pictures, words, etc. on the poster board covering the entirety of it.

Somewhere on the poster (either top or middle) should be the character's name in large enough print to let it stand out from the rest of the poster.

No more than 20% (1 out of 5—no more than 7) may be computer typed

Movie rule—If a movie was made about the book, then you may not use any pictures from that movie. Nor may you put a picture from your book on the poster

Second part of project will be the presentation of your collage. You will need to explain your choices on the poster. You will need to describe the pictures, images and words that decorate the poster. (For each chosen word/image/picture you will need to rationalize why you chose it for your character—don't be repetitive.)

### 3. Compile a Scrapbook or Memory Box:

Choose one of the major characters in your book and, as that person, put together a scrapbook or memory box of special memories and mementoes. Letters, photographs, postcards and souvenirs are all good items for the memory box and can be easily created! Think about whom your character is close to and what he/she does for fun.

Remember, this should represent your chosen character! Draw, create, collect, or find at least six souvenirs that the main character would have put into the scrapbook or collect in a memory box. These objects should reflect events in the story or important aspects of your character. Include an explanation next to each object describing its significance. Be true to your character.

Second part of project will be the presentation of your scrapbook/memory box. You will need to explain your choices and how they represent the character. (For each chosen word/image/picture you will need to rationalize why you chose it for your character—don't be repetitive.)

### 4. Diorama

Choose a scene from your chosen novel to creatively display in a shoe box. Incorporate at least **six** 3-D objects from a significant or important scene that contributed to the development of the novel.

The diorama must include the following:

- careful detail to the construction of the project
- creativity in the display
- at least **six** 3-D items
- **ten** well-written sentences, giving extensive explanation of how items in the diorama are related to the scene, placed on index cards and taped to the back of the shoe box.