

# Let's Read!

## HCPS Middle School Summer Reading: Grades 6-8

If you are taking advanced English 6, 7, or 8 next year, there is a required reading list you must follow.

### Why do I have to read on summer break?

Reading during the summer is a great way to keep your mind active and growing while you are away from school. While it is essential to your progress as a student, the English and reading teachers of Henrico County Public Schools also believe Summer Reading should be fun! This year, we've put together a list of books that we hope will expand your love of reading. The list is filled with well-written books about the things middle school students love: family, friends, sports, dreams, and other exciting topics. Whether you read one book or the whole list, we hope you find something that will inspire you to continue to read. Reading is a life-long journey, where you can learn new things, meet new people, and discover yourself along the way.

### How was the list created?

It's no secret that English and reading teachers love to read! Though it was difficult for us to pick just a few books from all the great ones out there, we tried to compile a list that includes a variety of genres, cultures, themes, and interesting plots. Each book on our list has been read by someone on the team. If you have specific questions, we will be able to answer them. You are also welcome to choose books that are not on this list. Find something fun, interesting, entertaining, and enlightening that will keep you reading all summer long! It's also important that you include your parents/guardians in the process of selecting a book. Using the steps below, you can work together to find books that are just right for you.

### How do I find the right book for me?

- 1. Research the Books:** We've provided links to resources that will help you find those books that might be interesting to you. Use these resources to learn about the books on our list.  
Virginia State Reading Association - <http://www.vusra.org/links.htm>  
Teen Reads - <http://www.teenreads.com>  
Young Adult Book Central - <http://www.yabookscentral.com>
- 2. Preview the Books:** Once you've reviewed the information, go to the library or the bookstore and preview the book. Read the first few pages before you check it out or buy it. Consider the vocabulary. If there are more than seven words on the page that you don't know, you might want to try a different book. Remember, you're looking for books that are fun, interesting and appropriate for you!
- 3. Read! Read! Read!:** While you should read a minimum of two books this summer, we hope our lists will inspire you to read much, much more.

### Okay, so I read a book, now what?

Great! We want to hear all about it! We hope you really enjoyed the book you chose, but if you didn't we want to know that too. Complete the survey below, turn it into your English teacher at the beginning of the school year, and he/she will award you extra credit. You should complete a survey for each book you read. Your teacher may also provide you with the opportunity to complete your survey on the computer.

### Hey Moms, Dads, Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, and Other Family Members:

We hope you find the attached list provides your student with great summer reading opportunities. It's important that you are part of the process, so consider reading the titles with, or even to, your students. One is never too old for a read aloud and having someone to talk to about a book just makes it that much better of an experience. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ann Marie Seely, Educational Specialist for English and Reading, at 652-3740. Who knows, maybe you'll find a new favorite book too!



Henrico County Public Schools  
Division of Instruction

# Summer Reading Survey

Tell us what you think about the books you read this summer. Complete the survey below then turn it into your English teacher by the end of the second week of school. You will receive EXTRA CREDIT. All of your responses about the book must provide enough detail to show that you really read it. Refer to the samples we've provided if you need help. Use the back of the paper if you need more room to write your responses.

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

Your School: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Author: \_\_\_\_\_

**I read this book because...(provide at least three reasons).**

1.

2.

3.

**I liked/didn't like this book because...**

**I do/don't recommend this book for next year's summer reading list because...**

**I would also like to see the committee add \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ to the summer reading list because...**  
(Book Title) (Author)

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT'S SIGNATURE (REQUIRED)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE (REQUIRED)

**HENRICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**2011 SUMMER READING LIST**  
**RISING GRADE 7**

If you are taking advanced English 6, 7, or 8 next year, there is a required reading list you must follow.



**Recommended books for Rising 7th Graders**

**ABC by Title**

Author	Title	Genre
Beatty, Patricia	<i>Lupita Manana</i>	General Fiction
Byars, Betsy	<i>Pinballs</i>	General Fiction
Cooper, Susan	<i>Over Sea, Under Stone</i>	Fantasy/ Adventure
Danzinger, Paula	<i>Cat Ate My Gymsuit, The</i>	General Fiction
Flake, Sharon	<i>Skin I'm In, The</i>	General Fiction
Gaines, Ernest J.	<i>Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, The</i>	Historical Fiction
Giff, Patricia Reilly	<i>Pictures of Hollis Woods</i>	General Fiction
Greene, Bette	<i>Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe</i>	General Fiction
Greene, Bette	<i>Summer of My German Soldier</i>	Historical Fiction
Hamilton, Virginia	<i>MC Higgins the Great</i>	General Fiction
Hesse, Karen	<i>Just Juice</i>	General Fiction
Holm, Jennifer L.	<i>Our Only May Amelia</i>	General Fiction
Martin, Ann M.	<i>Corner of the Universe, A</i>	General Fiction
McKinley, Robin	<i>Beauty</i>	Fantasy
O'Dell, Scott	<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	Adventure
Peck, Richard	<i>A Long Way from Chicago</i>	General Fiction
Peck, Richard	<i>Teacher's Funeral, The</i>	General Fiction
Ryan, Pam Munoz	<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	General Fiction
Sayers, Gale	<i>I Am Third</i>	Autobiography
Spinelli, Jerry	<i>Crash</i>	Sports Fiction
Spinelli, Jerry	<i>Star Girl</i>	General Fiction
Stewart, Trenton Lee	<i>Mysterious Benedict Society, The</i>	Adventure/Mystery
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>Hobbit, The</i>	Fantasy
Ullman, James Ramsey	<i>Banner in the Sky</i>	Adventure
Westerfeld, Scott	<i>Uglies, The</i>	Fantasy
Wiles, Deborah	<i>Each Little Bird that Sings</i>	General Fiction
Yep, Lawrence	<i>Dragonwings</i>	Historical Fiction

You may also choose to read books that are not on this list. We recommend that you work with a parent/guardian to choose books that are appropriate for you.