

District Summer Reading List

Incoming Sixth Graders for the 2022 – 2023 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage students to read (or have read aloud) 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, connections to future ELA content, student interest, and more.

Students can choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below.

Happy reading!



Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	Madeline L'Engle	Science Fiction	<p>It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.</p> <p>"Wild nights are my glory," the unearthly stranger told them. "I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I'll be on my way. Speaking of ways, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract."</p> <p>A tesseract is a wrinkle in time. <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem.</p>

*Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school's novel selection process.

Images: <https://slidesmania.com/>

<i>Julie of the Wolves</i>	Jean Craighead George	Fiction	<p>To her small Eskimo village, she is known as Miyax; to her friend in San Francisco, she is Julie. When her life in the village becomes dangerous, Miyax runs away, only to find herself lost in the Alaskan wilderness.</p> <p>Without food and time running out, Miyax tries to survive by copying the ways of a pack of wolves. Accepted by their leader and befriended by a feisty pup named Kapu, she soon grows to love her new wolf family. Life in the wilderness is a struggle, but when she finds her way back to civilization, Miyax is torn between her old and new lives. Is she Miyax of the Eskimos -- or Julie of the wolves?</p>
<i>The Black Pearl</i>	Scott O'Dell	Fiction	<p>From the depths of a cave in the Vermilion Sea, Ramon Salazar has wrested a black pearl so lustrous and captivating that his father, an expert pearl dealer, is certain Ramon has found the legendary Pearl of Heaven. Such a treasure is sure to bring great joy to the villagers of their tiny coastal town, and even greater renown to the Salazar name. No diver, not even the swaggering Gaspar Ruiz, has ever found a pearl like this!</p> <p>But is there a price to pay for a prize so great? When a terrible tragedy strikes the village, old Luzon's warning about El Diablo returns to haunt Ramon. If El Diablo actually exists, it will take all Ramon's courage to face the winged creature waiting for him offshore.</p>
<i>Holes</i>	Louis Sachar	Fiction	<p>This winner of the Newbery Medal and the National Book Award features Stanley Yelnats, a kid who is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake: the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.</p>

*Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school's novel selection process.

Images: <https://slidesmania.com/>

<i>Guts</i>	Gary Paulsen	Informational Text	Here are the real events that inspired Gary Paulsen to write Brian Robeson's story in Hatchet, The River, Brian's Winter, Brian's Return, and Brian's Hunt: a stint as a volunteer emergency worker; the death that became the pilot's death in Hatchet; plane crashes he's seen; and his own near misses. He takes listeners on his first hunting trips, showing the wonder and solace of nature along with his hilarious mishaps and mistakes. He shares special memories, such as the night he attracted every mosquito in the county, and how he met the moose who made it personal.
<i>Inside Out and Back Again</i>	Thanhha Lai	Historical Fiction	<p>Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America.</p> <p>This moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing received four starred reviews, including one from Kirkus which proclaimed it "enlightening, poignant, and unexpectedly funny."</p> <p>An author's note explains how and why Thanhha Lai translated her personal experiences into Hà's story. This paperback edition also includes an interview with the author, an activity you can do with your family, tips on writing poetry, and discussion questions.</p>
<i>Accidental Archaeologists: The True Stories of Unexpected Discoveries</i>	Sarah Albee	Nonfiction	<p>Science meets real-life mystery in this adventurous look at incredible unexpected finds that changed history.</p> <p>Secret treasures are buried all around us -- you just have to look for them! Accidental Archaeologists take you on an adventure through time to relive some of the coolest surprise discoveries by totally ordinary people all over the world. Meet:- The cowboy who found an ancient skeleton- A famous king buried underneath a parking lot- The team who found New York City's hidden African Burial Ground- A boy who finds the Dead Sea Scrolls while looking for his lost goat- And many more.Packed with incredible stories and expert tips for making your own exciting finds, this is an accessible, action-packed introduction to the world of archaeology.</p>

*Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school's novel selection process.

Images: <https://slidesmania.com/>

***Schomburg:
The Man Who
Built the
Library***

Carole
Boston
Weatherford

Poetry

Amid the scholars, poets, authors, and artists of the Harlem Renaissance stood an Afro–Puerto Rican named Arturo Schomburg. This law clerk’s life’s passion was to collect books, letters, music, and art from Africa and the African diaspora and bring to light the achievements of people of African descent through the ages. When Schomburg’s collection became so big it began to overflow his house (and his wife threatened to mutiny), he turned to the New York Public Library, where he created and curated a collection that was the cornerstone of a new Negro Division. A century later, his groundbreaking collection, known as the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, has become a beacon to scholars all over the world.