

2018 Summer Reading List



Summer vacation is a time to relax and have fun. However, during that time it's been shown that student's academic abilities slide; the old adage "If you don't use it, you lose it" applies. Requiring students to read helps slow down that slide, helping the transition back into school in August.

We are asking that students choose two books from this list to read over the summer. *Of course, our hope is that students will use the free time afforded to them over the summer to read as many books as they can!* While the children are reading the books they've chosen they should complete the book report requirements listed below, to turn in at the beginning of school. These book reports will be part of their First Quarter reading grade.

Kids learn a lot by observing their parents. If you want your child to read, watching you the parent read is a great place to start. You can even make it a family event – turn off the TV and video games for 30 minutes and everyone reads! For boys especially, it has been proven that the biggest motivator to getting a young man to read is for him to observe the male role models in his life reading – for themselves and to others.

Research shows that students who read more, read better; they also write better, spell better, have larger vocabularies, and have better control of complex grammatical constructions. As the passages in the textbooks continue to get more difficult and lengthy with each new grade level, good reading skills become crucial. Reading has another important role in that people who read regularly open themselves to an expansive world of ideas, new cultures, information and wonder.



Reading, like a sport, involves practice and skill. Real skill building occurs when children read for pleasure, when children read "just right" books; that is, books that are not too hard and not too easy, and when children can explore books about those topics that interest them. It is very important that children not read books that are too difficult for them. Reading books that are at the "frustration level" can give them a dislike for reading, and cause a battle at home to get them to read. If you feel that your child is ready for a more difficult book, please note that "harder books" often deal with themes and issues that are more mature. These texts, while perhaps readable or decodable by your child, may not be developmentally appropriate for your child's age. Also, please keep in mind that just because readers can read each word on the page smoothly and without error, does not mean that they are able to comprehend the sophisticated themes and layered plot lines that these texts may contain. If your child is desperate to read a harder book, read it aloud together for a while, and stop and discuss what you've read. That way you can check your child's understanding of what they are reading. If you feel that the book is appropriate and that they are understanding the concepts, allow them to continue.

In an effort to provide a summer reading assignment that is both interesting and enjoyable, we have included a list of book titles that appeal to a wide range of interests and reading levels. The books on the list are available at the Broward County Public Library, which can be checked out for free. The books are

also available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon if you would like to purchase them. Most of the books are available in an electronic format for an e-reader.

Book Report Requirements

Students can neatly write, or type, their book reports. Each book report must have these five sections:

Author's Purpose – Why do you think the author wrote this book? Was there a message or an idea that the author wanted the reader to think about?

Main Characters – Who were the main characters in the book? Write a description of each character – what they looked like (if the book doesn't say, how did you imagine them when you were reading about them?) and their personality and characteristics (shy, brave, good friend, chronic liar, etc.)

Personal Summary – Please write a summary of the book in your own words (do not give me the summary that is on the back cover of the book or the summary that is listed here on this list). This summary should be one paragraph, in your own words.

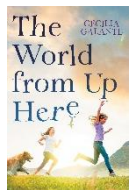
What Did You Learn? – Did the theme of the book strike a chord with you? (*Did it make you feel anything – angry, sad, moved to change something in the world, given you a better understanding of something.*) When reading a book, sometimes you learn something about a foreign country, or a skill or job that someone has that you didn't know about before, or a hobby that someone in the book had. What did you learn from this book?

Like it or Not? – Tell me whether you liked or disliked the book and why. Would you recommend it to other students?

Reading list is on website: www.trinityftl.org
Log in, Select Planner, click on Mrs. Debra Kraft

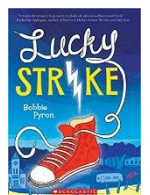
The World From Up Here by Cecilia Galante

Wren Baker has never felt brave a day in her life. She doesn't even know what she's afraid of, really. But that all changes when Wren's cousin, Silver, walks into her life. She dares Wren to take risks, to live out loud, to finally spread her wings. And when Silver decides to undertake the journey of a lifetime, Wren is forced to make a decision: Is she in or is she out? There's only one way Wren will ever learn to fly. It's time for her to stand at the edge of the unknown...and jump.



Lucky Strike by Bobbie Pyron

Nate Harlow would love to be lucky, just once! He'd like to win a prize, get picked first, call a coin toss right, even! But his best friend, Genesis Beam, believes in science and logic, and she doesn't think for one second that there's such a thing as luck, good or bad. She doesn't care what names the other kids call them. She cares about being right, about saving the turtles of Paradise Beach, and she cares about Nate. Then, on his birthday, at the Goofy Golf mini-golf course, Nate is struck by lightning -- and survives! Suddenly baseballs are drawn to his bat -- popular kids want HIM on their side. It seems the whole town of Paradise Beach thinks Nate has the magic touch. But is there room for Gen in Nate's lucky new world?



Scar Island by Dan Gemeinhart

Jonathan Grisby is the newest arrival at the Slabhenge Reformatory School for Troubled Boys -- an ancient, crumbling fortress of gray stone rising up from the ocean. It is dark, damp, and dismal. And it is just the place Jonathan figures he deserves. Because Jonathan has done something terrible. And he's willing to accept whatever punishment he has coming. Just as he's getting used to his new situation, however, a freak accident leaves the troubled boys of Slabhenge without any adult supervision. Suddenly the kids are free, with an entire island to themselves. But freedom brings unexpected danger. And if Jonathan can't come to terms with the sins of his past and lead his new friends to safety... then every boy on the island is doomed.



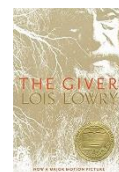
Circus Galacticus by Deva Fagan

Trix can deal with being an orphan charity case at a snotty boarding school. She can hold her own when everyone else tells her not to dream big dreams. She can even fight back against the mysterious stranger in a silver mask who tries to steal the meteorite her parents trusted her to protect. But her life is about to change forever. The Circus Galacticus has come to town, bringing acts to amaze, delight, and terrify. And now the dazzling but enigmatic young Ringmaster has offered Trix the chance to be a part of it. Soon Trix discovers an entire universe full of deadly enemies and potential friends, not to mention space leeches, ancient alien artifacts, and exploding chocolate desserts. And she just might unravel the secrets of her own past — if she can survive long enough.



The Giver by Lois Lowry

Eleven-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. There is no war or pain, and there are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. When Jonas turns 12, he is chosen to receive special training from The Giver himself -- a man who alone holds the key to the true pain and pleasure of life: memories. Now it is time for Jonas to receive the truth. What will Jonas do once he experiences the power of deep emotions? *(This book has had several print issues and has multiple covers.)*



Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick

Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost). He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band, has a crush on the hottest girl in school (who doesn't even know he's alive), and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie.



Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor

Addie is waiting for normal. But Addie's mother has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, her way or no way. All-or-nothing never adds up to normal, and it can't bring Addie all to home, where she wants to be with her half-sisters. But Addie never stops hoping that one day, maybe, she'll find normal.



Schooled by Gordon Korman

Capricorn "Cap" Anderson has been homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Rain. When Rain is injured in a fall, Cap is forced to attend the local middle school. Although he knows a lot about Zen Buddhism, nothing has prepared him for the politics of public school.



The Girl Who Could Fly by Victoria Forester

You just can't keep a good girl down . . . unless you use the proper methods. Piper McCloud can fly. Problem is, the good folk of Lowland County are afraid of Piper. And her ma's at her wits end. So it seems only fitting that she leave her parents' farm to attend a top-secret, maximum-security school for kids with exceptional abilities.



Savvy by Ingrid Law

Thirteen is when a Beaumont's savvy hits—and with one brother who causes hurricanes and another who creates electricity, Mibs Beaumont is eager to see what she gets. But just before the big day, Poppa is in a terrible accident. And now all Mibs wants is a savvy that will save him. In fact, Mibs is so sure she'll get a powerful savvy that she sneaks a ride to the hospital on a rickety bus with her sibling and the preacher's kids in tow. After this extraordinary adventure—full of talking tattoos and a kidnapping—not a soul on board will ever be the same.



Ungifted by Gordon Korman

When Donovan Curtis pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students. Although it wasn't exactly what Donovan had intended, the ASD couldn't be a more perfectly unexpected hideout for someone like him. But as the students and teachers of ASD grow to realize that Donovan may not be good at math or science (or just about anything), he shows that his *gifts* may be exactly what the ASD students never knew they needed.



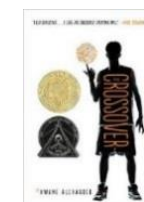
Colin Fischer by Ashley Edward Miller

Colin Fischer cannot stand to be touched. He does not like the color blue. He needs index cards to recognize facial expressions. But when a gun is found in the school cafeteria, interrupting a female classmate's birthday celebration, Colin is the only one up for the investigation. It's up to him to prove that Wayne Connelly, the school bully and Colin's frequent tormenter, didn't bring the gun to school.



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . the court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. 'Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this novel of family and brotherhood.



Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.



Absolutely Almost by Lisa Graff

Albie has a long list of the things he's not very good at. Albie struggles with school. He has learning disabilities and almost all subjects are difficult for him. But then Albie gets a new babysitter, Calista, who helps him figure out all of the things he *is* good at and how he can take pride in himself and how he can succeed in the world, despite his difficulties.



Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

A homeless orphan becomes a legend in a town divided by racism. Jeffrey Magee's exploits may have made him famous, but reconciling a town filled with hate and finding a decent life for himself may be more than even he can manage. (*This book has had several print issues and has multiple covers.*)

