

## 2012 Summer Reading for Middle School English

We encourage our students to take some summer leisure time to read for fun. **Students entering 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade should read at least one book that they will discuss in September.** Because students will write about what they have read in the fall, we encourage them to keep a log of their reading. The back page of this list includes some questions students will consider in their assignments.

This list includes books from the Virginia Readers' Choice program, sponsored by the Virginia Reading Association, and books recognized by our faculty and other teachers as meaningful reading choices for students of middle school age. See descriptions of the Virginia Readers' Choice books at <http://www.vusra.org/VCindex.html>. **Middle school students may read books of their choice, including titles not listed here, magazines, or newspapers.** Copies of these books are available in the schools, at public libraries, and at local bookstores.

### Virginia Readers' Choice 2007-2012

<i>Adam Canfield of the Slash</i>	Michael Winerip
<i>After Tupac and D Foster</i>	Jacqueline Woodson
<i>Airborn</i>	Kenneth Oppel
<i>All the Broken Pieces</i>	Ann E. Burg
<i>All of the Above</i>	Shelley Pearsall
<i>Best Bad Luck I Ever Had</i>	Kristin Levine
<i>Black Book of Secrets</i>	F.E. Higgins et al.
<i>Black Duck</i>	Janet Taylor Lisle
<i>Blue</i>	Joyce Moyer Hostetter
<i>Book of a Thousand Days</i>	Shannon Hale
<i>Breathe: a Ghost Story</i>	Cliff McNish
<i>Bulu: African Wonder Dog</i>	Dick Houson
<i>Camo Girl</i>	Kekla Magoon
<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i>	James Swanson
<i>Cosmic</i>	Frank Cottrell Boyce
<i>First Light</i>	Rebecca Stead
<i>Fly Girl</i>	Sherri Smith
<i>Free Baseball</i>	Sue Corbett
<i>Girl Who could Fly</i>	Victoria Forester
<i>Heart of a Samurai</i>	Margi Preus
<i>Hitler's Canary</i>	Sandi Toksvig
<i>Keeper</i>	Mal Peet
<i>La Linea</i>	Ann Jaramillo
<i>Lawn Boy</i>	Gary Paulsen
<i>The Leanin' Dog</i>	K.A. Nuzum
<i>Lightning Thief (Book One)</i>	Rick Riordan
<i>Little Audrey</i>	Ruth White
<i>London Calling</i>	Edward Bloor
<i>London Eye Mystery</i>	Siobhan Dowd
<i>The Mailbox</i>	Audrey Shafer
<i>Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller</i>	Sarah Miller
<i>Mockingbird</i>	Kathryn Erskine
<i>Olive's Ocean</i>	Kevin Henkes
<i>Operation Yes</i>	Sara Holmes
<i>Out of My Mind</i>	Sharon Draper
<i>Peak</i>	Roland Smith
<i>Pop</i>	Godon Korman
<i>Powerless</i>	Matthew Cody
<i>Riding the Flume</i>	Patricia Curtis Pfitsch
<i>Sacrifice</i>	Kathleen Benner Duble

<i>Savvy</i>	Ingrid Law
<i>Shakespeare's Secret</i>	Elise Broach
<i>Shooting the Moon</i>	Frances O'Roark Dowell
<i>Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time</i>	Lisa Yee
<i>The Strange Case of Origami Yoda</i>	Tom Angleberger
<i>The Uprising</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix
<i>Ways to Live Forever</i>	Sally Nicholls
<i>Wednesday Wars</i>	Gary D. Schmidt
<i>When the Whistle Blows</i>	Fran Cannon Slayton
<i>When You Reach Me</i>	Rebecca Stead
<i>Wish List</i>	Eoin Colfer
<i>The Young Man and the Sea</i>	Rodman Philbrick

### Recommended classics:

<i>Death Be Not Proud</i>	John Gunther
<i>Gone with the Wind</i>	Margaret Mitchell
<i>Hiroshima</i>	John Hersey
<i>The King Must Die</i>	Mary Renault
<i>Mutiny on the Bounty</i>	Hall/Nordoff
<i>Profiles in Courage</i>	John F. Kennedy
<i>Rebecca</i>	Daphne DuMaurier

### Recommended authors: (N = Nonfiction)

Laurie Halse Anderson	Milton Meltzer (N)
Susan Campbell Bartoletti (N)	Walter Dean Myers
Sharon Creech	Christopher Paolini
Sharon Draper	Richard Peck
Sharon Flake	Laurence Pringle (N)
Russell Freedman (N)	R. K. Rowling
Carl Hiaasen	Dyan Sheldon
S. E. Hinton	Jerry Spinelli
Lois Lowry	J. R. R. Tolkien
Wendy Maas	Jacqueline Woodson

### Recommended series:

<i>Redwall</i>	Brian Jacques
<i>Traveling Pants</i>	Ann Brashares
<i>Beacon Street</i>	Annie Bryant
<i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i>	Lemony Snicket

### Nonfiction

*Dreams from my Father*  
*Chew on This: Everything you Don't Want to Know about Fast Food*  
*When the Wall Came Down: The Berlin Wall and the Fall of Communism*  
*Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*  
*Before Hollywood: From Shadow Play to the Silver Screen*  
*Invisible Allies: Microbes That Shape Our Lives*  
*Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America*  
*The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream*

Barack Obama  
 Eric Schlosser  
 Charles Wilson  
 Serge Schmemmann  
 Susan Campbell Bartoletti  
 Paul Clee  
 Jeanette Farrell  
 Deborah Hopkinson  
 Davis, Jenkins & Hunt

## Questions for reflection/discussion in the fall

What types of reading did you do this summer? Did you read magazines, newspapers, cereal boxes, websites, novels, poetry, nonfiction books? List everything you can remember reading.

**Now, consider the following questions about your reading:**

**How did your reading this summer help you**

- make a connection to your own life?
- make a connection to other books you've read?
- see another world or another time?

**In your reading, in what ways did you**

- care what happened to a character?
- connect with one of the characters?
- encounter unfamiliar events and experiences?
- meet a new author you had not read?
- enjoy how the author wrote the book?
- have questions that went unanswered?
- picture the people and places?

**In your reading**

- what struck you as being very important?
- did you learn any lessons?

**Use the following prompts to discuss your summer reading**

- I learned...
- The confusing thing is...
- I was surprised...
- I began to think of...
- I don't really understand ...
- I think...
- If I were....
- At first I thought and now I think...
- At first I felt, now I feel...
- I have changed by this book in this way...
- From reading this text, I will remember...
- The theme in this text was...
- An "aha" from the reading was...
- A light bulb went on in my head and I realized...
- My opinion on this topic now is...
- I will remember the visual I built in my mind for