

2007 S. T. R. E. T. C. H. Summer Reading for Incoming 8th Graders

***And Then There Were None* – Christie, A (Mystery)**

Ten strangers meet on an Indian island, the guest of a diabolical killer who has marked them as prisoners and prey.

***After the Dancing Days* - Rostkowski, M. I. (Historical Fiction)**

A forbidden friendship with a badly disfigured soldier in the aftermath of WWI forces thirteen-year-old Anna to redefine the word "hero."

***Belle Teal* – Martin, Ann M. (Historical Fiction)**

Belle Teal, a poor girl, befriends a new African American student, set in 1962.

***Brian's Winter* - Paulsen, G (Realistic Fiction)**

Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's *Hatchet*, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness.

***Brave New World*- Huxley, A. (Classic)**

Futuristic story of a new world where crime has been eliminated.

***Cheaper By the Dozen* – Gilbreth, F. B. (Classic)**

The hilarious adventures of twelve wonderful, redheaded rascals is told with great warmth and humor.

***The Chocolate War* - Cormier, R. (Realistic Fiction)**

A young high school student refuses to be intimidated by the society and people around him.

***The Chosen*- Potok, C (Realistic Fiction)**

Story of the friendship of two boys, one the son of an Hassidic Jewish rabbi.

***A Christmas Carol* – Dickens, Charles (Classic)**

Story of Scrooge and how he learns to keep the meaning of Christmas.

***Cold Sassy Tree* – Burns, O.A. (Historical Fiction)**

When the preacher of Cold Sassy, Georgia, elopes with a woman half his age (not to mention a Yankee), the sleepy little town comes alive.

The Contender - Lipsyte, L. (**Realistic Fiction**)

A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym where he learns that being a contender is difficult and often discouraging work, but he won't learn anything unless he tries.

Count of Monte Cristo – Dumas, Alexandre (**Classic**)

How an innocent man enacts revenge on those who wronged him

Criss Cross – Perkins, L. R. (**Realistic Fiction**)

Teenagers in a small town in the 1960's experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.

A Day No Pigs Would Die Peck, R. N. (**Realistic Fiction**)

Gentle, heartwarming novel about a thirteen-year-old farmboy, his love for his father, and his coming to manhood.

Dogsong - Paulsen, G (**Adventure**)

A fourteen-year-old Eskimo boy who feels assailed by the modernity of his life takes a 1,400-mile journey by dog sled across ice, tundra, and mountains seeking his own 'song' of himself.

Gentlehands - Kerr, M. E. (**Historical Fiction**)

A novel of paradox as a sixteen-year-old boy learns his gentle, cultivated grandfather was once an infamous Nazi officer.

Gathering Blue – Lowry, L (**Science Fiction**)

Kira, who is now orphaned, must use her gift of weaving to live with the Guardians.

The Giver -- Lowry, L (**Science Fiction**)

Given his lifetime assignment of receiver of memories shared with only one other member of the community, Jonas discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Rowling, J.K. (**Fantasy**)

The last in the series, the one we have all been waiting for. See what happens to Harry.

Haveli -.Staples, S. F. (**Realistic Fiction**)

Recently married, Shabanu finds that she is the victim of her husband's family blood-feud and the malice of his other wives. Sequel to *Shabanu*.

The Headless Cupid - Snyder, Z. K. (**Mystery**)

Amanda was curious about many things, but David is suspicious when she finds the headless cupid in the house.

***The Higher Power of Lucky* – Patron, S. (Realistic Fiction) 2007 Newbery winner**

Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life.

***Homeless Bird* – Whelan, Gloria (Realistic Fiction)**

When Thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny directed by Indian tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

***Hoot* – Hiaasen, Carl (Realistic Fiction)**

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

***House of the Scorpion* – Farmer, Nancy (Science Fiction)**

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys a special status as the young clone of El Patron, leader of a corrupt drug empire between Mexico and the US.

***The House of Dies Drear* - Hamilton, V (Mystery)**

A family of five moves into a house once used as a hiding place for runaway slaves. Mysterious events and sounds as well as the discovery of secret passageways convince the family they are in grave danger.

***If You Come Softy* – Woodson, Jacqueline (Realistic Fiction)**

Ellie and Jeremiah are in love, but they come from different backgrounds and their families disapprove.

***Jacob Have I Loved* – Paterson, K (Realistic Fiction)**

After feeling deprived of attention all her life by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her own identity.

***Jade Green* – Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds (Mystery)**

A girl goes to live with her uncle, but he refused to have anything in his house that is green.

***Jane Eyre* – Bronte, C (Classic)**

This novel of triumph chronicles Jane's unhappy childhood, her job as a governess, and her love for Mr. Rochester.

***Johnny Tremain* - Forbes, E. (Historical Fiction)**

This novel chronicles the life of a young apprentice from a tragic accident in a silversmith's shop to his dramatic involvement as a patriot in the days just prior to the Revolutionary War.

***Killing Mr. Griffin* – Duncan, L (Mystery)**

A teenager suggests a cruel trick on a teacher, but should it have ended in murder?

***The Lilies of the Field* – Barrett, W.E. (Realistic Fiction)**

A story of compassion and love among a religious order and the caretaker who stumbles into their lives.

***Little Women* - Alcott, L. M. (Classic)**

Meg, Jo, Amy and Beth are four “little women” growing up in New England during the Civil War.

***Lord of the Deep* – Salisbury, Graham (Realistic Fiction)**

Mikey learns much about taking risks and making sacrifices when he works for his stepfather on a charter fishing boat.

***Maniac Magee* - Spinelli, J (Realistic Fiction)**

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary as he accomplishes athletic and other feats.

***Member of the Wedding* - McCullers, C (Realistic Fiction)**

A young girl is lost in the confusion of the adolescent world. This emotional turbulence is delicately conveyed.

***The Midwife's Apprentice* - Cushman, K (Historical Fiction)**

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife. (Karen Cushman also wrote *Catherine Called Birdy*.)

***Miracle's Boys* – Woodson, Jaqueline (Realistic Fiction)**

A thirteen-year-old is being raised by his brothers after his parents die.

***Monster* – Myers, Walter Dean (Realistic Fiction)**

Steve Harmon is on trial as an accomplice to murder and he records the trial as a movie script.

***My Antonia* – Cather, W (Historical Fiction)**

Pioneer Nebraska life is superbly portrayed through the eyes of a ten-year-old orphan.

***Number the Stars* - Lowry, L (Historical Fiction)**

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns bravery and courage when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

***Numbering the Bones* – Rinaldi, Ann (Historical Fiction)**

Story of how a former slaves adjusts to her freedom.

***The Pigman* - Zindel, P (Realistic Fiction)**

It began as a joke. Now two teenagers are Mr. Pigman's only friends and must help him hide his terrible secret.

***Pride and Prejudice* – Austen, J. (Classic)**

More than a story of love between a man and a woman, this novel is a look at family life in 18th-century England.

***The Prince and the Pauper* – Twain, M (Classic)**

A chance encounter between look-alikes Tom Canty, child of London slums, and Edward, heir to the throne of England, leads to exchange of roles and adventure for both.

***Power of One* – Courtenay, B (Historical Fiction)**

A boy growing up in South Africa during WWI learns about freedom, courage, and friendship from two older men, one black and one white.

***Rain of Fire* – Bauer, M.D. (Historical Fiction)**

Steve's friends begin to doubt his stories of his brother's heroism in WWII when Matthew, his brother, refuses to talk about his wartime experiences.

***The Red Badge of Courage* -. Crane, S (Historical Fiction)**

A stirring tale of action in the American Civil War told through the experiences of a young soldier from New York.

***The Red Pony* - Steinbeck, J. (Realistic Fiction)**

A heartfelt study of a boy and his sorrel colt in sun-drenched California.

***Shane* - Schaefer, J (Classic)**

An unforgettable novel of a boy's love and a gunman's struggle to escape the past.

***Slave Dancer* – Fox, P (Historical Fiction)**

Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers, to his horror, that he is aboard a slave ship.

***Stowaway* - Hesse, Karen (Adventure)**

Fictionalized tale of the voyage of Captain Cook's voyage around the world from 1768-1777.

***Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps* – Warren, A (Historical Fiction)**

Taken from a true story about a boy becoming a man caught up in Germany's concentration camps.

***The Thief Lord* – Funke, Cornelia (Realistic Fiction)**

Two brothers, having run away from their aunt, are sought by a detective hired by her.

Thwonk – Bauer, Joan (**Fantasy**)

A.J. finds a magic cupid doll that grants her a wish.

Time Machine- Well, H.G. (**Science Fiction**)

The author invents a machine that will transport him back in time.

Touching Spirit Bear – Mikaelson, Ben (**Realistic Fiction**)

A troubled teenager is placed in the Alaskan wilderness for a year to atone for his crime.

Treasure Island – Stevenson, Robert Louis (**Classic**)

Jim Hawkins is aboard a ship that the crew is teaming up with Long John Silver to steal treasure.

Turnabout – Haddix, M. P. (**Science Fiction**)

The story of two 80-year-old women who take a potion that has them growing younger each year.

War of the Worlds – Wells, H.G. (**Science Fiction**)

The earth is invaded by aliens and a total war ensues.

Watership Down – Adams, R. (**Fantasy**)

The saga of a maverick band of rabbits who set out against all odds on a quest for a new society.

When the Legends Die – Borland, H. (**Classic**)

A modern Indian boy is left alone to survive in the wilderness.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town- Holt, Kimerly Willis (**Realistic Fiction**)

A dull Texas summer is transformed when Toby and Cal befriend a sideshow star, probably “the fattest boy in the world.”

White Fang - London, J (**Classic**)

A classic tale of a savage dog's transformation through love of a young man.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond - Speare, E. G. (**Historical Fiction**)

Puritan neighbors regard Kit Tyier with suspicion, fear, and anger when she befriends a mysterious woman accused of witchcraft.

Witness- Hesse, Karen (**Historical Fiction**)

A story of the KKK coming to a small Vermont town. Told from different points of view and written in verse.

Wuthering Heights – Bronte, Emily (**Classic**)

The tragic love story set in 19th century England.

Books in a series

Eragon, and Eldest- Paolini, C (Fantasy)

A fifteen-year-old finds a curious stone that brings him into the world of dragons and magic.

The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass (trilogy)- Pullman, Phillip (Science Fiction)

The survival journey of Lyra as she travels from different times and places while trying to find her father.

Lord of the Ring Trilogy --- The Hobbit, Fellowship of the Ring, Return of the King, Two Towers (trilogy)- Tolkien, J.R.R. (Fantasy)

The trilogy which takes place in Middle Earth involving Frodo, a Hobbit, and his friends in search of a powerful and magical ring.

Inkheart, and Inkspell – Funke, Cornelia (Fantasy)

Meggie learns that her father can “read” characters out of books.

Nonfiction

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West - Brown, D

An account of the systematic decimation of the American Indians during the second half of the 19th century, told from the point of view of the Indians.

The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to his White Mother- McBride, James

An African American man’s biography of his growing up with a white mother.

Farewell to Manzanar - Houston, J.W.

The true story of one Japanese-American family and their attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention during WWII.

The Forgotten Heroes: The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers – Cox, Clinton

Explores the powerful story of the Buffalo Soldiers, the black regiments used to fight Native Americans in the 1800’s.

The Greatest: Muhammad Ali – Myers, Walter Dean

The life of the boxer, Muhammad Ali who was the heavy weight champion.

Houdini: Master of Illusion – Cox, Clinton

Master illusionist and magician, Houdini's life and art explored as well as the secrets to some of his tricks.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings- Angelou, Maya

Biography of the early years of the author, Maya Angelou.

Into Thin Air- Krakauer, Jon

Details the author's perilous Mt. Everest climb.

