



Amesbury Middle School

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Amesbury Middle School

2016 Summer Reading List



For Students Entering Grade 8

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Summer reading should be fun! The eighth grade teachers have designed this packet to encourage students to read all summer long. They are asking students to read at least one book from this list. The book may be read as part of the Amesbury Public Library's Summer Reading programs that will run from June – August 2016. Included in this packet you will find: a Summer Reading Tips for Parents page, a reading list and a letter from the eighth grade teachers.

Extra copies of this list may be obtained at the Amesbury Public Library, the A.M.S. office, the Superintendent's office and area bookstores. The list and assessment may also be found on the Amesbury Middle School's web site under the following Quick Links: Parent Letters & Information. The titles on this list may be borrowed from the Amesbury Public Library.

Please help us with our campaign to encourage our middle school students to keep reading all summer long!

Sincerely,


Michael Curry
Principal



Summer Reading Tips for Parents



- Read to your child. Try to establish a daily routine that includes a time to read together. Bedtime is a traditional favorite, but any time will work that is convenient for you and your family.
- Be a good role model. Let your child see you reading for pleasure as well as for information. Let her know that you value reading.
- Give your child the opportunity to read aloud to you, a friend, another family member or another child. Make the experience a chance for your child to share his new reading skills. Have him read the book silently before asking him to read it aloud. Correct mistakes only when the mistake changes the meaning of the sentence and then supply the word without making him feel bad for having made a mistake.
- Include your child in your day-to-day reading experiences. Share recipes, the newspaper, magazines, the TV Guide, cereal boxes, menus, road signs, etc. Our world is full of things to read if we are aware of our surroundings.
- Talk to your child about the books she is reading. Tell her about books you enjoyed when you were a child and ones that you are reading now.
- Help him select books on topics he is interested in and on his reading level. A simple rule of thumb for helping your child select books at his reading level is to have them choose a page in the book (not the first one) and read it. If he doesn't know five or more of the words, then the book is too hard for pleasure reading.
- If you are planning a vacation this summer, write to the visitors' bureau of places you will be visiting and ask for information on the area and any special attractions, check out books from the library to get background information, or get brochures from your travel agent, share this information with your child; ask for his input on what activities he would enjoy. Hang a map of the places you will be visiting and/or traveling through on the wall and chart your travel route. These techniques will work after travel too.
- Carry a bag with books and activities to keep your child occupied whenever you have to wait.
- Get your child his own library card. Take or allow him to go to the library often browse for books and enjoy special activities.
- Help her learn new words. Make a goal of one new word a day. Discuss words she comes across and doesn't know. This will help her to explain her vocabulary.

Amesbury Middle School
8th grade reading list 2016-2017

Alexi, Sherman (Memoir)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Bagdasarian, Adam (Historical fiction)

Forgotten Fire

Bell, Cece (Realistic – graphic novel)

El Deafo

Crew, Linda (Realistic)

Children of the River

Flinn, Alex (Realistic)

Breathing Underwater

Haddon, Mark (Realistic)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime

Hinton, S.E. (Realistic)

The Outsiders*

*[*The Outsiders, because it is also a movie, must include a paragraph comparison between the movie and the book (see additional assignment sheet)]*

Kahdota, Cynthia (Historical fiction)

Weedflower

Park, Linda Sue (Realistic)

A Long Walk to Water

Schmidt, Gary (Realistic)

Trouble

Sullivan, Tara (Realistic)

Golden Boy

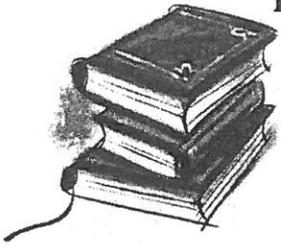
Westerfield, Scott (Fantasy)

Uglies

Pretties

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. ~ Joseph Addison ~

Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life. ~ Mortimer J. Adler ~



Student writers expand their knowledge as they read more and more. Your eighth grade Language Arts teachers want you to relax and read some great books this summer. We'd like you to select ONE book from our Amesbury Middle School Summer Reading List for students entering grade eight, and after you have read a book of your choice from the list, we want you to share your ideas and feelings about the readings by completing the following. This is not a formal book report, but your reflects your thoughts and responses. **These are the questions you will be asked to respond to within the first week of school. We recommend that you take notes on each of these bullet points as you read so you will be prepared to complete the Summer Reading Assignment in September!**

- Describe a memorable character from your book. Choose **a quote or two** from the text that shows important qualities about this character.
- Describe how a character in your book has overcome adversity (hardship). **How** did the character overcome this challenge or hardship? Be specific.
- In your opinion, what is the most important theme of the book? What **message** does the author put out through writing this book? Write about **three** specific examples from the story that support that theme.
- Write down three (3) facts about the author. This information can be found on the book jacket or on the internet.
- Devise three (3) questions that you would like to ask the author of the book that cannot be answered by reading the book – “deeper” questions.
- Did the book satisfy your expectations? Please describe what you liked about it and what you did not like about it. Be specific.
- If you are reading a book that was made into a movie, write about the differences between the book and the movie – some of your thoughts, such as which you liked better and why.

NOTE: In September, you will be completing a project based on your Summer Reading book. You will have to write a paragraph for each question that contains a topic sentence, supportive details (not less than three details) and a closing sentence. Therefore, make sure your notes are sufficiently detailed so you can complete the assignment.

We look forward to having a class discussion with you about these books after summer vacation!

See you in September!