

2011
ENTERING 8TH GRADE
STUDENTS
SUMMER READING
PROGRAM



W.R. SATZ SCHOOL

William R. Satz School Summer Reading Program 2011

Rationale:

1. Students will reinforce reading comprehension skills.
2. Students will develop a love of reading and experience developmentally appropriate literature (interest, reading level, content).
3. Differentiation in texts and responses to text allows students to develop reading skills on an individualized basis.

Requirements:

All students must:

- **Select and read two books on the approved grade level list. Students may read three or more books, and parents play an important role in encouraging students to read widely. Students who wish to read additional books may select from the approved list or from their own reading interests.**
- **Complete an in-class written and oral summer reading assessment, which will be given during the first week of school. Common grade level in-class assessments on summer reading will count for 5 % of the first marking period grade.**

Guiding philosophy:

The Satz School Summer Reading Program strives to reinforce effective reading comprehension strategies, foster an appreciation for reading, and expose students to diverse readings designed to appeal to the wide range of interests and skill levels of our population.

As such, there will be no specific required selection for summer reading. Instead, students may choose from the appropriate grade level list approved by the Holmdel Board of Education. The summer reading guide will help students self-assess the degree to which they are following recommended reading practices. The guide will provide excellent preparation for the open-ended in-class assessments all students will take during the first week of school.

All assessments will be open-ended. There will be no assessments that require students to create a book report or plot summary, or recall trivial details about the book.

Voluntary Preparation Questions for In-Class Assessment:

Assessment need not be a mysterious process. Consequently, we have provided below a list of questions and tasks similar to those that you will encounter during your in-class assessment (predictions, reactions, post-reading evaluation). These questions and tasks are designed to help you monitor your reading process and to help improve your reading skills. All assigned written work will be collected by your Language Arts/Reading teacher.

Remember, these questions and tasks are only suggestions for your own self-monitoring as a reader. Feel free to invent your own! If you can invent better questions, do so!

Predictions (Pre-reading skills)

You may choose one of the following ways to document pre-reading activities with reference to a specific chapter or section of your book.

1. List a prediction that you made about this chapter/section. Explain what led you to this conclusion.
2. What specific pre-reading strategies did you follow for this chapter, and what were the results of these strategies?

Reactions:

Choose one of the following:

1. Choose one event or character's action in this chapter that surprised you. What was the event or action and why did it surprise you?
2. What aspect or part of a specific chapter did you like or dislike? Please provide three reasons and three pieces of evidence that support your answer.
3. If you could re-write this chapter, how would you do so?

Post-reading evaluation:

Choose any two of the following:

Compare and contrast the two books you read.

1. Which book did you prefer reading and why?
2. How are the two books similar and different?
3. If you had to recommend one of the two books to your teacher, which would it be and why? Which book would you recommend to a classmate?

As you practice, so you will perform!

Happy Reading and Have a Great Summer!

Sincerely,
Arthur Howard
W.R. Satz School Principal



SEPTEMBER 8th GRADERS

All students must choose two books from this approved grade level list.

Realistic Fiction

***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, by Jordan Sonnenblick,**

Steven Alper is a typical eighth-grader--smarter than some, a better drummer than most, but with the usual girl problems and family trials. Then, on October 7, his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey, falls, has a nosebleed that doesn't stop, and is diagnosed with leukemia. All hell breaks loose. Mrs. Alper's days and nights revolve around getting Jeffrey to his chemotherapy treatments, and Mr. Alper retreats into a shell, coming out only occasionally to weep over the mounting medical bills. Steven becomes the forgotten son, who throws himself into drumming, even as he quits doing his homework and tries to keep his friends from finding out about Jeffrey's illness. A story that could have morphed into melodrama is saved by reality, rawness, and the wit Sonnenblick infuses into Steven's first-person voice. The recriminations, cares, and nightmares that come with a cancer diagnosis are all here, underscored by vomiting, white blood cell counts, and chemotherapy ports. Yet, this is also about regrouping, solidarity, love, and hope. Most important for a middle-grade audience, Sonnenblick shows that even in the midst of tragedy, life goes on, love can flower, and the one thing you can always change is yourself.

***Whale Talk* – Chris Crutcher**

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Sci-Fi/Fantasy

***The Angel Experiment: Maximum Ride, Book 1* by James Patterson**

The story of genetically engineered teenagers on the run from the scientists who created them. Very entertaining, specifically written for young adults, first in a four-book series.

***A Gift of Magic* – Lois Duncan**

Many years ago a dying woman left each of her grandchildren a gift. To the eldest, Kirby, she gave the gift of dance; to the boy, Brendon, the gift of music; and to Nancy, the most extraordinary gift of all--the gift of magic. Nancy knows who's calling when the phone rings. She can move objects with her mind. She knows what people are thinking. However, Nancy never realized that her parents' marriage was failing and that the family's move to the small beachside cottage where her mother grew up is permanent. Nancy's world is changing far too fast. Has her desire to keep things the same ruined her sister's ballet career? Can she stop her mother from falling in love with a childhood sweetheart? Can her magic save her brother who has sailed into the bay on a homemade boat? This story is less about magic and much more about a teenage girl coping with the difficult and unwelcome changes in her life.

***The Hunger Games* - Suzanne Collins**

This first book of a planned trilogy introduces an easy-to-imagine, cruel future society divided by wealth and obsessed with media and celebrity. The controlling Capitol broadcasts the Hunger Games, mandatory watching for all citizens of Panem. The annual event pits 24 Tributes—a girl and boy teen from each of the 12 Districts surrounding the Capitol—against one another in a desperate battle to the death. When 16-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place as District Twelve's girl Tribute, she is thrown into a media frenzy, complete with stylists and costumes, literally fighting for her life in the arena. Intense action, along with a touch of romance, makes this dystopic adventure a great choice.

***The Looking Glass Wars* - Frank Beddor**

The "true story" behind Alice in Wonderland! Princess Alyss Heart is brutally cast out of Wonderland by her vicious Aunt Redd, who beheads Alyss' mother (Off with her head, she cries!) and begins to rule over Wonderland with an iron fist. Alyss escapes from Wonderland and is exiled to another world entirely--Victorian London--where she is adopted into a new family, renamed Alice, and befriended by Lewis Carroll. At age 20 she returns to Wonderland to battle Redd, reclaim the throne, and lead Wonderland into its next golden age of imagination.

Classical Literature

***Little Women* – Louisa M. Alcott**

Meet the March sisters: the talented and tomboyish Jo, the beautiful Meg, the frail Beth, and the spoiled Amy, as they pass through the years between girlhood and womanhood. A lively portrait of growing up in the 19th century with lasting vitality and enduring charm.

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain**

The Adventures of “Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain is an absolute must read. Twain masterfully creates an interesting story line while staying true to the times, setting and language. Huck’s tale of his adventure down the Mississippi will keep you turning the pages. It is very interesting because things happen when you least expect it. This is an amazing story full of adventure and fun.

Historical Fiction

***Red Scarf Girl* – Ji-li Jiang**

Ji Li's childhood in Shanghai was a happy one. She lived with her parents, brother, sister and grandmother. They had a loving and devoted nanny/housekeeper. Growing up in Communist China, she had been raised to believe "heaven and earth are great, but greater still is the kindness of the Communist Party; father and mother are dear, but dearer still is Chairman Mao". When she was twelve years old, she looked forward to going to Shi-yi Junior High but her life changed forever when Mao announced his Cultural Revolution and the importance of destroying the

"Four-Olds": old ideas, old cultures, old customs, and old habits. As these true events unfold, she provides a personal glimpse into a major event about which Americans know very little. A fascinating memoir which fulfills the author's hope of helping Americans understand China.

***A Night to Remember* – Walter Lord**

First published in 1955, *A Night to Remember* remains the definitive, classic tale of the sinking of the Titanic. Walter Lord interviewed more than sixty survivors before committing their recollections to his minute-by-minute account of the Titanic's fatal collision and the experiences of both passengers and crew under pressure of the unthinkable: the swift plummet into icy waters of the ship promised never to sink. With a new introduction by Nathaniel Philbrick, this fiftieth-anniversary edition of Walter Lord's classic brings the drama of that night back to life.

Autobiography

***Malcolm X* – Alex Haley**

The absorbing personal story of the man who rose from a life of poverty and disadvantage to become the most dynamic leader of the Black Revolution, only to have his life cut short by an assassin's bullets. Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19th, 1925; he dropped the "slave name" Little and adopted the initial X (representing an unknown) when he became a member of the Nation of Islam. Malcolm was the seventh of his father's nine children – three by a previous marriage – and his mother's fourth child. His father, Reverend Earl Little, was a Baptist minister and an organizer for Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association, a black separatist "back-to-Africa" group of the 1920's.

***The Story of My Life* – Helen Keller**

The Story of My Life, a remarkable account of overcoming the debilitating challenges of being both deaf and blind, has become an international classic, making Helen Keller one of the most well-known, inspirational figures in history. Originally published in 1903, Keller's fascinating memoir narrates the events of her life up to her third year at Radcliffe College. Helen Keller's story of struggle and achievement is one of unquenchable hope. From tales of her difficult early days, to details of her relationship with her beloved teacher Anne Sullivan, to her impressions of academic life, Keller's honest, straightforward writing lends insight into an amazing mind. Like the original, this centenary edition of *The Story of My Life* includes letters Keller wrote to friends throughout her childhood and adolescence that chronicle her intellectual and sensory progression, as well as assistant John Macy's commentary on her interpretations of her surroundings.

***Tuesdays With Morrie* – Mitch Albom**

The true story of how Mitch Albom learns wisdom and an acceptance of hardship and life's beauty from his old college professor. A best seller and winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Additional Voluntary Suggested Reading

(These books cannot be substituted for the required summer reading selection.)

A Wrinkle in Time - L'Engle
Incredible Journey of Lewis and Clark - Blumberg
The Halloween Tree - Bradbury
A Nightmare in History: The Holocaust - Chaikin
Year of Impossible Goodbyes - Choi
A Girl from Yamhill: A Memoir - Cleary
Robin Hood - Creswick
The Door in the Wall - deAngeli
A Study in Scarlet - Doyle
The Count of Monte Cristo - Dumas
Johnny Tremain - Forbes
War Boy: A Country Childhood - Foreman
The One-Eyed Cat - Fox
China's Long March: 6000 Miles of Danger - Fritz
Mythology - Hamilton
Kon Tiki - Heyerdahl
Green Mansions - Hudson
Across Five Aprils - Hunt
The Witchcraft of Salem Village - Jackson
Seasons of Splendor: Tales, Myths, and Legends of India - Jaffrey
Profiles in Courage - Kennedy
Call of the Wild - London
The Way Things Work - Macaulay
American Indian Mythology - Marriott
The Blue Sword - McKinley
The Hero and the Crown - McKinley
Mary Cassatt - Meryman
Book of Greek Myths - D'Aulaire
Bridge to Terabithia - Paterson
The Story of King Arthur and His Knights - Pyle
The Yearling - Rawlings
The Land and People of Korea - Solberg
The Witch of Blackbird Pond - Speare
China - Steffoff
Travels with Charley - Steinbeck
Kinnapped - Stevenson
Tales of the Early World - Hughes
Roll of Thunder, Hear Me Cry - Taylor
The Prince and the Pauper - Twain
Around the World in Eighty Days - Verne
Jackaroo - Voigt

Julia Morgan - Wadsworth
Architect of Dreams - Wadsworth
War of the Worlds - Wells
Blitzcat - Westall
Frank Lloyd Wright, American Architect - Willard
Jane Adams of Hull House - Wise
A True Story of an Escape Across Russia - Sandulescu
At the Plate with Mark McGwire - Christopher
At the Plate with Sammy Sosa - Christopher
Backfield Package - Dygard
Infield Hit - Dygard
River Danger - Dygard
Driver's Ed - Cooney
The Face on the Milkcarton - Cooney
Dicey's Song - Voigt, Cynthia
Izzy, Willy-Nilly - Voigt, Cynthia
I Know What You Did Last Summer - Duncan
Don't Look Behind You - Duncan