

Princeton Public Schools

John Witherspoon Middle School Summer Reading List 2017

5th Grade into 6th Grade

At John Witherspoon Middle School, our readers benefit from the variety of fiction and nonfiction titles we offer during Reading Workshop in our English classes. As we believe in and stress the importance of reading beyond the school year, we will be offering a few suggested titles that are developmentally appropriate for all of our students who share varied ability levels, learning styles and interests. Stephen Krashen, a linguist and leading researcher in reading, suggests that an often-overlooked method to improve reading is providing readers with a supply of interesting and accessible books by visiting local libraries and bookstores. Research demonstrates that self-selected voluntary reading leads to the greatest gains in reading achievement. (Krashen, S. *The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research*, 2nd edition. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.)

As a result, we are offering ten *fiction* and ten *nonfiction* suggested titles at each grade level in our middle school as a reflective example of what students will find in each classroom library. ***Students should bring a copy of their chosen text*** and expect to answer a variety of reader-response questions regarding their summer choices upon their return from vacation during the first full week of school. Students can choose a book (not on this list) of comparable merit with parent permission. One book is required to fulfill the assignment; we encourage students to read as many titles as they would like!

TITLE

AUTHOR

Fiction

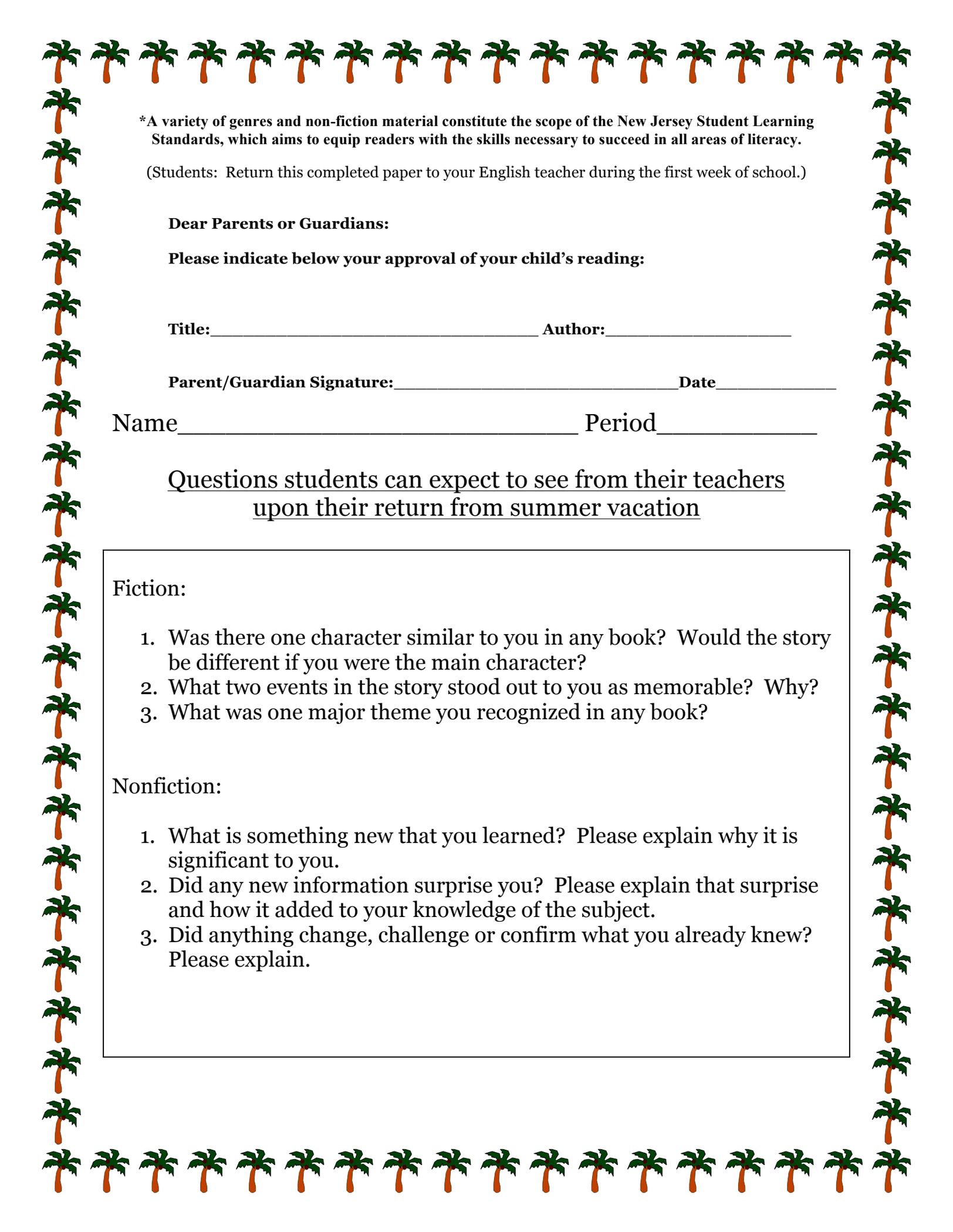
The Lightning Thief
Wonder
Save Me a Seat
Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
Game Changers
Among the Hidden
Falling Over Sideways
The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls
Bud, Not Buddy

Rick Riordan
R.J. Palacio
S. Weeks/G. Varadarajan
Chris Grabenstein
J.K. Rowling
Mike Lupica
Margaret Peterson Haddix
Jordan Sonnenblick
Claire Legrand
Christopher Paul Curtis

Nonfiction

*Scientists in the Field**
*The Great White Shark Scientist**
*Lincoln's Grave Robbers**
*Claudette Colvin: Towards Justice**
*Saved By the Boats**
*Women Who Changed the World**
*The Tarantula Scientist**
*Knots in My Yo-Yo String**
*Hazardous Tales: Alamo All-Stars**
*Alexander the Great: Master of the Ancient World**

Pamela S. Turner
Sy Montgomery
Steve Sheinkin
Phillip M. Hoose
Julie Gassman
Laurie Calkhovem
Sy Montgomery
Jerry Spinelli
Nathan Hale
Doug Wilhelm



*A variety of genres and non-fiction material constitute the scope of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which aims to equip readers with the skills necessary to succeed in all areas of literacy.

(Students: Return this completed paper to your English teacher during the first week of school.)

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Please indicate below your approval of your child's reading:

Title: _____ Author: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____

Name _____ Period _____

Questions students can expect to see from their teachers
upon their return from summer vacation

Fiction:

1. Was there one character similar to you in any book? Would the story be different if you were the main character?
2. What two events in the story stood out to you as memorable? Why?
3. What was one major theme you recognized in any book?

Nonfiction:

1. What is something new that you learned? Please explain why it is significant to you.
2. Did any new information surprise you? Please explain that surprise and how it added to your knowledge of the subject.
3. Did anything change, challenge or confirm what you already knew? Please explain.