

Princeton Public Schools

John Witherspoon Middle School Summer Reading List 2017

6th Grade into 7th 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

Redwall
Calico Joe
The Breadwinner
Dove Arising
Hoops
City of Ember
Walk Two Moons
Salt to the Sea
Life as We Knew It
Running Dream

Brian Jacques
John Grisham
Deborah Ellis
Karen Bao
Walter Dean Myers
Jeanne DuPrau
Sharon Creech
Ruta Sepetys
Susan Beth Pfeffer
Wendelin Van Draanen

Nonfiction

*Native American Doctor: The Story of Susan Laflesche Picotte**
*Hidden Figures (Young Reader's Edition)**
*Frozen in Time (Young Reader's Edition)**
*I am Malala (Young Readers Edition)**
*Red Scarf Girl**
*Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story**
*Crow Smarts: Inside the Brain of the World's Brightest Bird**
*Elon Musk & the Quest for a Fantastic Future**
*Strong Inside (Young Readers Edition)**
*Untold History of the United States (Young Reader's Edition)**

Jeri Chase Ferris
Margot Lee Shetterly
Mitchell Zuckoff
Malala Yousafzai
Ji-li Jiang
Caren Stelson
Pamela S. Turner
Ashlee Vance
Andrew Maraniss
Oliver Stone

*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

For Narrative Reading...

1. How does the conflict change the character?
2. What is the author's attitude toward the characters? What is the most noticeable tone in the book?
3. What symbols are central in the book? How do they contribute to the theme or to the book as a whole?

For Nonfiction Reading...

1. What do you think the author's central idea is? What would you describe as the author's purpose?
2. How does the author structure the book? Is it chronological (time order), general to specific, cause and effect, pros and cons...?
3. Was there a specific passage that left had a strong tone to it that revealed the author's attitude toward a topic? What choices did the author make to make that section stand out?
4. Was the purpose of the book to bring to light an issue? If so, did it make you more aware and knowledgeable about the particular issue? How did earlier opinions about the issue changed after reading this book?