



## 2017 Summer Reading Assignment Fifth through Eighth Grade

Summer is a wonderful time to enjoy books and cultivate your reading habit. We hope you will join a summer reading club or set a summer reading goal. The first books listed below are required reading for the summer. Along with the required books are books for students who desire additional suggestions. During your summer reading time keep the following in mind:

- **Be ready** as teachers will have a time of sharing what you read when school begins.
- **Be accountable** to yourself to expand your interests this summer. Be ready to discuss with other enthusiasts!
- **Keep a journal** of the topics you read about and build a personal interest data bank.

### Fifth Grade Required Reading Assignment

- “In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson” by Bette Bao Lord – In this book, Bandit (or Shirley Temple Wong) moves from China to New York City. How does she adapt to a new culture, learn a new language, and make new friends?

### Sixth Grade Required Reading Assignment

- “Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH” by Robert C. O’Brien – As you read this book, you will quickly discover the dual plot line. The reader learns of Mrs. Frisby’s problem with Moving Day and how the rats will help her. Then in a flashback, we learn the interesting history of the rats of NIMH and how they became human-like in their intelligence. Be ready to construct a plot timeline, putting both stories together and telling the whole tale, beginning to end!

### Fifth and Sixth Grade Suggested Reading

- “Silverwing” by Kenneth Oppel
- “The Witch of Blackbird Pond” or “Calico Captive” by Elizabeth George Speare
- “Sarah Bishop” or “Sing Down the Moon” by Scott O’Dell
- “Dragon’s Gate” by Laurence Yep
- “National Velvet” by Enid Bagnold or “Treasure Island” by Robert Louis Stevenson
- “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” by C. S. Lewis
- “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” by Mark Twain
- “Blue Willow” by Doris Gates
- “Indian in the Cupboard” by Lynne Reid Banks
- “Catherine, Called Birdy” by Karen Cushman
- “The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963” by Christopher Paul Curtis
- “The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy” by Jeanne Birdsall
- “Mama’s Bank Account” by Kathryn Forbes

- “Stargirl” or “Loser” by Jerry Spinelli
- “Blue Jasmine” by Kashmira Sheth
- How about a Newbery Medal or Honor Book such as “Holes” by Louis Sachar, “The View from Saturday” by E. L. Konigsburg, “Walk Two Moons” by Sharon Creech, or “Inside Out & Back Again” by Thanhha Lai

### **Seventh Grade Required Reading Assignment**

- Boys will read: “No Promises in the Wind” by Irene Hunt
- Girls are to read: “Up a Road Slowly” by Irene Hunt

### **Eighth Grade Required Reading Assignment**

- “The Education of Little Tree” by Forrest Carter

### **Seventh and Eighth Grade Suggested Reading**

- “Incident at Hawk’s Hill” by Allan W. Eckert (similar to “My Side of the Mountain” by Jean George, a classic survival story)
- “Angel on the Square” or “Listening for Lions” by Gloria Whelan
- “October Sky” (originally published as “Rocket Boys”) by Homer H. Hickman, Jr., “Jump into the Sky” by Shelley Pearsall
- “The Underneath” or “The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp” by Kathi Appelt
- “Stand Tall,” “Hope was Here,” “Almost Home,” and others by Joan Bauer
- “Eldest” by Christopher Paolini or “Inkspell,” “Inkheart” by Cornelia Funke
- “The Lions of Little Rock” by Kristin Levine, any book by Christopher Paul Curtis
- “The Giver,” “Gathering Blue,” “Messenger” by Lois Lowry
- “Among the Hidden” and others by Margaret Peterson Haddix (science fiction)
- “Homecoming,” “Dicey’s Song,” “A Solitary Blue” (the first three in the Tillerman Cycle series) by Cynthia Voigt
- “Rifles for Waite” by Harold Keith and “The Killer Angels: The Classic Novel of the Civil War” by Michael Shaara (great Civil War fiction)
- “Out of the Dust” and “Witness” by Karen Hesse
- “Chickadee” by Louise Erdrich (winner of the 2014 Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction)
- “The One and Only Ivan” by Katherine Applegate or “Kira-Kira,” “The Thing About Luck” by Cynthia Kadohata or “Criss Cross” by Lynne Rae Perkins or “When You Reach Me” by Rebecca Stead, “Moon Over Manifest” by Clare Vanderpool, or other recent Newbery Medal-winning books
- From the Horn Book Fanfare best books of 2013: “Liar and Spy” by Rebecca Stead, “Splendors & Glooms” by Laura Amy Schlitz, “Three Times Lucky” by Sheila Turnage (there are still many fans of these books around)
- “Maniac Magee” by Jerry Spinelli (If you have not read this one yet, it’s a must!)
- “North” by Donna Jo Napoli (anything by this author, writes across genres)
- “Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two” by Joseph Bruchac
- “The Hero and the Crown” by Robin McKinley (you will become a fan of this author)
- Ready for a scare? “The Wizard of Earthsea” by revered early writer of science fiction, Ursula K. Le Guin

- Try a classic such as “The Secret Garden,” “A Little Princess” by Frances Hodgson Burnett or “The Yearling” by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings or “Kidnapped” by Robert Louis Stevenson or “The Hobbit” by J. R. R. Tolkien
- Sink your teeth into an award-winning adult-size biography such as “Truman,” “John Adams” or “1776” by David McCullough or “The Story of My Life” by Helen Keller, “Up From Slavery” by Booker T. Washington or “Undaunted Courage” by Stephen E. Ambrose

## **All Grades Nonfiction Reading**

### **Go to the Library and Browse one New Nonfiction Section**

1. Books: mythology, chess, dinosaurs, cooking, soccer, football, horses, computers, poetry ... whatever interest you have, there are shelves of books waiting for you!
2. Magazines: such a world of fascination in so many magazines for kids. Spend an hour sitting around the magazine section and discover Popular Mechanics, Sports Illustrated Kids, Cicada, Cricket, Popular Science, and Reader’s Digest ...

### **Future Problem Solving**

Read on the topics for next year and consider the issues. Begin a scenario? The website [www.fpsp.org](http://www.fpsp.org) provides a full description of each topic. State Bowl 2018 here we come!

### **National History Day**

The theme for next year is Conflict and Compromise in History. Find the theme sheet on [www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org). Begin by reading short biographies and make a list of possible topics.

### **Avid Readers Club**

- **Fifth and Sixth Grades:** “The Prince and the Pauper” by Mark Twain, “Anne of Green Gables” by L. M. Montgomery”
- **Seventh and Eighth Grades:** “The Count of Monte Cristo” by Alexandre Dumas, “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Brontë, “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens

Lunchtime Avid Readers Club donut chats will be held the first two weeks of school. If you would like to participate let Mrs. Debelak know. Go to [birchwoodschool.org](http://birchwoodschool.org) to find last year’s Avid Readers Club lists for more classics!