

# Summer Reading Lists - 2006-07

## Rising 7th Graders

### Carencro Middle School

**During the summer** students in seventh grade should read a minimum of three books.

1. The required selection, which should be read last
2. Two books chosen from the literature selection list
3. Take notes as you read so that you can evaluate each book during the first few weeks of school as directed by your teacher

j

#### REQUIRED:

##### **Whelen -- Homeless Bird**

A girl in modern India struggles with an arranged marriage. Married and promptly widowed at 13, Koly finds herself in the grim position of being cast out by a society that has no place for girls like her. With a seemingly hopeless future in India, this courageous and spirited young woman sets out to forge her own destiny.

-- **plus two additional books** from the following list.

#### LITERATURE SELECTIONS:

##### **Armstrong -- Souder**

A sharecropper's son learns about responsibility and devotion when his father goes to prison and his dog, Souder, is badly injured. His transition to adulthood is paved by the rocks and taunts hurled at him by convicts and guards as he searches for his father. But along this rough road he ultimately finds salvation as well.

##### **Barrett -- Lilies of the Field**

"There is a young legend developing on the west side of the mountains..." Homer Smith, wandering a black ex-GI, was a carefree man living the life of the open road, until he met a group of German speaking nuns with a dream, and pauses in his travels to build a church in Arizona.

##### **Bitton-Jackson -- I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing up in The Holocaust**

The writer tells the true story of coming of age in Hungary during the century's biggest genocide. PW's starred review called this memoir, of a 13-year-old Hungarian Jewish girl's incarceration in Auschwitz, "an exceptional story, exceptionally well told."

##### **Byars -- The Summer of the Swans**

Sarah Godfrey forgets about her gawkiness, her enormous feet, and all the troubles of her fourteenth summer when her younger brother disappears. The longest day in the life of a 14-year-old girl--the summer day her loved, mentally retarded brother is lost, the day she discovers compassion is a friend. A compelling story.

**Creech -- Walk Two Moons**

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle's mother has disappeared. While tracing her steps on a car trip from Ohio to Idaho with her grandparents, Salamanca tells a story to pass the time about a friend whose mother vanished and who received secret messages after her disappearance.

**Crichton -- Jurassic Park**

An astonishing technique for recovering and cloning dinosaur DNA has been discovered. Creatures once extinct now roam Jurassic Park, soon-to-be opened as a theme park. Until something goes wrong...and science proves a dangerous toy.

**Cushman -- The Midwife's Apprentice**

This novel is about a strong young woman in medieval England who finds her own way home. . . . From the first page, readers are caught by the spirit of the homeless, nameless waif who gets the ill-tempered village midwife to take her in, names herself Alyce, and learns something about delivering babies. . .

**Dickinson -- A Bone from a Dry Sea**

In two parallel stories an intelligent female member of a prehistoric tribe becomes instrumental in advancing the lot of her people, and the daughter of a paleontologist visits her father on a dig in Africa when important fossil remains are discovered.

**Farmer -- The Eye, the Ear and the Arm**

In a futuristic Africa, three mutant detectives seek missing children. In Zimbabwe in the year 2194, the military ruler's 13-year-old son and his younger brother and sister leave their technologically overcontrolled home and find themselves on a series of perilous adventures.

**Frank -- Diary of a Young Girl**

The true memoir of a young girl driven into hiding during the Holocaust, this vivid, insightful journal is a fitting memorial to the gifted Jewish teenager who died at Bergen-Belsen, Germany, in 1945. Born in 1929, Anne Frank received a blank diary on her 13th birthday, just weeks before she and her family went into hiding in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam.

**Hansen -- Captive Kofi**

The son of an Ashanti Chief is sold as a slave and ends up in Massachusetts.

**Hautzig -- The Endless Steppe**

Autobiography of a Jewish girl whose family was exiled during World War II. Ten-year-old Esther Rudomin movingly describes "the end of my lovely world" when her family is arrested in 1941 and taken from their home and exiled to Siberia.

**Herriot -- All Creatures Great and Small, All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Things Wise and Wonderful, or The Good Lord Made Them**

James Herriot tells the true and funny adventures of his life as a veterinarian in Yorkshire, England. It is just after World War II, and James has returned from the R.A.F. to do battle with the diseases and injuries that befall the farm animals and pets of Skeldale and the surrounding moors.

***Jiang -- Red Scarf Girl***

A compelling memoir by twelve-year-old girl which reveals her gradual disillusionment about the Chinese communist government. This autobiography details the author's experiences as a teenager during the Cultural Revolution. Easy to read. Hard to put down.

***L'Engle -- A Wind in the Door, Swift Tilting Planet***

The Wallace children are involved in rescues from a mysterious planet by time-warping themselves through "a wrinkle in time". You may read one or all of them.

***London -- White Fang***

Read about the taming of a wild wolf-dog through the patience and devotion of one man. Written in 1906, London tells the story of a wolf-dog who endures great cruelty before he comes to know human kindness.

***Lowry -- The Giver***

In a world with no poverty, no crime, no sickness and no unemployment, and where every family is happy, 12-year-old Jonas is chosen to be the community's Receiver of Memories. Under the tutelage of the Elders and an old man known as the Giver, he discovers the disturbing truth about his utopian world and struggles against the weight of its hypocrisy.

***McKinley -- Outlaws of Sherwood***

Stories of Robin Hood and his band of outlaws. McKinley brings to the Robin Hood legend a romantic view. She renders it anew by fully developing the background and motive of each member of the merry band, from Robin's "crime" that sends him into the woods, to Marian's subterfuge as she straddles the worlds of the nobility and of the outlaws.

***Mowat -- Never Cry Wolf***

The source for the popular movie, this book details the trials of a scientist observing wildlife in the unpredictable Alaskan wilderness. As he comes closer to the wolf world, he discovers a pack of courageous animals as he tries to protect them from bounty hunters.

***O'Brien -- Z for Zachariah***

Safe in her radiation-free valley after WWII, Ann Burden thinks she is the last person in the world until the arrival of a stranger. She discovers there are worse things than being alone.

***Paterson -- Come Sing, Jimmy Jo***

An eleven-year-old boy finds both pain and fame as popular singer. James Johnson has been raised in West Virginia by his

Grandma, while his family has been out pickin' and singin' country music at tent meetings, picnics, etc. James has a rough time handling his fame when he starts to perform with his country-western singing family.

***Plotkin -- Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice***

The true story of a Harvard botanist who searches for plants that might have some medical value in the Amazon jungle.

***Rinaldi -- The Coffin Quilt***

Feuds among the mountain folks of West Virginia and Kentucky, particularly the bloody skirmishes between the Hatfield and McCoy families, are often celebrated in American legend and folksongs. In *The Coffin Quilt*, Ann Rinaldi mines this rich vein of Americana for a fascinating tale that closely follows the real events of the Hatfield-McCoy feud, but which also has implications for our own violent times.

***Quintana -- Baboon King***

Morengaru, banished from African society, becomes the leader of a group of baboons. When he kills the leopard that has been threatening the tribe's cattle, he earns a cow and bull of his own and, with his new property, a place of esteem among the Kikuyu. Yet he loses everything, and is even banished from the tribe, after he accidentally kills a young nyama.

***Raskin -- The Westing Game***

Which of the Sunset Tower's crazy tenants killed Samuel Westing, and which will win his millions by uncovering the murderer? Woodman's youthful voice and energetic delivery fit it perfectly. Expertly, he distinguishes at least a dozen principals of wildly varying age, class and ethnicity, avoiding the annoying falsetto that many male readers use to portray women and children.

***Taylor -- Let the Circle be Unbroken*** - The sequel to ***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***.

A story of a black family living in the prejudiced south. Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive.