

Summer Reading Lists - 2006-07

Rising 8th Graders

Carencro Middle School

During the summer students in all grades should read a minimum of three books.

1. The one required selections, 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

REQUIRED:

Alexander -- Book of Three

Harper -- To Kill a Mockingbird

-- plus two additional books from the following list.

LITERATURE SELECTIONS:

Alvarez -- Before We Were Free

Set in Dominican Republic in 1960's, a young girl grows up in a prosperous family until politics change her views and her life (an Anne Frank style story).

Angelou -- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Poet Maya Angelou recounts a youth filled with disappointment, frustration, tragedy, and finally hard-won independence. Sent at a young age to live with her grandmother in Arkansas, Angelou learned a great deal from this exceptional woman and the tightly knit African-American community there [autobiographical].

Avi -- The Cross of Lead

The Cross of Lead is an action-packed historical narrative that follows the frantic flight of a thirteen-year-old peasant boy across 14th century England [historical fiction].

Bedard -- Stained Glass

A quiet masterpiece about the rebuilding of three lives - While skipping his piano lesson and taking refuge in a church, Charles encounters a strange, waiflike girl.

Cormier -- Heroes

After joining them at fifteen and having his face hit by a grenade in a battle in Paris France, Francis returns home to Frenchtown to find and kill the hero he feels betrayed him.

Deuker -- High Heat

When sophomore Shane Hunter's father is arrested for money laundering at his Lexus dealership, the star pitcher's life of affluence and private school begins to fall apart.

Donnelly -- Northern Light

In 1906 sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé,

takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story.

Douglass -- Autobiography

The true story of an American slave's journey to freedom.

Funko -- The Thief Lord

Orphaned brothers are about to be split up and escape the Italy where they join a group of kids [a sort of Oliver Twist type story]. It has a detective subplot and a magical thread at the end.

Gathering -- Blue

A wonderful new story of an orphan trying to make a place in an unforgiving society

Hobbs -- Wild Man Island

An adventure story placed in Alaska. Fourteen-year-old Ben goes on a Kayak trip looking for where his father died. He runs into a stone age, survival man.

Hunt -- Across Five Aprils

Across Five Aprils is the story of the American Civil War, seen through the eyes of a young boy who did a man's work on the farm at the age of ten, when his brothers went off to fight. One brother fights with the Confederates, the others with the Union army.

Keyes -- Flowers for Algernon

Charlie Gordon, a retarded adult who cleans floors, becomes a genius through an experimental operation.

Kidd -- The Secret Life of Bees

With pieces of her past all jumbled up in her head, young Lily Owen seizes an opportunity to leave behind her father and their Georgia peach farm. Traveling with her nanny, Rosaleen, Lily encounters the Boatwrights, a trio of beekeeping sisters, who fold the girl into their strange, secret world.

Lipsyte -- The Contender

Alfred, a fledgling boxer wants to be a champion but learns he must first be a contender.

McCount -- Angela's Ashes

A true story of a difficult childhood growing up in the poverty of Ireland and a mother's determination to raise her children [autobiographical].

Peck -- River Between Us

In a voice uneducated and wise, unsophisticated and ironic, the narrator spins a dramatic, poignant tale of family and racial identity, graced with unforgettable characters who struggle against a Civil War backdrop.

Potok -- The Chosen

Two Jewish boys growing to manhood in Brooklyn discover that

differences can strengthen friendship and understanding.

Ritter -- Boy Who Saved Baseball

The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

Siegel -- Upon the Head of a Goat

These true-life experiences of a Jewish girl in Hungary during WWII demonstrate a mother's resourcefulness in a time when no place was safe if one were Jewish.

Sleator -- House of Stairs

Five sixteen-year-old orphans find themselves where only stairs and landings stretch as far as they can see and a weird red light trains them to dance for their food.

Swarthout -- Bless the Beast and the Children

Five misfits in an Arizona boys' camp sneak out on a daring escapade to save a herd of buffalo from bloodthirsty, gun-toting tourists. It's a book of acceptance by peers.

Tolan -- Welcome to the Ark

In a world of terrorist attacks, random bombings and multiplying militias, four brilliant young misfits are thrown together in a group home for troubled youth.

Twain -- A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Hank Morgan, cracked on the head by a crowbar in the 19th century, wakes up to find himself in the England of King Arthur.

Zindel -- The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds

This drama focuses on the ups and downs of the relationship between an embittered, eccentric woman and her two teenage daughters.