

WEST HEMPSTEAD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
WEST HEMPSTEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

450 Nassau Boulevard
West Hempstead, New York 11552-2898

Main Office (516) 390-3160
Guidance Office (516) 390-3170
Fax Number (516) 489-8946

John J. Hogan
Superintendent of Schools

Joseph J. Cirnigliaro
Principal

Kathleen O'Farrell
Director of English

Andrew Wilson
Dean of Students

June 2009

Dear Parents of incoming 6th grade students,

Welcome to the **Middle School Required Summer Reading Program**. In keeping with our desire to promote a commitment to lifelong learning, we are requiring all middle school students to do some reading this summer. Reading opens many doors for children to learn about the world and to gain insight and understanding of the people and things around them.

In order to make this program a success, we need your support. Parents are the first, and most important, teachers of their children. Children imitate what they see their parents do, and so we need you to develop and encourage your child's enjoyment of reading. When you encourage your child to read and visit the public library, you are helping him/her to build a store of knowledge, increase vocabulary, improve comprehension and foster critical thinking skills (i.e. make inferences, draw conclusions) all of which will result in higher grades in school.

Every middle school student will be required to **read three books** (one assigned by grade level, one non-fiction by student's choice and one other book by student's choice) and complete a Fiction Study Guide for Hatchet and an appropriate study guide for both choice books read during summer vacation. Responses should be neatly written or typed in full sentences where indicated. ELL and IEP students may choose two alternative titles not on this list for their choice books.

Your **required signature** at the bottom of each study guide will indicate your knowledge of a completed reading assignment. Copies of the fiction study and non-fiction guides are enclosed. Please make photocopies as needed. Also, this reading list and study guides may be downloaded from our district website: www.whufsd.com.

Three signed completed study guides must be brought to your child's English teacher during the first week of school in September. The required 6th grade fiction book, Hatchet, by **Gary Paulson** will be the subject of a multiple choice reading comprehension test during the second week of school. Failure to complete the required readings and study guides will result in lowering your child's first quarter grade.

Students will receive one additional point toward the first assessment of the first marking period (5 points maximum) for each book and study guide completed. Additionally, students who read four or more books with submitted study guides will attend a breakfast in the late fall.

Sincerely,

The West Hempstead Middle School English Department

" 'Tis the good reader that makes the good book. "
Ralph Waldo Emerson

WEST HEMPSTEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

SUMMER BEFORE SIXTH GRADE READING - FICTION

- Alcock, Vivien.....*The Trial of Anna Cotman* (Realistic) New in town, Anna makes a friend and joins a secret club.
- Alcott, Louisa May.....*Little Women* - Beginning of the story of the March family and their four daughters.
- Alexander, Lloyd.....*The First Two Lives of Lukas-Kasha* (Fantasy) A carpenter's helper finds himself King of Abadan
- Anderson, Janet*Going through the Gate* (Realistic) 6th graders prepare for a mysterious graduation ritual.
- Avi.....*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* (Historical) Charlotte makes a dangerous trip across the Atlantic.
- Avi.....*Who Was that Masked Man, Anyway* (Historical) Frankie's trouble as a result of his love of the radio.
- Avi.....*Something Upstairs: A Tale of Ghosts* (Time Travel) The spirit of a slave boy asks Kenny to save him.
- Babbitt, Natalie.....*Tuck Everlasting* (Fantasy) Is it wise to drink the water from the spring?
- Boyd, Candy Dawson...*Circle of Gold New York* - Mattie is sure that if she finds a way to buy a beautiful pin for her mother, everything in the family will be alright again.
- Brooks, Bruce.....*What Hearts* (Realistic) Asa deals with his parents' divorce and mother's remarriage.
- Bunting, Eve.....*The In-Between Days* - Reluctant to see any changes in his life on Dove Island, George tries to get rid of his father's girlfriend.
- Bunting, Eve.....*Our Sixth Grade Sugar Babies*: Vicki and her best friend fear that their school project, carrying around 5 lb. bags of sugar to learn about parental responsibility, will make them look ridiculous in the eyes of the seventh grade boy they both like.
- Burnett, Frances H.*The Secret Garden*: Classic children's tale about a 10 year old girl named Mary, orphaned by a cholera outbreak, who comes to live at a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers Colin, her invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.
- Byars, Betsy*Cracker Jackson* (Realistic) A boy helps his former babysitter with a frightening problem.
- Cameron, Ann*The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods* (Historical) 1950's Wisconsin: 11-year old Amanda learns about herself.
- Carrick, Carol*Stay Away from Simon!* - Lucy and her younger brother examine their feelings about a mentally challenged boy they both fear when he follows them home one snowy day.
- Cassedy, Sylvia*Behind the Attic Wall* (Fantasy) Maggie hears ghosts in her great-aunt's house.
- Cleaver, Bill & Vera.....*Where the Lilies Bloom* (Realistic) Fourteen-year old struggles to keep her family together.
- Clements, Andrew*The Jacket* - An incident at school forces sixth grader, Phil Morelli, a white boy, to become aware of racial discrimination and segregation and to seriously consider if he is prejudiced.
- Coerr, Eleanor*Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*.
- Cohen, Barbara.....*Thank you, Jackie Robinson* (Realistic) Boy and old man share enthusiasm for Brooklyn Dodgers.
- Cooney, Caroline.....*Flight #116 Is Down* (Realistic) Heidi helps people after a crash on her property.
- Cooper, Susan.....*The Boggart* (Fantasy) Emily brings home a mischievous spirit from Scotland.
- Cooper, Susan.....*The Dark Is Rising* (Fantasy) Will Stanton must seek magical signs to triumph over evil.
- Coulombis, Audrey*Getting Near to Baby* - Two sisters are sent to stay with a well intentioned but difficult aunt after their baby sister dies.
- Creech, Sharon*Absolutely Normal Chaos* (Realistic) Mary Lou learns about romance, home sickness and death.
- Creech, Sharon*Walk Two Moons* (Realistic) Sal and her grandparents travel across country on a special mission.
- Crew, Linda.....*Nekomah Creek* (Realistic) Robby loves his family but not the attention it draws.
- Cushman, Karen*Ballad of Lucy Whipple* (Historical) Lucy, 12, moves to a California mining town in 1849.
- Cushman, Karen*Catherine Called Birdy* (Historical) A 13 year old daughter of an English knight finds ways to avoid being married off.
- DeFelice, Cynthia*Weasel* (Historical) Nathan, 11, faces Weasel, a killer.

Dexter, Catherine.....*Mazemaker* (Time Travel) Winnie must solve a maze in order to return to the present.

DiCamillo, Kate.....*Because of Winn-Dixie* – Opal adopts a stray dog and through her forms many new friendships.

Farmer, Nancy*The Ear, the Eye and the Arm: (SciFi)* In 2194 mutant detectives search for three kidnapped children.

Fenner, Carol.....*Yolanda's Genius* – Yolanda knows that her brother is a genius, even though he can't read by the end of first grade. She must convince her mother of this while struggling to adjust to a move from Chicago to a small Michigan town.

Fitzhugh, Louise.....*Nobody's Family Is Going to Change*(Realistic) Determined to be a lawyer, Emma takes initiative.

Fletcher, Ralph*Flying Solo* (Realistic) Rachel becomes mute after the death of a classmate.

Gantos, Jack*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* (Realistic) Joey is hyperactive.

Gantos, Jack*Joey Pigza Loses Control* – Joey is a boy who is still medicated to keep him from getting too hyper, goes to spend the summer with the hard drinking father he has never known.

George, Jean C.*The Missing Gator of Gumbo Limbo* (Realistic) Sixth grader searches for an alligator destined for extermination.

George, Jean C.*My Side of the Mountain*

Giff, Patricia Reilly*Lily's Crossing* (Historical) Lily changes after she befriends the Hungarian boy.

Haddix, Margaret.....*Running out of Time* (Realistic) Jessie, 13, learns a shocking fact and must save lives.

Hahn, Mary Downing....*The Dead Man in Indian Creek* (Mystery) Two boys find a dead body and uncover scary facts.

Hahn, Mary Downing ...*Time for Andrew: A Ghost Story* (Time Travel) Drew, 11, is drawn 80 years into the past.

Hamilton, Virginia.....*Cousins* (Realistic) Cammy wishes one of her cousins would disappear.

Hamilton, Virginia.....*The Planet of Junior Brown*

Hamilton, Virginia.....*M.C. Higgins the Great* – As a slag heap, the result of strip mining, creeps closer to his house in the Ohio hills, 15 year old M.C. is torn between trying to get his family away and fighting for the home they love.

Henkes, Kevin*Words of Stone*(Realistic) Blaze, fearful and sad after his mother's death, meets boisterous Joselle

Hesse, Karen.....*Letters from Rifka* (Historical) A Russian Jewish girl must stay behind while her family moves on to America.

Hiaasen, Carl*Hoot*

Holman, Felice*Slake's Limbo* (Realistic) A 13-year-old must escape the New York City subway.

Hoover, H. M.....*This Time of Darkness* (Sci Fi) Amy and Axel try to escape from a subterranean world.

Jacques, Brian.....*Redwall* (Fantasy) Mice of Redwall Abbey must destroy the enemy.

Kehret, Peg*Cages* – Upset about problems at home and at school, Kit impulsively steals a gold bracelet from a department store and gets caught. Through her sentence volunteer work at the humane society, Kit finds new solutions to her problems.

Konigsburg, E.L.*The View from Saturday* (Realistic) Four students share something special.

Leeuwen, Jean Van.....*Dear Mom, You're Ruining My Life* – Sam's 11th year includes losing her last baby teeth, towering over every boy in dance class and being mortified by everything her mother does.

Lindbergh, Ann*Travel Far Pay No Fare* (Fantasy) Owen joins his cousin in magic entry into stories.

Lowery, Lois*Taking Care of Terrific*(Realistic) Babysitter runs into trouble when taking her charge to a park.

Matas, Carol*Sworn Enemies* (Historical) Aaron is taken by officers of the Czar for military service.

McEwan, Ian*The Daydreamer* – Peter's vivid imagination leads him on many adventures and gets him in and out of trouble.

McNamee, Graham*Sparks* – Todd is both happy and anxious about trying to fit in with the regular fifth grade class but feels confused about how to relate to his former friends in Special class.

Mead, Alice*Junebug* – In the projects where Junebug lives, turning 10 means joining a gang. Junebug tries to ignore his upcoming birthday.

- Merrill, Jean *Pushcart War* (Humor) Pushcart peddlers and truckers war in New York City.
- Mills, Claudia *Losers, Inc.* – Although he knows that his efforts to impress a beautiful student teacher and outdo his perfect older brother jeopardize his status in the losers’ club that he and his best friend have started, Ethan realizes that he no longer wants to be a loser.
- Myers, Laurie *Surviving Brick Johnson* – When Brick, the big, new kid at school catches Alex imitating him, Alex is sure he will be bullied.
- Myers, Walter Dean *Darnell Rock Reporter* – Darnell’s perspectives are broadened when he interviews a homeless man for the school newspaper.
- Namioka, Lensey *Yang the Third and her Impossible Family* – After moving to America from China, Yingmei tried hard to fit into the American way.
- Namioka, Lensey *Yang the Youngest and his Terrible Ear* - Recently arrived in Seattle from China, musically untalented Yingtao is faced with giving a violin performance to attract new students for his father when he would rather be making friends and playing baseball.
- Naylor, Phyllis *The Agony of Alice* (Series) Humor: Alice faces the trials and tribulations of growing up.
- Nixon, Joan Lowery *High Trail to Danger*(Mystery) A girl searches for her father whose name brings strange looks.
- O’Brien, Robert *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* (Fantasy) Mrs. Frisby must save her family with the help of unusual rats.
- Paulsen, Gary *The Voyage of the Frog* (Realistic) A boy must endure a rugged storm and deal with a loss.
- Paulsen, Gary *Hatchet* - **REQUIRED** (Realistic) Brian survives a plane accident in the wild, but will he survive the winter?
- Pearsall, Shelley *Trouble Don’t Last*
- Peck, Richard *The Ghost Belonged to Me* (Humor) Characters in the Midwest in 1913 deal with a ghost.
- Pinkwater, D. Manus *Lizard Music* (Fantasy) Home alone Victor discovers highly intelligent lizards.
- Rawls, W *Where the Red Fern Grows* (Realistic) Story of a boy and his two dogs.
- Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* (Fantasy)
- Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (#2)
- Rylant, Cynthia *The Islander* (Fantasy) Daniel’s life is lonely until he meets a mermaid.
- Sacha, Louis *Sixth Grade Secrets* – Laura starts a secret club with secret messages, secret codes and something embarrassing from each member as insurance. Soon all secrets begin to back fire.
- Shyer, Marlene Fanta *Welcome Home Jellybean*
- Siebold, Ian *Rope Burn* – While working on a writing assignment at his new school, Richard learns the meanings of various proverbs and how to express his feelings about his parents’ divorce.
- Slepian, Jan *Broccoli Tapes* (Realistic) Sara sends tapes to her 6th grade class from Hawaii.
- Spinelli, Jerry *Crash* – Crash has bullied his neighbors and classmates his whole life. When his grandfather suffers a stroke, Crash suddenly finds that friends and family have a new meaning for him.
- Spinelli, Jerry *Wringer* (Realistic) Palmer must decide to accept violence on Pigeon Day or to oppose it as his birthday approaches.
- Stone, Phoebe *All the Blue Moons at the Wallace Hotel* – Sisters Fiona and Wallace live in the shadow of their former lives. Years after their father’s death, their mother has still not processed her feelings.
- Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit (There and Back Again)* – The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish.
- Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Fellowship of the Ring* - The first part of Lord of the Rings
- Uchida, Yoshike *Jar of Dreams*
- Walsh, Jill Paton *Gaffer Samson’s Luck* – After moving to a strange new place, James seeks acceptance from the established group of friends and finds a friend in the old man next door.

- Whelan, Gloria*Homeless Bird* – an Indian girl, Koly, is married and soon after widowed. She finds that her fortune was not what she hoped for.
- Wolff, Virginia*The Mozart Season* Realistic: Allegra practices for a violin competition.
- Yep, Lawrence.....*Dragonwings* Realistic: A Chinese boy and his father make a flying machine.
- Yep, Lawrence.....*Child of the Owl* Realistic: A Chinese girl, 12, learns about her background

SUMMER BEFORE SIXTH GRADE - NONFICTION

- Arvey, Michael.....*ESP* True stories about extrasensory perception, premonitions and out-of-body experiences among other things
- Ashabranner, Brent.....*Always to Remember: The Story of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial*
- Baldwin, Joyce*To Heal the Heart of a Child: Helen Taussig M.D.*
- Ballard, Robert D.*Ghost Liners* Five famous ships lost at sea
- Christopher, Matt.....*On the Course with Tiger Woods* (Biography)
- Delise, Jim.....*Kidstories: Biographies of 20 Young People You'd Like to Know*
- Freedman, Russell*The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane* (Biography)
- Fritz, Jean*Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt* (Biography)
- Hodges, Margaret*Making a Difference: The Story of an American Family* (Historical)
- Irvine, Joan*How to Make Super Pop-Ups* (Practical step-by-step directions)
- Jones, Charlotte*Mistakes that Worked* One way science progresses
- Kramer, Stephen.....*How to Think Like a Scientist* Hypothetical situations are examined in pleasant story form.
- Kwan, Michelle*Heart of a Champion* (Biography)
- Lipinski, Tara*Triumph on Ice* (Biography)
- McKissack, P.&F.*Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman* - Biography of a former slave who became a well known abolitionist and advocate of womens' rights
- Nardo, Don*Flying Saucers*
- Paulsen, Gary.....*Woodsong* Rugged, outdoor life with wolves, deer and sled dogs
- Pascoe, Elain*Freedom of Expression: The Right to Speak out in America*
- Schwartz, Alvin.....*Gold and Silver, Silver and Gold: Tales of Hidden Treasure* Wild pirates and haunted treasure
- Viorst, Judith*If I Were in Charge of the World* (Poetry)
- Vogt, Gregory.....*Moon Landing and the Apollo*
- Warburton, Lois.....*Rainforests*
- Wilcox, Charlotte*Mummies and their Mysteries* (Ancient history)
- Woog, Adam*Poltergeist*