

WEST HEMPSTEAD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
WEST HEMPSTEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents of incoming 7th 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 Scorpion or Al Capone Does My Shirts and an appropriate study guide for both choice books read during the 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 completed study guides must be brought to your child's English teacher during the first week of school in September. The grade level required fiction books, Scorpion by Walter Dean Myers - (7th grade students) or Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko - (7th grade HONORS students) will be the subject of a multiple choice reading comprehension test during the second week of school after students have had the opportunity to discuss the reading in class and ask questions. 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 sheet 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 SEVENTH GRADE READING - FICTION

- Alexander, Lloyd.....*Book of Three*
- An Na*A Step from Heaven* – A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.
- Avi.....*The Man Who Was Poe*(Mystery) Edmund, 11, has lost his family.
- Beatty, Patricia*Jayhawker* (Historical) Civil War farm boy helps free slaves and becomes a spy.
- Bellairs, John.....*The Ghost in the Mirror* (Time Travel) A wicked wizard threatens.
- Blackwood, Gary.....*The Shakespeare Stealer* – a young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare’s acting troupe in order to steal the script of “Hamlet”, but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.
- Byars, Betsy*The Burning Questions of Bingo Brown* (Realistic) A boy gains insights into adult conflicts.
- Byars, Betsy*Summer of the Swans* – A teenage girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally handicapped brother gets lost.
- Chambers, Veronica*Marisol and Magdalena: The Sound of our Sisterhood* – Marisol faces the challenges of leaving her friends and family and adjusting to a new culture when she moves to Panama to spend a year with her grandmother.
- Choldenko, Gennifer*Al Capone Does My Shirts* – **REQUIRED 7th Grade Honors**
- Coman, Carolyn.....*What Jamie Saw* – Having fled to a family friend’s hillside trailer after his mother’s boyfriend tries to throw his baby sister against a wall, 9 year old Jamie finds himself living an existence full of uncertainty and fear.
- Conrad, Pam*Prairie Songs* (Historical) Louisa befriends the frail wife of a doctor on the brutal frontier.
- Cooney, Caroline.....*Whatever Happened to Janie?*(Realistic) Lives are turned upside down when Janie must choose her family.
- Craven, Margaret.....*I Heard the Owl Call my Name* – a dying priest is sent to spend his last years with a tribe of Kwakiuti Indians.
- Creech, Sharon*Walk Two Moons* – On the way to visit her estranged mother, Sal tells her grandparents about her friend Phoebe’s mother.
- Cross, Gillain.....*The Great American Elephant Chase* (Historical) Greedy villains pursue the move of an Indian elephant to Nebraska in 1881.
- Dalgiesch, Alice*The Courage of Sara Nobel* – an 8 year old girl finds courage to go alone with her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness and to stay with the Indians when her father goes back to bring the rest of the family.
- Duffy, James.....*Radical Red* (Historical) Twelve-year old girl and her mother in Albany support Susan B. Anthony.
- Duncan, Lois*A Gift of Magic* (Realistic) Nancy learns to control her gift of ESP.
- Fast, Howard*April Morning* – Adam Cooper signs up on the muster roll of the Lexington Militia on April 19, 1775 and then lives through the first day of conflict with the British during which his father is killed.
- Fletcher, Susan*Shadow Spinner* (Legend) A 13-year-old crippled girl gathers stories to save the queen’s life.
- Fleischman, Paul*Bull Run* (Historical) The first battle of the Civil War.
- Fox, Paula.....*One-Eyed Cat* (Realistic) A boy shoots a cat by mistake with his new air rifle.
- Fox, Paula.....*Village by the Sea* (Realistic) Emma lives with a difficult aunt while her father has heart surgery.
- George, Jean C.*The Fire Bug Connection* (Mystery) Maggie finds out why European firebugs grow & explode.
- George, Jean C.*Julie of the Wolves* (Survival) Eskimo girl escapes bad marriage and lives with wolves.
- Gordon, Sheila.....*The Middle of Somewhere...South Africa* (Realistic) A black family has to move to an unpleasant area.
- Greenfield, Eloise.....*Sister* (Realistic) A girl watches her sister withdraw after the death of their father.

- Haddix, Margaret.....*Among The Imposters Series* – Envision a near future where a totalitarian US limits families to only two children. Luke, 12, the third boy in his farming family has been hidden since birth, from the Population Police.
- Haddix, Margaret.....*Just Ella* – In this continuation of the Cinderella story, 15 year old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming’s proposal ensnares her in a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette, so she plots to escape.
- Hamilton, Virginia.....*House of Dies Drear (Mystery)* A family becomes frightened after moving into a house formerly used for runaway slaves.
- Hamilton, Virginia.....*The Planet of Junior Brown* – Already a leader in New York’s underground world of homeless children, Buddy Clark takes on the responsibility of protecting the overweight, emotionally disturbed friend with whom he has been playing hooky from 8th grade.
- Hiaasen, Carl*Hoot*
- Hoh, Diane*The Fever (Mystery)* Fever claims a hospital patient who may have witnessed a crime.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis....*When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* – During a difficult summer of change, Toby’s perspective is broadened by meeting an unusual friend.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis....*My Louisiana Sky* – Tiger Ann, the daughter of mentally challenged parents, struggles with her peers’ reaction to her family.
- Horvath, Polly*Everything on a Waffle* – 11 year old Primrose, who lives in a small fishing village in British Columbia, recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.
- Hotze, Sollace.....*Acquainted with the Night (Mystery)* Cousins share hardship, tragedy and a ghost in Maine.
- Howe, James.....*The Misfits* – Four students who do not fit into their small town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.
- Hurmen, Belinda.....*A Girl Called Boy (Time Travel)* A Black girl is taken back in time to slavery.
- Jacques, Brian.....*Mossflower* – (Prequel to Redwall) – Martin, the warrior mouse and Gonff, the mouse thief, set out to find the missing ruler of Mossflower while the other animal inhabitants of the woodland prepare to rebel against the evil wildcat who has seized power.
- Jones, Diana*Aunt Maria (Fantasy)* Great Aunt Maria has frightening powers.
- Lawrence, Iain*The Wreckers (Historical)* John Spencer’s ship crashes and he learns it was planned. Can he save his father and himself?
- Lynch, Chris*Iceman* – Brought up in an emotionally distant family, Eric prioritizes his parents’ wishes over his own until he realizes the harm he is causing himself.
- Lyons, Mary*Letters from a Slave Girl (Historical)* Fictionalized version of Harriet Jacobs’ life in slavery.
- Mowat, Farley*Owls in the Family* – a young boy decides to raise two owlets as pets. Wol and Weeps provide fun and excitement for the boy in Saskatoon.
- Murphy, Jim*A Young Patriot* – The American Revolution as experienced by one boy.
- Myers, Walter Dean*Somewhere in the Darkness* – A teenage boy accompanies his father, who has recently escaped from prison, a trip that turns out to be an often painful time of discovery for them both.
- Myers, Walter Dean*Scorpions* – REQUIRED for English 7
- O’Brien, Robert C.*Z for Zachariah (SciFi)* A girl thinks she is the only survivor of a holocaust, but isn’t.
- Paulsen, Gary.....*The Monument (Realistic)* Rocky is self-conscious of leg braces but changes after knowing an artist who designs a war memorial.
- Paulsen, Gary.....*Nightjohn (Historical)* Sarny, a slave girl, is forbidden to learn to read and write.
- Paulsen, Gary.....*Soldier’s Heart (Historical)* Charley Goddard is too young to enlist in the Union Army, but he does anyway.
- Pearsall, Shelley*Trouble Don’t Last*
- Peck, Richard.....*A Long Way from Chicago (Humor)* Two city kids visit Grandma in rural Illinois, early 20th century.
- Paterson, Katherine*Jacob Have I loved (Realistic)* Louise finds her way despite her twin sister who has musical talents.

- Rinaldi, Ann *Wolf by the Ears*(Historical) Harriet Hemmings, possibly the daughter of Thomas Jefferson, must either escape Monticello or remain a slave.
- Rowling, J.K.....*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azcaban* (#3)
- Schaefer, Jack.....*Old Ramon* – When a young boy joins an old shepherd for a season with the sheep, he watches and learns about how to overcome fear, ease tension and face death and responsibility.
- Shusterman, Neil*Full Tilt: a novel* – When 16 year old Blake goes to a mysterious, by invitation only carnival, he somehow knows that it could save his comatose brother, but soon learns that much more is at stake if he fails to meet the challenge presened there by the beautiful Cassandra.
- Sebestyen, Ouida.....*The Girl in the Box* (Survival) Jackie, kidnapped, tries to contact the outside world.
- Service, Pamela*Being of Two Minds* (SciFi/Mystery) Connie’s ESP helps the kidnapped prince of Theelgaria.
- Service, Robert*The Shooting of Dan McGrew* Narrative poem about the shoot-out between a trapper and the man who stole his girl.
- Shyer, Marlene Fanta..... *Welcome Home Jellybean*
- Silverstein, Herma*Mad, Mad Monday*(Humor) Miranda concocts a love potion.
- Soto, Gary.....*Baseball in April and Other Stories* (Short Stories) Adventures of Mexican-Americans in California.
- Speare, Elizabeth.....*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* – When Kit moves from Barbados to the Connecticut Colony, her nontraditional upbringing and personality are unusual.
- Spinelli, Jerry.....*Stargirl* – Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform.
- Temple, Frances*Grab Hands and Run* (Realistic) Two kids and their mother venture from El Salvador to Canada after the death of their father.
- Tolkien, J.R.R.....*Two Towers* (Lord of the Rings #2) – The second part recounts Frodo’s and Samwise’s perilous journey to Mordor.
- Tolan, Stephanie.....*Surviving the Applewhites* – Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family’s Creative Academy where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.
- Uchida, Yoshike*Jar of Dreams*
- Voight, Cynthia*Izzy, Willy-Nilly* (Realistic) Learning to live after loosing a leg.
- Voight, Cynthia*Homecoming* – Abandoned by their mother, four children vow to stay together and find a new family for themselves.
- White, Ruth*Belle Prater’s Boy* (Realistic) Cousins discover truths about their family while accepting the mysterious disappearance of a mother.
- Yep, Lawrence.....*Dragon’s Gate* (Historical) A 15-year-old Chinese-American boy works on a tunnel for the trans continental railroad.

SUMMER BEFORE SEVENTH GRADE NONFICTION

- Armstrong, Jennifer*Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance* (Early 1900s Antarctica)
- Bachrach, Deborah*Espionage*
- Boyd, Aaron*Smart Money: The Story of Bill Gates* (Biography)
- Burke, Chris*A Special Kind of Hero* (Biography)
- Byars, Betsy*The Moon and I* (Biography)
- Canfield, Jack et al*Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul II* – Over-whelming requests from readers of previous *Chicken Soup* editions submitted other teens’ personal stories and inspired this second offering in the “Teen” series.

Canfield, Jack et al *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul III* – Much like the earlier volumes, the third in the series features stories, poems and cartoons, most of which were written by teens themselves.

D’Aulaire, Ingri/Edgar .. *Ingri and Edgar Parin D’Aulaire’s Book of Greek Myths*

Freedman, Russell *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* (Biography)

Freedman, Russell *The Wright Brothers: how they invented the airplane*

Gelman, Rita Golden *Inside Nicaragua: Young People’s Dreams and Fears*

Goldston, Robert *Sinister Touches: The Secret War Against Hitler*

Gooden, Kimberly *Coping with Family Stress*

Hakim, Joy *War, Peace, and All the Jazz* 20th Century U. S. (History)

Hamilton, Virginia..... *Anthony Burns: The defeat and triumph of a fugitive.*

Hentoff, Nat..... *American Heroes: In and Out of School* Free speech and the right to privacy

Hirschfelder, Arlene *Happily May I walk: American Indians and Alaska Naatives Today*

Kerr, M. E..... *Me Me Me Me Me: Not a Novel* (Biography)

Madama, John *Desktop Publishing: The Art of Communication* Researching, writing, designing, and producing

Markham, Lois *Lois Lowry* (Biography)

Miller, Robyn *Robyn’s Book: A True Diary* (Biography)

Parks, Rose *Rosa Parks: My Story* (Biography)

Stanley, Jerry *Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of School at Weedpatch Camp*

White, Ryan..... *Ryan White: My Own Story* (Biography)

Yates, Elizabeth..... *My Diary—My World* (Biography)

Zeinert, Karen..... *Free Speech: From Newspapers to Music Lyrics*

Zindel, Paul *The Pigman and Me* (Biography)