

WEST HEMPSTEAD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
WEST HEMPSTEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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June 2009

Dear Parents of incoming 8th 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 Tunes for Bears to Dance To or Jurassic Park 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, the study guides may be downloaded from our district website, www.whufsd.com.

Three completed study guides must be brought to school and handed in to your child's English teacher during the first week of school in September. The grade level required fiction books, Tunes for Bears to Dance To by Robert Cormier - (8th grade students) or Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton - (8th 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 EIGHTH GRADE REQUIRED READING

FICTION

- Adams, Richard *Watership Down* – Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.
- Arrick, Fran *Chernowitz!* – A boy who suffers anti-Semitic abuse at the hands of a classmate during 9th and 10th grades plots revenge.
- Avi *Blue Heron* (Realistic) - Maggie finds magic in a great blue heron when trying to save her father.
- Avi *Wolf Rider* (Mystery) - Only Andy believes the caller is the murderer.
- Bauer, Joan *Squashed* (Humor) - Ellie wants to grow the biggest pumpkin.
- Bawden, Nina *Carrie's War* (Historical) - Sister and brother are evacuated during World War II.
- Bloor, Edward *Tangarine* – 12 year old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother, Eric, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.
- Blume, Judy *Tiger Eyes* (Realistic) Davey overcomes the horror of her father's murder.
- Booth, Martin *War Dog* (Historical) – World War II Jet is trained for action and sees it.
- Bradbury, Ray *The Martian Chronicles* (Short stories) – Tells about the colonization of Mars
- Brooks, Bruce *Moves Make the Man* (Sports) - Story of friendship between two boys
- Brooks, Martha *True Confessions of a Heartless Girl* - A confused 17 year old girl, a single mother and her young son, two elderly women and a sad and lonely man with their own individual tragedies to bear, come together in a small Manitoba town and find a way to a better future.
- Cabot, Meg *All American Girl* – Sophomore, Samantha Madison stops a presidential assassination attempt, is appointed teen ambassador to the United Nations and catches the eye of the very cute First Son.
- Childress, Alice *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich* (Realistic) - A 13-year-old boy may become a heroin addict.
- Christopher, John *White Mountains* – The first of the Tripods Trilogy.
- Cole, Brock *Celine* (Realistic) - Celine, 16, is an artist and wants to escape.
- Conly, Jane *Crazy Lady* (Realistic) - Vernon comes to grips with his mother's death.
- Cooney, Caroline *Freeze Tag* (Fantasy) - Megham meets evil Lannie who plays a special kind of tag.
- Cooney, Caroline *Voice on the Radio* (Realistic) - Janie's boyfriend betrays her on his radio program.
- Cormier, Robert *The Chocolate War* (Realistic) - High school freshman boy faces school bullies.
- Creech, Sharon *Chasing Redbird* (Realistic) - Zinnia, 13, uncovers family secrets.
- Crew, Linda *Children of the River* (Realistic) - Sundara is caught between loyalty to her people and becoming Americanized.
- Cushman, Karen *The Midwife's Apprentice* (Historical) - Homeless and nameless, a girl in Medieval England finds her way.
- Dessen, Sarah *The Truth About Forever* – The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp. Instead, she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.
- Dickinson, Peter *Eva* (SciFi) - Surviving an accident, Eva finds she is in a chimp's body.
- Dowell, F. O'Roark *Dovey Cove* (Mystery)
- Duncan, Lois *Locked in Time* (Fantasy) - Mystery and evil surround a Louisiana plantation.
- Farmer, Nancy *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm* (SciFi) - In 2194 mutant detectives search for three kidnapped kids.
- Farmer, Nancy *A Girl Named Disaster* (Survival) - Nhama struggles to survive drowning and starvation on her journey to Zimbabwe.
- Fox, Paula *The Slave Dancer* (Historical) - A thirteen-year-old boy is forced to work on a slave ship.

Greene, Bette*Summer of My German Soldier* (Historical) - A prisoner of war in Arkansas meets a 12-year-old girl.

Haddix, Margaret.....*Among the Imposters Series* – In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only 2 children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family farm until another “third” convinces him that the government is wrong.

Hesse, Karen.....*Out of the Dust* (Historical) - A girl endures life during the Great Depression.

Holt, Kimberly Willis....*My Louisiana Sky*

Horowitz, Anthony*Eagle Strike* – After a chance encounter with an assassin in the south of France, teenage spy Alex Rider investigates international pop star and philanthropist, Damian Cray, whose new video game venture hides sinister motives involving Air Force One, nuclear missiles and the international drug trade.

Johnson, Angela*Toning the Sweep* (Realistic) Emmie, 14, better understands her relatives after hearing her dying grandmother’s stories.

Kipling, Rudyard.....*Kim* (Classic) - A boy from the streets of India at the turn of the century becomes a spy.

Krauss, Annette*The Silver Kiss* (Fantasy) - A mysterious teenage boy with a big secret helps a girl whose mother has cancer.

Lasky, Kathryn*Christmas After All: The Great Depression Diary of Minnie Swift*

LeGuin, Ursula*A Wizard of Earthsea* (Fantasy) A boy grows to manhood attempting to subdue evil.

L’Engle, Madeline.....*A Wrinkle in Time* (SciFi) Strangers help Meg, her family and friends find her father.

Lupica, Mike*Travel Time* – After he is cut from his travel basketball team, the very same team that his father once led to national prominence, 12 year old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Mazer, Norma.....*Bright Days, Stupid Nights* (Realistic) - Four teen interns work on a newspaper one summer.

Montgomery, Lucy M. ...*Anne of Green Gables* – Story of Anne and how she was gradually accepted into a foster home.

Myers, Walter Dean*The Glory Field* – Follows a family’s 200 year history from the capture of an African boy in the 1750’s through the lives of his descendants as their dreams and circumstances lead them away from and back to the small plot of land in South Carolina that they call the Glory Field.

Myers, Walter Dean*The Journal of Joshua Loper* – In 1871, Joshua Loper, a 16 year old black cowboy records in his journal his experiences while making his first cattle drive under an unsympathetic trail boss.

Myers, Walter Dean*Somewhere in the Darkness* – After an absence of 14 years, Jimmy’s father arrives unexpectedly and wants to reclaim his role as a father.

Nixon, Jean Lowery*The Dark and Deadly Pool* (Mystery) - Mary Elizabeth, 16, has a summer job at a health club where a murder takes place.

Nixon, Jean Lowery*The Specter* (Mystery) - A 17-year-old learns her hospital roommate fears a murderer is after her.

Nixon, Jean Lowery*Whispers from the Dead* (Mystery) - Sarah receives supernatural messages about a murder in her house.

Paolini, Christopher.....*Under a War Torn Sky* – After his plane is shot down by Hitler’s Luftwaffe, 19 year old Henry Forester of Richmond, Virginia strives to walk across occupied France, with the help of the French Resistance, in hopes of rejoining his unit.

Peck, Robert*A Day No Pigs Would Die* (Realistic) - A Vermont boy faces an agonizing situation with his pet.

Philbrick, Rodman.....*Max the Mighty* (sequel to *Freak the Mighty*)

Reiss, Kathy*Dreadful Sorry* (Fantasy) - Molly, 17, has visions of a girl who died over 80 years ago.

Reiss, Johanna*The Upstairs Room, Journey Back* – Sequel to *The Upstairs Room*

Richter, Hans Peter.....*Friedrich* (Historical) - A German boy recounts the story of his Jewish friend in Nazi Germany.

Rowling, J.K.....*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (#4)

Sleator, William.....*House of Stairs* (SciFi) - Five 15-year-olds find themselves in a house of endless stairs.

- Smith, Betty.....*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* – An episodic novel documenting the experiences of Francie and her family during the early 1900’s.
- Spinelli, Jerry.....*Stargirl* – Story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity and the thrill of first love. An eccentric student names Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.
- Stevenson, R. L.*Treasure Island* (Classic) - The son of an innkeeper has the map to a treasure and faces danger as well.
- Tolkien, J.R.R.....*Return of the King: Lord of the Rings #3* (Fantasy) – As the hobbits Frodo and Sam continue their treacherous journey deep into the foul land of Mordor, their fellow members of the fellowship (of the ring) hasten to aid Minas Tirith, Gondor’s chief city and defense against Mordor, from the bound to be invasion by Sauron, the evil Dark Lord of Mordor.
- Voight, Cynthia*A Solitary Blue* (Realistic) - Jeff’s mother re-enters his life after many years.
- Voight, Cynthia*Dacey’s Song* – After holding her family together for a summer, 13 year old Dacey has difficulty adjusting to a new home where she is not the primary caretaker of her siblings.
- Watkins, Yoko K.....*So Far from the Bamboo Grove* (Historical) - Yoko escapes Korea with her mother and sister after World War II.
- Wolff, Virginia*Make Lemonade* – 14 year old LeVonne takes a babysitting job working for a teenage mother in order to save money for college.
- Yep, Lawrence.....*Dragonwings* (Realistic) – A Chinese boy and his father make a flying machine.

SUMMER BEFORE EIGHTH GRADE NONFICTION

- Allaby, Michael*Tornadoes*
- Anasi, Robert.....*The Gloves, a Boxing Chronicle*
- Armstrong, Jennifer.....*Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* – Shackleton Antarctic expedition of 1914
- Aronson, Marc.....*Witch Hunt* – Mysteries of the Salem Witch Trials
- Bagdasarian, Adam*Forgotten Fire* – Genocide carried out against Armenians in Turkey during World War .
- Bartoletti, Susan*Growing Up in Coal Country* Describes life for children in coal mining areas of Pennsylvania in Campbell the 1800’s.
- Bitton-Jackson, Livia.....*I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust*
- Booth, Martin*War Dog* (Historical) - World War II, Jet is trained for action and sees it.
- Bradley, James.....*Flags of our Fathers* – Examines the lives of 6 young men who raised the American flag over Iwo Jima in February 1945.
- Brown, Dee.....*Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee* – Details how white settlers forced Indian tribes off the plains, often by killing them.
- Calabro, Marian.....*The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party* Diaries and letters of survivors of the 1846-47 pioneer journey to California
- Cohen, Daniel.....*A Six-Pack and a Fake I. D.: Teens Look at the Drinking Question*
- Cohen, Daniel.....*Werewolves*
- D’Ambrosio, Richard*No Language But a Cry: A Psychoanalyst’s Account of an Abused Child’s Struggle for Language and Life*
- Fritz, Jean*Traitor: The Case of Benedict Arnold* Biography
- Garner, Eleanor*Eleanor’s Story: An American Girl in Hitler’s Germany* – Childhood memories told from the unique perspective of being a young American citizen living in Hitler’s Germany during WWII.
- Giblin, James Cross.....*Good Brother, Bad Brother* – The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth
- Grady, Sean*Virtual Reality: Computers Mimic the Physical World*
- Hawk, Tony.....*Hawk: Occupation Skateboarder* – Internationally known skateboarding champ chronicles his life and involvement with the sport.
- Houston, Jeanne.....*Farewell to Manzanar* – Japanese American family’s attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention.

Keyishian, Amy.....*Stephen King* (Biography)

Keuss, Jeff*Rachel's Challenge: A Columbine Legacy* – True story of the life and legacy of Rachel Scott, one of the students who lost her life during the Columbine HS shootings in April 1999.

Lauber, Patricia *Volcano: The Eruption and Healing of Mount St. Helens*

Lord, Walter*A Night to Remember* - The Titanic sinks

Murphy, Jim*The Great Fire – Chicago Fire of 1871*

Murphy, Jim*An American Plague: The true and terrifying story of the Yellow Fever Epidemics of 1793*

Newton, David.....*AIDS Issues: A Handbook*

Noyes, Alfred*The Highwayman Poetry - 33 Things Every Girl Should Know: Stories, Songs, Poems, and Smart Talk by 33 Extraordinary Women*

Tillage, Leon Walter.....*Leon's Story* (Autobiography) – account of life during the Jim Crow era.