

Summer Reading 2010



David E. Owens Middle School
470 Marion Avenue
New Milford, New Jersey 07646

David E. Owens Middle School

Summer Reading Assignment

2010

Dear Parents:

As the summer draws near, the David E. Owens Middle School staff would like to extend to you and your children our best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable vacation. We hope that as you plan your time together that you also look forward to enjoying the pleasures and adventures that reading good books can offer. As you review the brief descriptions for each title contained in this booklet, we hope that the images, emotions, and ideas conveyed in the books you select will speak to your children in special ways.

It is our expectation that the students will benefit considerably from reading over the summer vacation. The Language Arts teachers will evaluate the readings when the students return to school in September. We are providing you with a list of choices for the required reading. They range from mysteries to non-fiction selections. *Students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 must choose two books from this list to read.*

The Summer Reading Program for 2010 will be posted on the middle school's web site at: www.newmilfordschools.org. Click on David E. Owens Middle School and look for "Summer Reading".

We encourage you to read along with your children and enjoy the rewarding conversations that usually follow from reading a good book. We look forward to beginning the new school year by discussing the books your children will read this summer. Projects will be assigned by the language arts teachers at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. The grade on these assignments will be averaged into the first marking period.

Sincerely,

Whitney Perro
Principal

Russell Petrocelli
Vice Principal

5th Grade into 6th Grade Summer Reading List – 2010

- **Skeleton Key**

Anthony Horowitz

Working as a secret agent for Britain's most exclusive agency, Alex Rider has seen it all. He's been shot at by international terrorists, stood face-to-face with pure evil, and saved the world—twice. But fifteen-year-old Alex is about to face something more dangerous than he can imagine

- **Esperanza Rising**

By Pam Munoz Ryan Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

- Any books in the

Sammy Keyes Series

By Wendelin Van Draanen Sammy, an intrepid girl detective, discovers a number of secrets and interesting solutions. -*Sammy Keyes and the Hollywood Mummy* -*Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief* -*Sammy Keyes and the Runaway Elf* -*Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy* -*Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man* -*Sammy Keyes and the Curse of Moustache Mary* -*Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception* -*Sammy Keyes and the Search for Snake Eyes*

- Any books in the

Lemony Snicket Series

By Lemony Snicket Meet and follow the unhappy lives of the Baudelaire orphans, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire in these books. -*The Bad Beginning* -*The Reptile Room* -*The Wide Window* -*The Miserable Mill* -*The Austere Academy* -*The Ersatz Elevator* -*The Vile Village* -*The Hostile Hospital* -*The Carnivorous Carnival* -*The Slippery Slope* -*The Grim Grotto*

- **Lawn Boy**

By Gary Paulsen

Lawn Boy is an entertaining story about a twelve-year-old boy whose grandmother presents him with a sit-down lawn mower. This leads him to cut lawns in the local neighborhood. Watch how this young boy's customers multiply, how his business grows, and how he gets involved in numerous surprising ventures.

- **In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson**

by Bette Bao Lord

Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. America is indeed a land full of wonders, but Shirley doesn't know any English, so it's hard to make friends. Then a miracle happens: baseball. It is 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is everyone's hero. Jackie Robinson is proving that a black man, the grandson of a slave, can make a difference in America. And for Shirley as well, on the ball field and off, America becomes the land of opportunity.

- **Saffy's Angel**

By Hilary McKay

After learning that she was adopted, thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes, until they help her go back to Italy where she was born to find a special memento of her past.

- **Frindle**

By Andrew Clements

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

- **Joey Pigza**

Swallowed the Key

By Jack Cantos

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

- **The Cricket in Times Square**

By George Selden

The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat.

- **Tuck Everlasting**

By Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing older.

- **Pictures of Hollis Woods**

By Patricia Giff

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

- **Sideways Stories from Wayside School**

By Louis Sachar

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story. - *Sideways Stories from Wayside Schools* -*Wayside School is Falling Down* -*Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger*

- **Bat 6**

by Virginia Euwer Wolff

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one sixth-grade girls recount the story of an annual Softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

Daring to be

Abigail

By Rachel Vail

During her summer at Camp Nashaquitsa, eleven-year-old Abby tries to reinvent herself, while worrying about her mother, missing her dead father, and getting to know her equally self-conscious bunkmates.

- **Walk Two Moons**

By Sharon Creech

As Sal entertains her grandparents with Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold - the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother.

- **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**

By JK Rowling

The sixth magical adventure of the young wizard Harry Potter.

- **The View From Saturday**

By E.L. Konigsburg

The View From Saturday portrays academic competition in the same exciting light as sports novels do football and baseball contests. The story is about a teacher and four sixth graders, underdogs all, who overcome challenges in their personal lives, school lives, and social lives to succeed in areas where they are only expected to be losers. Their triumphs are told in their own words, as well as in the words of third-person narrators, and the characters come alive in the telling as interesting and passionate human beings

6th Grade into 7th Grade Summer Reading List - 2010

- **Gathering Blue**

By Lois Lowry

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

- **Skeleton Key**

By Anthony Horowitz

Working as a secret agent for Britain's most exclusive agency, Alex Rider has seen it all. He's been shot at by international terrorists, stood face-to-face with pure evil, and saved the world—twice. But fifteen-year-old Alex is about to face something more dangerous than he can imagine.

***Other books in the Alex Rider Series may be read.

- **A Margaret Peterson Haddix Selection**

By Margaret Peterson Haddix -

Among the Hidden -Among the Betrayed -Among the Imposters -Among the Barons

- **The Sea of Trolls**

By Nancy Farmer

The year is A.D. 793. In the next months, Jack and his little sister, Lucy, are enslaved by Olaf One-Brow and his fierce young shipmate, Thorgil. With a crow named Bold Heart for mysterious company, they are swept up into an adventure-quest in the spirit of *The Lord of the Rings*.

- **Hoot**

By Carl Hiaasen

Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy.

- **Bloomability**

By Sharon Creech

When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland, to attend an international school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers an expanding world and her place within it.

- **Summer of My German Solder**

By Bette Green

When German prisoners of war are brought to her Arkansas town during World War II, twelve-year-old Patty, a Jewish girl, befriends one of them and must deal with the consequences of that friendship.

- **The Wanderer**

By Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Sophie hears the sea calling, promising adventure and a chance for discovery as she sets sail for England with her three uncles and two cousins. Sophie's cousin Cody isn't sure he has the strength to prove himself to the crew and to his father. Through Sophie's and Cody's travel logs, we hear stories of the past and the daily challenges of surviving at sea as *The Wanderer* sails toward its destination — and its passengers search for their places in the world.

- **Rumble Fish**

By S.E. Hinton

Rusty-James knows he is a tough teen, but he wants to be even tougher, just like his older brother, the Motorcycle Boy. He wants to stay calm and laugh when things get dangerous, to be the strongest street fighter and the most respected guy this side of the river.

- **Gary Paulson Selection**

By Gary Paulson

Gary Paulson is one of America's most popular writers for young people. His books frequently appear on the best books lists of the American Library Association

- Brian's Return*
- Brian's Winter*
- The River*
- Brian's Hunt*
- The White Fox Chronicles*
- The Car*
- The Winter Room*
- The Island*
- Guts: The True Stories Behind the Hatchet and the Brian Books*

- **Premonitions**

By Jude Watson

Absorbing mystery and suspense from best-selling author Jude Watson, *Premonitions* is about a girl whose ability to see the past, present, and future is the key to solving the disappearance of her best friend.

- **The Thief Lord**

By Cornelia Funke

Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious character who calls himself the "Thief Lord." The Thief Lord leads a ring of street children who dabble in petty crimes.

- **The Westing Game**

By Ellen Raskin

The mysterious death of eccentric millionaire, Sam Westing, brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs in the old "Westing house," who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

- **Island of the Blue Dolphins**

By Scott O'Dell

Unintentionally left behind by members of her California Native American tribe, who fled a tragedy ridden island, young Karana spends eighteen years alone on an island off the coast of California. She survives on her courage and her self-reliance.

- **Out of the Dust**

By Karen Hesse

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression

- **Ruby Holler**

By Sharron Creech

The trouble twins, Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure.

- **The Face on the Milk Carton**

By Caroline Cooney

Janie Johnson thinks her life is fine (except her name is boring) until she sees a milk carton picture of three-year-old missing child. Suddenly Janie's life becomes confused as she has flashbacks of her early childhood.

Imposters -Among the Barons

7th Grade into 8th Grade Summer Reading List - 2010

- **The Pigman and Me**

By Paul Zindel
An account of Paul Zindel's teenage years on Staten Island, when his life was enriched by finding his own personal pigman, or mentor.

- **The Lost Years of Merlin**

By T.A. Barren
Spat out by the sea, the boy lay on the rocks, as still as death. Even if he survived the day, he had no home. No memory. And no name

- **The Time Machine**

By H.G. Wells
A scientist invents a time machine and uses it to travel hundreds of thousands of years into the future, where he discovers the childlike Eloi and the hideous underground Morlocks.

- **The House of Dies Drear**

By Virginia Hamilton
A huge, old house with secret tunnels, a cantankerous caretaker, and buried treasure is a dream-come-true for 13-year-old Thomas. The fact that it's reputedly haunted only adds to its appeal! As soon as his family moves in, Thomas senses something strange about the Civil War era house, which used to be a critical stop on the Underground Railroad

- **Eragon**

By Christopher Paolini A 15-year-old boy finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

- **The House of the Scorpion**

By Wilson Rawles
In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

- **Odd Girl Out**

By Rachel Simmons
Rachel Simmons explores the hidden world of female bullying, showing how girls can be cruel to each other and how we can help.

- **Witch of Blackbird Pond**

By Elizabeth George Speare
In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.

- **Hoops**

By Walter Dean Myers
A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.

- **The Man Who Was Poe**

By Avi
In Providence, R.I., in 1848, Edgar Allan Poe reluctantly investigates the problems of eleven-year-old Edmund, whose family has mysteriously disappeared and whose story suggests a new Poe tale with a ghastly final twist.

- **Where the Red Fern Grows**

By Wilson Rawles
A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

- **The Children of Willesden Lane**

By Mona Golabek
Famed concert pianist Mona Golabek shares the inspirational true story of her mother's escape from pre-WWII Vienna to an orphanage in London-243 Willesden Lane.

- **Stargirl**

By Jerry Spinelli
Leo is dazzled by "Stargirl's" total unconventionality, but when the rest of the school turns against her, will he still want to be her friend?

- **Flipped**

By Wendelin Van Draanen
Juli knew from the moment that Bryce moved in down the street during second grade that he was the man for her. Bryce doesn't hold quite the same opinion. This "he said, she said" novel tells the story of their antagonistic friendship from second through eighth grade and all the "flips" that life brings their way.

- **Fever 1793**

By Laurie Anderson
Matilda Cook works hard to make the coffeehouse run by her grandfather and overly strict mother a success. The servant girl becomes sick first and then the mother, leaving Mattie to struggle on in the midst of a frightening yellow fever epidemic.

- **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**

By Betty Smith
Young Francie Nolan experiences the problems of growing up in a Brooklyn, New York slum.

- **The Secret Life of Bees**

By Sue Monk Kidd
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.

- **The Contender**

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

- **Aquamarine**

By Alice Hoffman
Two girls are spending their last summer together when they discover a mermaid at the bottom of the beach club pool.

- **Dunk**

By David Lubar
While hoping to work as the clown in an amusement park dunk tank on the New Jersey shore the summer before his junior year in high school, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, hassles with police, and the girl that got away.

- **A Selection by Sharon Mills Draper**

By Sharon Mills Draper -
Darkness Before Dawn - Forged By Fire - Tears of a Tiger

- **The Martian Chronicles**

By Ray Bradbury
Shows mankind as alien invaders on another planet.