

Regional School District #10

Har-Bur Middle School

2008 Summer Reading List

Grade 5

*As you read focus on making text-to-text, text-to-world and text-to-self connections.

Author: Louise Arnold
Title: Golden and Grey: An Unremarkable Boy and a Rather Remarkable Ghost

Tom escapes the school bullies by teaming up with an invisible ghost.

Author: Sue Corbett
Title: Free Baseball

Desperate to connect with his absent father, 11 year-old Felix becomes the batboy for a minor league baseball team in the hope of learning more about his famous father's game.

Author: Dan Gutman
Title: The Homework Machine

Who wouldn't love a machine that does homework for you? Can four unlikely friends keep the biggest secret of their lives?

Author: Jennifer J. Stewart
Title: Close Encounters of a Third-World Kind

Twelve year-old Annie's world is turned upside down when her father agrees to move the entire family to Nepal on a medical mission. She makes new friends, learns some important lessons, and has adventures that change her life.

Author: Vivian Vande Velde
Title: Three Good Deeds

Howard's troublemaking backfires when he steals the eggs of a goose belonging to a witch. The witch gives him a dose of his own medicine! Maybe life as a prankster isn't all it's quacked up to be.

Grade 6

*As you read focus on various story elements. A sheet for you to take notes on will be sent home in a team mailing.

Author: Elise Broach
Title: Shakespeare's Secret

When Hero starts sixth grade at a new school, she meets Danny Cardova, the most popular boy. They work together to solve the mystery of the missing million dollar diamond that's hidden somewhere in Hero's house.

Author: Elisa Carbone
Title: Blood on the River: James Town 1607

As page to Captain John Smith, 11 year-old Samuel Collier witnesses the dealings of the Virginia Company, the Powhatan tribe, and even young Pocahontas during the early days of the colonial settlement at Jamestown, Virginia.

Author: Douglas Evans
Title: MVP* Magellan Voyage Project

Adam Story is chosen as a player in the MVP challenge. To win the four million dollar prize, Adam must circle the world in forty days – no flying allowed. Competing against other players through time zones and across continents, he faces danger and unknown risks. Get ready for the trip of a lifetime!

Author: Helen Fox
Title: Eager

Would you like to live in the future where robots do all the work? All Gavin and Fleur wanted was a normal robot. Instead they have Eager, who creates more problems than he solves.

Author: Lois Lowry
Title: Gossamer

This haunting story explores the mystery of dreams. Littlest One, a young Dreamgiver, tries to stop the frightening Sinistees from delivering nightmares.

Grade 7

*As you read note how the main character changes from the beginning to the end of the novel and/or how the author develops the main character.

Author: Gennifer Choldenko
Title: Al Capone Does My Shirts

Moose struggles with troublemaking, providing care for his needy sister, and handling family life on the island prison of Alcatraz.

Author: Julius Lester
Title: Day of Tears

Husbands and wives are torn apart, young children are separated from their parents, and life-long friendships are instantly ended. Over the course of three days in 1859, more than 400 slaves were sold to pay one man's gambling debts. This riveting book tells their stories.

Author: Mike Lupica
Title: Heat

What can a 12 year-old Cuban immigrant do when he dreams of pitching in the Little League World Series, only to be benched? Michael Arroyo relies on his best friend, Manny Cabrera, his neighbor Mrs. Cora, and the mysterious new girl pitcher he meets practicing in the shadow of Yankee Stadium.

Author: Michelle Paver
Title: Wolf Brother

A demonic bear has killed Torak's father, and Torak, a stone-age boy, must destroy the beast. On his journey he finds an orphan wolf cub and learns they can communicate with each other. Now both orphans are on a perilous journey to defeat evil.

Author: Nancy Springer
Title: The Case of the Missing Marquess

For Enola Holmes, investigating mysteries runs in the family, including her own mother's disappearance. When her elder brother Sherlock determines she should attend a prim boarding school, she resolves to escape and solve the mystery herself.

Grade 8

*As you read think about the author's message (purpose for writing this book) and how the theme is developed throughout the novel.

Author: Marina Budhos
Title: Ask Me No Questions

After Nadira's father, an illegal immigrant from Bangladesh, is arrested, her older sister grows more sorrowful with each passing day. Nadira, no longer living in her sophisticated sister's shadow, must cope with the difficulties of being a Muslim in post-9/11 America.

Author: Catherine Gilbert Murdock
Title: Dairy Queen

Since her father's injury, DJ Schwenk has been doggedly running her family's dairy farm. But the summer before 11th grade, the rival school's football coach sends his stuck-up, lazy quarter-back, Brian, to help DJ out on the farm. DJ finds herself coaching Brian, and she starts to wonder if there is more out there for her than farm work.

Author: Neal Shusterman
Title: The Schwa Was Here

When Antsy Bonano and his friends discover that fellow 8th grade classmate Calvin Schwa can become invisible, they use the knowledge to hatch a money making plot. What begins as a surefire scheme turns into something else, as you weave through this funny, yet thought provoking journey with Cal, Antsy, and Lexie.

Author: Scott Westerfeld
Title: Uglies

When Tally turns sixteen, she will transition from an Ugly to a Pretty, receiving society's mandated plastic surgery to look like everyone else: model beautiful. But before her birthday, she meets some Uglies who have never had the surgery. And they have a secret to share with her.

Author: Gabrielle Zevin
Title: Elsewhere

This novel asks the question: what happens to us when we die? When Liz Hall dies at fifteen, she discovers Elsewhere, an afterlife where people and animals age backwards until they are reborn again. But Liz desperately wants to grow up, fall in love, and get her driver's license, not rewind to fourteen!