

MVMMS ENGLISH SUMMER READING LIST 2011

Students Entering Grade 6

You are required to read THREE books.

You must read: Iqbal, by Francesco D'Adamo.

Read any two books from the following list.

You are encouraged to read the others!

How Angel Peterson Got His Name, by Gary Paulsen

In a series of vignettes, Gary Paulsen embellishes his childhood memories of wrestling bears, going over waterfalls in barrels, taking off on a giant kite, and other extreme sports.

The Road to Paris, by Nikki Grimes

Paris Richmond has never had it easy. Her white father walked out on the family; her black mother tends to drink when she's lonely. Only Paris's older brother Malcolm is a constant. But when just Paris is placed in the foster home of the Lincolns, she finds herself all alone.

A Corner of the Universe, by Ann M. Martin

Hattie had been anticipating a summer as comfortably uneventful as all the others-until her uncle with "mental problems" makes a surprise entrance, turning everything upside-down. *—from the publisher*

On My Honor, by Marion Dane Bauer

*"On your honor?" Joel's father said. "You won't go anywhere except the park?"
"On my honor," Joel repeated.*

When Joel's best friend Tony challenges him to swim in the treacherous Vermillion River, Joel ignores his promise not expecting his decision to have a tragic outcome.

Flipped, by Wendelin Van Draanen

The first time she saw him, she flipped. The first time he saw her, he ran. And from the second grade to the seventh, that's how it was. But in the eighth grade, their views of the world – and each other – turn upside down, thanks to some chickens. *—from the publisher*

The Greatest: Muhammad Ali, by Walter Dean Myers

This biography tells of Ali's childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battle against Parkinson's disease. Considered by some to be one of the greatest heavyweight boxers, Ali's accomplishments reach far beyond the ring. *(A great read even if you don't think you like boxing or sports non-fiction.)*

The Great and Only Barnum, by Candace Fleming

Experience "the tremendous, stupendous life of showman P.T. Barnum" in this sweeping biography. Museum founder, traveling exhibitionist and circus owner, Barnum defined entertainment in the late 19th century and affected the history of museums and zoology.

MVMMS ENGLISH SUMMER READING LIST 2011

Students Entering Grade 7

You are required to read THREE books.

You **must** read: **Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie**, by Jordan Sonnenblick

Read any **two** books from the following list.

(You are encouraged to read the others.)

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party, by Ying Chang Compestine

"The summer of 1972, before I turned nine, danger began knocking on doors all over China." So begins the story of nine-year-old Ling whose comfortable life with her parents, both dedicated doctors in the best hospital in Wuhan, unravels when Comrade Li moves into a room in their apartment. In a world of mistrust and violence, Ling fears for the safety of her neighbors and in turn, for herself and her family.

Touching Spirit Bear, by Ben Mikaelson

"Cole Matthews has always been in trouble and has had so many 'last chances' that he figures he knows how to work the juvenile justice system . . . That is until he agrees to Circle Justice, an American Indian tradition that attempts to heal the victim, the offender, and the community." – *School Library Journal*

The Skin I'm In, by Sharon Flake

"Maleeka Madison has problems fitting in with others at her school. Her hair is too nappy, her skin is too dark, her grades are too good, her clothes are too weird, and her teachers are too fond of her." – *Terrell Young*

Red Kayak, by Priscilla Cummings

"First hailed as a hero for his dramatic water rescue of a little boy, thirteen-year-old Brady Parks soon makes a discovery that puts him at the heart of an enormous tragedy. Alone with his dark secret, Brady is ultimately forced to choose between loyalty to his lifelong friends and doing what he knows in his heart is right." – *from the publisher*

The Graveyard Book, by Neil Gaiman

"Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be *completely* normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. . . But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack – who has already killed Bod's family . . ." - *from the publisher*

Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam, By Cynthia Kadohata

Bred as a show-dog and raised as a pet, German shepherd Cracker travels to Vietnam as a military dog trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. This is an action-packed story of the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of a dog and her handler.

MVMMS ENGLISH SUMMER READING LIST 2011

Students Entering Grade 8

You are required to read THREE books.

One book must be from the list of **fiction** novels.

One book must be from the list of **nonfiction** titles.

One book may be freely chosen from either list.

(You are encouraged to read the others.)

Fiction

Freak, by Marcella Pixley

"For Miriam Fisher, a budding poet who reads the *Oxford English Dictionary* for fun, seventh grade is a year etched in her memory as 'clear as pain'. That's the year her older sister, once her best buddy and fellow 'alien', bloomed like a beautiful flower and joined the high school in-crowd." – *from the publisher*

Peak, by Roland Smith

When Peak, a 14-year-old tagger, is arrested for scaling Manhattan's Woolworth Building, he appears headed for a long stint in juvenile detention. Rescued by the father he barely knows, Peak unexpectedly finds himself trekking in China as part of his Dad's commercial climbing operation on the Tibetan side of Mount Everest.

Airborn, by Kenneth Oppel

In this swashbuckling adventure enter "an imagined world in which the air is populated by transcontinental voyagers, pirates, and beings never before dreamed of by the humans who sail the skies." – *from the publisher*

The Invention of Hugo Cabret, by Brian Selznick

When Hugo, a twelve-year-old orphan living in the wall of the Paris train station, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his most precious secret are put in jeopardy.

The Schwa was Here, by Neal Shusterman

Brooklyn kid Antsy Bonano is intrigued by an "invisible-ish" classmate who at times blends into the background and can't be seen by others. The two boys battle for the attention of a spirited blind girl and learn the truth about Antsy's mother in a clever, quirky tale told with rollicking humor.

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MVMMS ENGLISH SUMMER READING LIST 2011

Students Entering Grade 8

You are required to read THREE books.

One book must be from the list of **fiction** novels.

One book must be from the list of **nonfiction** titles.

One book may be freely chosen from either list.

(You are encouraged to read the others.)

Nonfiction

The Pact, by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt

"We didn't lock hands in some kind of empty, symbolic gesture... We just took one another at his word and headed back to class, without even a hint of how much our lives were about to change." – from *The Pact*

Warriors Don't Cry, by Melba Beals

Set against the civil rights movement of 1957, Melba Beals tells of her agonizing junior year spent in Little Rock's Central High School as she and eight others braved the taunts and violent attacks of segregationist determined to remove them from the previously "white" school.

Shipwrecked: the true adventures of a Japanese boy, by Rhoda Blumberg

"In the 1800s, Japan's strict isolation laws prohibited foreigners from entering the island. So when fourteen-year-old Manjiro and four other fishermen were shipwrecked on an island far from shore, they wondered if they would ever be allowed to return home! Through a series of incredible events, Manjiro became the first Japanese person to arrive in the United States." – from the publisher

A Long Walk to Water, by Linda Sue Park

(This novel is based on a true story.)

Salva and Nya, two Sudanese children, have difficult roads to walk. Nya, a child in 2008, spends eight hours each day walking great distances to bring water to her Sudanese village. Salva's journey, based on a true story, starts abruptly in 1985 when his teacher tells him to flee the small village he calls home. He becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who walk across Africa searching for their families and for a safe place to stay. "Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way." – from the publisher