



Dear Upcoming Eighth Grade Parents and Students:

May 2019

Below is the 2019 Summer Project. Reading over the summer will increase reading comprehension and hopefully foster a love of reading. Writing consistently is integral to becoming proficient.

The first book to be selected is from the attached Lamplighter Book List. Quest students should choose a second novel from the attached Classic List. An Accelerated Reader will be taken on each novel when returning to school. (A computer will be set up in the office during the summer Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 to 2:00 for students who would like to take the AR quizzes sooner.) I would be grateful for any novel donations at the start of the year!

The written portion consists of writing a compare/contrast essay. Choose two songs or hymns as the basis for the 300-350 word MLA formatted essay which is due the first day of school. Focus on the lyrics and not the musical elements. Think about our poetry units, and touch upon meaning, structure, tone and devices. Feel free to compare any aspect of the lyrics. Be creative! Certain words/lines from the songs should be quoted within the essay in order to make your points. Attach copies of the (lyric appropriate) songs/hymns. After returning to school, the presentation of your paper will be discussed and ample time given to prepare. Yes, we can also listen to some music!

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Rachel Kelly
MS Language Arts
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2018-2019 Lamplighter Book List

Middle School Summer Reading List

Ashes by Laurie Halse Anderson

5.6 level and 11 pts.

As the Revolutionary War rages on, Isabel and Curzon have narrowly escaped Valley Forge, but their relief is short-lived. Before long they are reported as runaways, and the awful Bellingham is determined to track them down. With purpose and faith, Isabel and Curzon march on, fiercely determined to find Isabel's little sister Ruth, who is enslaved in a Southern state where bounty hunters are thick as flies.

Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk

4.8 level and 9 pts.

Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.

Genevieve's War by Patricia Reilly Giff

4.0 level and 5 pts.

Thirteen-year-old American girl Genevieve has spent the summer of 1939 at her grandmother's farm in Alsace, France. Then she makes an impulsive choice: to stay in France. It proves to be a dangerous decision. World War II erupts. The Nazis conquer Alsace and deport the Jews and others. A frightening German officer commandeers a room in Meme's farmhouse. And when Gen's friend Remi commits an act of sabotage, Gen is forced to hide him in the attic right above the Nazi officer's head. *Genevieve's War* is a gripping story that brings the war in occupied France vividly to life. It is a companion work to *Lily's Crossing*, a Newbery Honor Book.

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

9.7 level and 18 pts.

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as 'human computers' used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. It is the powerful story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.

Red: The True Story of Red Riding Hood by Liesl Shurtliff

4.3 level and 8pts.

Red is not afraid of the big bad wolf. She's not afraid of anything . . . except magic. But when Red's granny falls ill, it seems that only magic can save her, and fearless Red is forced to confront her one weakness.

Once Was a Time by Leila Sales

5.1 level and 9 pts.

In the war-ravaged England of 1940, Charlotte Bromley is sure of only one thing: Kitty McLaughlin is her best friend in the whole world. But when Charlotte's scientist father makes an astonishing discovery that the Germans will covet for themselves, Charlotte is faced with an impossible choice between danger and safety. Should she remain with her friend or journey to another time and place? Her split-second decision has huge consequences, and when she finds herself alone in the world, unsure of Kitty's fate, she knows that somehow, some way, she must find her way back to her friend. Written in the spirit of classic time-travel tales, this book is an imaginative and heartfelt tribute to the unbreakable ties of friendship.

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team 6.8 level and 9 pts.
by Steve Sheinkin

This is an astonishing underdog sports story and more. It's an unflinching look at the U.S. government's violent persecution of Native Americans and the school that was designed to erase Indian cultures. Expertly told by three-time National Book Award finalist Steve Sheinkin, it's the story of a group of young men who came together at that school, the overwhelming obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat.

Unbreakable Code by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

5.8 level and 11 pts.

Mr. Quisling is definitely up to something mysterious, and Emily and James are on high alert. First, there's the coded note he drops at a book event. Then, they uncover a trail of encrypted messages in Mark Twain-penned books hidden through Book Scavenger. What's most suspicious is that each hidden book triggers an arson fire. As the sleuthing friends dig deeper, they discover Mr. Quisling has been hunting a legendary historical puzzle: the Unbreakable Code. This new mystery is irresistible, but Emily and James can't ignore the signs that Mr. Quisling might be the arsonist.

CLASSICS

Sixth Grade Novels

Number the Stars written by Lois Lowry (4.5 level, 4 AR points, fiction)

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

The Giver written by Lois Lowry (5.7 level, 7 AR points, fiction)

While training to be the Receiver of Memory, Jonas experiences joy and sadness for the first time. He becomes convinced his society has given up too much, and he can no longer accept the sameness.

The Old Man and the Sea written by Earnest Hemingway (level 5.1, 4 AR points, fiction)

In this beautiful, symbolic story an old fisherman catches a giant marlin, only to have sharks strip it to the bone.

Seventh Grade Novels

The Cay written by Theodore Taylor (level 5.4, 4 AR points, fiction)

After the freighter on which Phillip and his mother were traveling from wartime Curacao to the U.S. is torpedoed, the boy finds himself dependent on an old West Indian for survival.

The Island of the Blue Dolphins written by Scott O'Dell (level 5.4, 6 AR points, fiction)

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

White Fang written by Jack London (level 7.4, 13 AR points, fiction)

This classic tale tells of a savage dog's transformation through love.

Eighth Grade Novels

The Alchemist written by Paulo Coelho (level 6.4, 6 points, fiction)

An Andalusian shepherd boy travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. What starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a meditation on the treasures found within.

The Call of the Wild written by Jack London (level 8.0, 7 AR points, fiction)

Buck, a dog that has been forced into the harsh life of a sled dog, befriends a man seeking his fortune in the Klondike gold fields, and must ultimately decide whether to stay with his master or obey his instinct to join the wolves.

The Lord of the Flies written by William Golding (level 5, 9 AR points, fiction)

After a plane crash strands them on a tropical island while the rest of the world is ravaged by war, a group of British school boys attempts to form a civilized society but descends into brutal anarchy.