2014 Summer Reading for Middle School English

We encourage our students to take some summer leisure time to read for fun. **Students entering 6th, 7th, or 8th grade should read at least one book that they will discuss in September.** Because students will write in the fall about what they have read, we encourage them to keep a log of their reading. The back page of this list includes some questions students will consider in their assignments.

This list includes books from the Virginia Readers’ Choice program, sponsored by the Virginia Reading Association, and books recognized by our faculty and other teachers as meaningful reading choices for students of middle school age. See descriptions of the Virginia Readers’ Choice books at [http://www.vrsa.org/VRCIndex.html](http://www.vrsa.org/VRCIndex.html). **Middle school students may read books of their choice, including titles not listed here, magazines, or newspapers.** Copies of these books are available in the schools, at public libraries, and at local bookstores.

### Virginia Readers’ Choice 2008-2014

- **Savvy** by Ingrid Law
- **Shooting the Moon** by Frances O’Roark Dowell
- **Spy School** by Stuart Gibbs
- **The Strange Case of Origami Yoda** by Tom Angleberger
- **The Uprising** by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- **Unfriended** by Gordon Korman
- **Ways to Live Forever** by Sally Nicholls
- **Wednesday Wars** by Gary D. Schmidt
- **When the Whistle Blows** by Fran Cannon Slayton
- **When You Reach Me** by Rebecca Stead
- **The Wish List** by Eoin Colfer
- **The Young Man and the Sea** by Rodman Philbrick

### Recommended classics:

- **Death Be Not Proud** by John Gunther
- **Gone with the Wind** by Margaret Mitchell
- **Hiroshima** by John Hersey
- **The King Must Die** by Mary Renault
- **Mutiny on the Bounty** by Hall/Nordoff
- **Profiles in Courage** by John F. Kennedy
- **Rebecca** by David DuMaurier

### Recommended authors: (N = Nonfiction)

- **Laurie Halse Anderson**: Milton Meltzer (N)
- **Susan Campbell Bartoletti**: Walter Dean Myers
- **Sharon Creech**: Christopher Paolini
- **Sharon Draper**: Richard Peck
- **Sharon Flake**: Laurence Pringle (N)
- **Russell Freedman**: J. K. Rowling
- **Carl Hiaasen**: Dyan Sheldon
- **S. E. Hinton**: Jerry Spinelli
- **Lois Lowry**: J. R. R. Tolkien
- **Wendy Maas**: Jacqueline Woodson

### Recommended series:

- **Redwall** by Brian Jacques
- **Traveling Pants** by Ann Brashares
- **Beacon Street** by Annie Bryant
- **The Heroes of Olympus** by Rick Riordan
- **Song of the Lioness** by Tamora Pierce
- **Divergent** by Veronica Roth
- **Percy Jackson and the Olympians** by Rick Riordan

### Nonfiction

- **Dreams from My Father** by Barack Obama
- **Chew on This: Everything You Don’t Want to Know about Fast Food** by Eric Schlosser
- **Charles Wilson**
- **Serge Schmemann**
- **Susan Campbell Bartoletti**
- **Paul Cleo**
- **Jeanette Farrell**
- **Deborah Hopkinson**

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*Newport News Public Schools*
Questions for reflection/discussion in the fall

What types of reading did you do this summer? Did you read magazines, newspapers, cereal boxes, websites, novels, poetry, nonfiction books? List everything you can remember reading.

Now, consider the following questions about your reading:

How did your reading this summer help you
- make a connection to your own life?
- make a connection to other books you’ve read?
- see another world or another time?

In your reading, in what ways did you
- care what happened to a character?
- connect with one of the characters?
- encounter unfamiliar events and experiences?
- meet a new author you had not read?
- enjoy how the author wrote the book?
- have questions that went unanswered?
- picture the people and places?

In your reading
- what struck you as being very important?
- did you learn any lessons?

Use the following prompts to discuss your summer reading
- I learned…
- The confusing thing is…
- I was surprised…
- I began to think of…
- I don’t really understand …
- I think…
- If I were…
- At first I thought and now I think…
- At first I felt, now I feel…
- I have changed by this book in this way…
- From reading this text, I will remember…
- The theme in this text was…
- An “aha” from the reading was…
- A light bulb went on in my head and I realized…
- My opinion on this topic now is…
- I will remember the visual I built in my mind for