

Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 8

The summer reading for incoming eighth graders includes three novels. One novel will be required for the entire class, and the second and third novels may be selected from the attached lists.

The required novel is *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury: “Bradbury’s masterful novel, published in 1951, explores issues of censorship, independent thought and free speech, propaganda, technology, and alienation in society.

Each student is responsible for purchasing and reading the novel. As you read, highlight and take notes in your novel. Keep a “character log” for one of the characters in the novel. **This “log” should be a list of 10-15 quotations (including page numbers) that demonstrate any elements of the character’s personality. You must also give a brief explanation of the quotation. Remember, quotations do NOT have to be dialogue.**

In addition to this required reading, students are required to read two other books *which they have not previously read*. These two books must be selected from one of the attached reading lists. Students should complete the attached “Book Summary Sheet” for each of these two books. All of the summer reading work must be handed in on the first day of school.

These are the 2006 Newbery medal winner and honor books:

The 2006 Newbery Medal winner is *Criss Cross* written by **Lynne Rae Perkins**, Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Criss Cross follows the lives of four 14-year-olds in a small town, each at their own crossroads. This ensemble cast explores new thoughts and feelings in their quest to find the meaning of life and love.

“Writing in a wry, omniscient third-person narrative voice, Perkins deftly captures the tentativeness and incompleteness of adolescence,” said Award Committee Chair Barbara Barstow. “In 38 brief chapters, this poetic, postmodern novel experiments with a variety of styles: haiku, song lyrics, question-and-answer dialogue and split-screen scenarios. With seeming yet deliberate randomness, Perkins writes an orderly, innovative, and risk-taking book in which nothing happens and everything happens.”

2006 Honor Books

Whittington by Alan Armstrong, illustrated by S.D. Schindler (Random House)

In *Whittington*, Armstrong creates a glorious barnyard fantasy that seamlessly weaves together three tales: Whittington the cat's arrival on Bernie's farm, his retelling of the traditional legend of his 14th-century namesake, and one boy's struggle to learn to read. These three tales unite the disparate citizens of the barn community in a celebration of oral and written language, the support of friends, the healing power of humor and the triumph of life.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Scholastic Nonfiction, an imprint of Scholastic)

How could the Holocaust have happened? Bartoletti delivers a chilling answer by exploring Hitler's rise to power through the first-hand experiences of young followers whose adolescent zeal he so successfully exploited and the more extraordinary few who risked certain death in resisting. The meticulously researched volume traces the Hitler Youth movement from the time it formally gathered strength in the early 1930s through the defeat of the Third Reich. The grace and clarity of the writing make *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* a powerful addition to Holocaust literature for children.

Princess Academy by Shannon Hale (Bloomsbury Children's Books)

Miri and the other young women of her rocky highland village are forced to leave their close-knit community when the prince must choose a bride in "The Princess Academy." Like the miri flower, which sprouts from the cracks in the linder rock, Miri soon becomes the strong, resilient and courageous leader of the academy. The book is a fresh approach to the traditional princess story with unexpected plot twists and great emotional resonance.

Show Way by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott (G.P. Putnam's Sons)

"And the children leaned in./And listened real hard." Jacqueline Woodson's magnificent poem *Show Way* tells the story of slavery, emancipation and triumph for each generation of her maternal ancestors. She pays tribute to the creative women who guided their "tall and straight-boned" daughters to courage, self-sufficiency and freedom. Whether with quilts or stories, poems or songs, these women discovered and shared the strength to carry on. "There's a road, girl./There's a road."

These are the Newbery medal winners and honor books from the last 10 years:

The 2000s

[2006 Medal Winner](#): ***Criss Cross*** by Lynne Rae Perkins (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins)

Honor Books:

- ***Whittington*** by Alan Armstrong, illustrated by S.D. Schindler (Random House)
- ***Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*** by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Scholastic)
- ***Princess Academy*** by Shannon Hale (Bloomsbury Children's Books)
- ***Show Way*** by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott (G.P. Putnam's Sons)

2005 Medal Winner: *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata (Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster)

Honor Books:

- *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko (G.P. Putnam's Sons/a division of Penguin Young Readers Group)
- *The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights* by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin)
- *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary D. Schmidt (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin)

2004 Medal Winner: *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread* by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering, (Candlewick Press)

Honor Books:

- *Olive's Ocean* by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow Books)
- *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* by Jim Murphy (Clarion Books)

2003 Medal Winner: *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi (Hyperion Books for Children)

Honor Books:

- *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer (Atheneum)
- *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff (Random House/Wendy Lamb Books)
- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen (Knopf)
- *A Corner of The Universe* by Ann M. Martin (Scholastic)
- *Surviving the Applewhites* by Stephanie S. Tolan (HarperCollins)

2002 Medal Winner: *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin)

Honor Books:

- *Everything on a Waffle* by Polly Horvath (Farrar Straus Giroux)
- *Carver: A Life In Poems* by Marilyn Nelson (Front Street)

2001 Medal Winner: *A Year Down Yonder* by Richard Peck (Dial)

Honor Books:

- *Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer (G.P. Putnam's Sons)
- *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick Press)
- *Joey Pigza Loses Control* by Jack Gantos (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux)
- *The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech (Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins)

2000 Medal Winner: *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis (Delacorte)

Honor Books:

- *Getting Near to Baby* by Audrey Coulombis (Putnam)
- *Our Only May Amelia* by Jennifer L. Holm (HarperCollins)
- *26 Fairmount Avenue* by Tomie dePaola (Putnam)

The 1990s

1999 Medal Winner: *Holes* by Louis Sachar (Frances Foster)

Honor Book:

- *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck (Dial)

1998 Medal Winner: *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse (Scholastic)

Honor Books:

- *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine (HarperCollins)
- *Lily's Crossing* by Patricia Reilly Giff (Delacorte)
- *Wringer* by Jerry Spinelli (HarperCollins)

1997 Medal Winner: *The View from Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg (Jean Karl/Atheneum)

Honor Books:

- *A Girl Named Disaster* by Nancy Farmer (Richard Jackson/Orchard Books)
- *Moorchild* by Eloise McGraw (Margaret McElderry/Simon & Schuster)
- *The Thief* by Megan Whalen Turner (Greenwillow/Morrow)
- *Belle Prater's Boy* by Ruth White (Farrar Straus Giroux)

1996 Medal Winner: *The Midwife's Apprentice* by Karen Cushman (Clarion)

Honor Books:

- *What Jamie Saw* by Carolyn Coman (Front Street)
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis (Delacorte)
- *Yolonda's Genius* by Carol Fenner (Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster)
- *The Great Fire* by Jim Murphy (Scholastic)

1995 Medal Winner: *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech (HarperCollins)

Honor Books:

- *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman (Clarion)
- *The Ear, the Eye and the Arm* by Nancy Farmer (Jackson/Orchard)

1994 Medal Winner: *The Giver* by Lois Lowry (Houghton)

Honor Books:

- *Crazy Lady* by Jane Leslie Conly (HarperCollins)
- *Dragon's Gate* by Laurence Yep (HarperCollins)
- *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books)

1993 Medal Winner: *Missing May* by Cynthia Rylant (Jackson/Orchard)

Honor Books:

- *What Hearts* by Bruce Brooks (A Laura Geringer Book, a HarperCollins imprint)
- *The Dark-thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural* by Patricia McKissack (Knopf)
- *Somewhere in the Darkness* by Walter Dean Myers (Scholastic Hardcover)

1992 Medal Winner: *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (Atheneum)

Honor Books:

- *Nothing But The Truth: a Documentary Novel* by Avi (Jackson/Orchard)
- *The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane* by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)

1991 Medal Winner: *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli (Little, Brown)

Honor Book:

- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi (Jackson/Orchard)

1990 Medal Winner: *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry (Houghton)

Honor Books:

- *Afternoon of the Elves* by Janet Taylor Lisle (Jackson/Orchard)
- *Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind* by Suzanne Fisher Staples (Knopf)
- *The Winter Room* by Gary Paulsen (Jackson/Orchard)

These are the Mike Printz winners for the past 7 years:

2006 Award Winner

John Green has won the 2006 Michael L. Printz Award for his extraordinary first novel “Looking for Alaska,” published by Dutton Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA), Inc.

Tired of his boring existence, 16-year-old Miles “Pudge” Halter heads off to seek his Great Perhaps at an Alabama boarding school, where new-found freedom, guilty pleasures and an enigmatic girl named Alaska hurl him into life. First-time author John Green writes with intimacy, humor, and insight about a world where intense friendship can lead to devastating loss,” says Committee Chair Michael Cart.

John Green, like his protagonist Miles, attended an Alabama boarding school and currently lives in New York City.

The award announcement was made during the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, January 20-25. The award, first given in 2000, is named for the late Michael L. Printz, a Topeka, KS, school librarian known for discovering and promoting quality books for young adults.

2006 Honor Books

Black Juice by Margo Lanagan, published by EOS, an imprint of HarperCollins

I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books

John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth, a Photographic Biography by Elizabeth Partridge, published by Viking, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

A Wreath for Emmett Till by Marilyn Nelson, published by Houghton Mifflin Company

2005 Award Winner

how i live now by Meg Rosoff Wendy Lamb Books, an imprint of Random House

2005 Honor Books

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel, published by EOS, an imprint of HarperCollins

Chanda's Secrets by Allan Stratton, published by Annick Press

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt, published by Clarion Books, a Houghton Mifflin Company Imprint

2004 Award Winner

The First Part Last by Angela Johnson Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

2004 Honor Books

A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly Harcourt, Inc.

Keesha's House by Helen Frost Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Frances FosterBooks

Fat Kid Rules the World by K.L. Going G.P.Putnam's Sons/Penguin Young Readers Group

The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Thingsby Carolyn Mackler Candlewick Press

2003 Award Winner

Postcards from No Man's Land by Aidan Chambers Dutton/Penguin Putnam

2003 Honor Books

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer Simon and Schuster/Richard Jackson

My Heartbeat by Garret Freymann-Weyr Houghton Mifflin Company

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos Farrar, Straus and Giroux

2002 Award Winner

A Step from Heaven, by An Na Front Street

2002 Honor Books

The Ropemaker by Peter Dickinson Delacorte

Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by Twentieth-Century American Art by Jan Greenberg Abrams

Freewill by Chris Lynch HarperCollins

True Believer by Virginia Euwer Wolff Atheneum

2001 Award Winner

Kit's Wilderness by David Almond Delacorte Press

Many Stones by Carolyn Coman Front Street

The Body of Christopher Creed by Carol Plum-Ucci Harcourt Brace

Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging: Confessions of Georgia Nicolson by Louise Rennison
HarperCollins

Stuck in Neutral by Terry Trueman

2000 Award Winner – First ever Michael L. Printz Award

Monster by Walter Dean Myers illustrated by Christopher Myers and published by HarperCollins

2000 Honor Books

Skellig by David Almond Delacorte Press

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson Farrar Straus Giroux

Hard Love by Ellen Wittlinger Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

BBYA 2006 Top Ten

These are the “10 Best Books for Young Adults” from the Young Adult Library Services Association.

Akbar, Said Hyder and Burton, Susan. Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story. Bloomsbury, 2005. \$24.95. (1-58234-520-1).

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow. Scholastic, 2005. illus. \$19.95. (0-439-35379-3).

Buckhanon, Kalisha. Upstate. St. Martin's, 2005. \$19.95. (0-312-33268-8).

Green, John. Looking for Alaska. Dutton, 2005. \$15.99. (0-525-47506-0).

Lynch, Chris. Inexcusable. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2005. \$16.95. (0-689-84789-0).

Meyer, Stephanie. Twilight: A Novel. Little, Brown/Megan Tingley, 2005. \$17.99. (0-316-16017-2).

Vaughan, Brian K. Runaways: Volume 1 HC. Illus. by Adrian Alphona. Marvel, 2005. \$34.99. (0-7851-1876-4).

Westerfeld, Scott. Peeps. Penguin/Razorbill, 2005. \$16.99. (1-59514-031-X).

Wooding, Chris. Poison. Scholastic/Orchard, 2005. \$16.99. (0-439-75570-0).

Zusak, Markus. I Am the Messenger. Knopf, 2005. \$16.95. (0-375-83099-5).

Titles (in no particular order)

Whirligig, Paul Fleischman

The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkein

The Fellowship of the Ring trilogy, J.R.R. Tolkein

Animal Farm, George Orwell

1984, George Orwell*

Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger*

The Three Musketeers, Alexandre Dumas

Artemis Fowl, Eoin Colfer

The Golden Compass, *The Amber Spyglass*, *The Subtle Knife*, Phillip Pullman

Holes, Louis Sachar

The Pigman, Paul Zindel

A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engle

Jurassic Park, Michael Crichton

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Robert Louis Stevenson

The View from Saturday, E.L. Konigsburg

The Diary of a Young Girl, Ann Frank

Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck

A Walk to Remember, Nicholas Sparks

The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton

Harry Potter books, J.K. Rowling

Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson

*Indicates mature content

Great books you really should try: (again, in no particular order)

The Call of the Wild, Jack London

Souder, William Armstrong

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway

A Separate Peace, John Knowles

A Day No Pigs Would Die, Robert Peck

Death Be Not Proud, John Gunther

Into Thin Air, Krakauer, Jon

When the Legends Die, Hal Borland

The Witch of Blackbird Pond, Speare

Bull Run, Paul Fleischman

The Chocolate War, Robert Cormier

Farewell to Manzanar, Houston

Fahrenheit 451, *Dandelion Wine*, *The Halloween Tree*, Ray Bradbury

Flowers for Algernon, Daniel Keyes

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kesey*

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain

Dracula, Bram Stoker

Treasure Island and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

Out of the Dust, Karen Hesse

Inherit the Wind, Lawrence and Lee

The Crucible, Arthur Miller

Hiroshima, John Hersey

Lord of the Flies, William Golding

The Hound of the Baskervilles, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Through the Looking Glass and *Alice in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott

Jurassic Park, Michael Crichton

Middle School Blues, Dorohea Kassem

Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston

The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien *

Slaughterhouse Five, Kurt Vonnegut *

Of Mice and Men and *The Pearl*, John Steinbeck

Boys Life, Robert McGamon

*Indicates mature content

PLOT AND CONFLICT: (A brief summary of the plot and the main problem(s) to be solved 4-6 sentences)

YOUR OPINION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE NOVEL:
