

Cape Fear Center for Inquiry Middle Grades Program Summer Reading Project

It's summer—but that doesn't mean your brain turns to mush!
Keep your brain alive, awake, alert and active this summer by completing the CFCI
Summer Reading Project.

Here's what you'll do:

1. Read 1 book from the summer reading list. *Please note: there are different lists for 6th and 7th/8th graders. Sixth graders **may** read books from the 7/8 list, but 7/8th graders cannot read books from the 6th grade list. **It should be a book you have not read before.***
2. For your book, write a 2 page, grammatically correct, spell-checked, organized response telling:
 - what the book was about (plot summary)
 - what you liked about the book
 - what you disliked about the book
 - which character you think is most like you
 - whether or not you would recommend this book to a friend & why
3. Additionally, complete one of the reading explorations listed below.

<p>This assignment is due on Monday, September 3, 2009. It will count as a grade in your language arts class.</p>
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Reading Explorations:

For the book you have read, please complete ONE of the following projects. Make it your BEST work—you have all summer, so it should reflect your hardest effort and set the tone for the year.

Project Options:

- A **soundtrack** to accompany your book. Burn a CD of the songs that reflect the book in terms of characters, themes, setting, mood, tone, etc. Create a CD jacket with a list of the songs. Include the lyrics to the songs and several sentences telling why you made each musical selections. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR AUDIENCE IS MADE UP OF TEACHERS, SO DO NOT INCLUDE SONGS THAT CONTAIN OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE.

- A **graphic novel** (a comic book for grown-ups). Use your artistic talents to create an original piece of work based on your book. Use all the techniques of graphic novels; for instance, dialogue bubbles above characters, different fonts, etc.
- A **children's book** based on your book. Imagine you are trying to get the important elements of your book across to a second or third-grader. What pictures would you include? How would you change the language to make it easier for children?
- A **series of correspondence** (letters, e-mails, IM's, phone conversations) between and among characters in the book. What information would this correspondence contain that could shed more light on the characters? (Make it look real!)
- A **series of poems** (and even pictures, if you're a good artist or photographer) that relate to the book's characters, themes, mood, setting, etc.
- A **family tree of key characters** with biographies and character descriptions based on your observations and evidence from the book.
- An **interview with the author/subject** (if it's an autobiography or biography) or with the characters of a novel. (Interview should be written and recorded.)
- An **original skit or screenplay** based on the book or an important portion of the book.

FAQs

Q: So what if I don't do it?

A: You will take an essay exam after school during the first weeks of school where you will be asked to write about a book on the list. You cannot be placed in your language arts class until you have completed the essay exam.

Q: How much will this project count?

A: That will depend on the teacher. In general, it will count as a project grade or an exam grade.

Good luck, happy summer and happy reading!

SUMMER READING FOR STUDENTS ENTERING SIXTH GRADE

Avi.

S.O.R. Losers. A compulsory soccer team made up of seventh graders uninterested in sports struggles to keep a winning attitude through a losing season. Also try: Midnight Magic; Perloo the Bold; The Secret School.

Bradley, Michael.

Derek Jeter. Details the rise of Derek Jeter through the minor leagues and his subsequent seasons with the New York Yankees.

Cadnum, Michael.

Forbidden Forest: The Story of Little John and Robin Hood. Joining Robin Hood's band of outlaws changes Little John's quiet lifestyle into a series of adventures, as he tries to protect a beautiful lady who was wrongfully accused of murdering her husband. Don't miss: Ship of Fire, Blood Gold, The Book of the Lion, Daughter of the Wind.

Choldanko, Gennifer.

Al Capone Does My Shirts. All Moose Flannagan wants to do is take care of his autistic sister Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations and stay out of trouble, but on Alcatraz, where his family lives now that his father works at the prison, trouble is never very far away..

Colfer, Eoin.

Artemis Fowl. When a twelve-year old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology and a particularly nasty troll. (Available on CD in the school library.) Read what follows: Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident, Artemis Fowl: Eternity Code, and Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception. Also try Wish List, and Supernaturalist.

Creech, Sharon.

Absolutely Normal Chaos. A prequel to the Newbery Medal-winning Walk Two Moons, Mary Lou's summer journal -- which she begins grudgingly as a dreaded assignment for school, becomes a hilarious chronicle of the circle of people and events that make her summer filled with lessons and observations on love, death, friendship, and family. Also try The Wanderer, Replay and Love That Dog!

Fleischman, Paul.

Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini. The story of magician Harry Houdini comes to life through a review of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats.

Fox, Paula.

One-Eyed Cat. When a one-eyed cat turns up in the neighborhood, Ned is afraid that he may have shot the cat when he used his new air rifle in the dark shadows. Try Monkey Island.

Funke, Cornelia.

Thief Lord. Welcome to the magical underworld of Venice, Italy, where hidden canals and crumbling rooftops shelter runaways and children with incredible secrets. Don't forget Inkheart, Inkspell and Dragon Rider!

Giff, Patricia Reilly.

Pictures of Hollis Wood. A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her. Others are: Lilly's Crossing, Gift of the Pirate Queen, House of Tailors, Water Street.

Horowitz, Anthony.

Stormbreaker. Alex Rider finds himself doing dangerous work as a spy for the British intelligence Agency. Definitely a nail biter and lots more Alex Rider books to follow.

Korman, Gordon.

No More Dead Dogs. Nobody understands Wallace Wallace. This reluctant football hero has been suspended from the team for writing an unfavorable book report of Old Shep

My Pal. But Wallace won't tell a lie – he hated every minute of the book. Why does the dog in every classic novel have to croak at the end? After refusing to do a rewrite, his English teacher, who happens to be directing the school play *Old Shep My Pal* forces him to go to the rehearsals as punishment. Although Wallace doesn't change his mind, he does end up changing the play into a rock-and-roll rendition, complete with rollerblades and a moped! Lots more humor and adventure by this author: *Sixth Grade Nickname Game*, *Dive Series*, *Everest Series*, *Island*

Lewis, C.S.

The Complete Chronicles of Narnia. Through the wardrobe, enter the magical land of Narnia, where enchanted creatures live and thrilling battles are fought between good and evil!

Lupica, Mike.

Travel Team. Danny is crushed when he is cut from the travel basketball team because he is too short, but he suspects that it is really because of bad blood between his father and the coach. So, he and the others who were cut form their own squad, coached by Danny's father, but really under Danny's leadership head to the climactic game against their arch rivals. *Summerball* is the new sequel. He's also written *Heat*, *Wild Pitch*, *Miracle on 49th Street*.

MacHale, D.J.

Merchant of Death – Book 1 in the *Pendragon Series*. Fourteen-year-old Bobby Pendragon, having learned he is a Traveler--someone who can ride "flumes" through time and space-- is soon off to the alternative dimension of Denduron where he teams up with Loor, a girl his age from the warrior-territory of Zadaa, in an attempt to save the gentle Milago people from slavery. Lots of adventure and the series continues. Be sure to read them all!

McKinley, Robin.

Beauty; A Retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*. A touching story of trust and love and characters who spring to life. Look for *The Blue Sword* and *The Hero and the Crown*.

Napoli, Donna Jo.

Magic Circle. Retelling of the story of *Hansel and Gretel* from the point of view of the witch.

Paulsen, Gary.

How Angel Peterson Got His Name: And other outrageous tales of extreme sports. Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

Philbrick, Nathaniel.

Revenge of the Whale; the *True Story of the Whaleship Essex*. Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship "Essex" by an enraged whale and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. (Available on CD in the library.)

SUMMER READING LIST FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 7th/8th GRADES:

Almond, David.

Skellig. A lonely boy who has recently moved meets a girl and a bird like creature who both help him to develop the courage to face his family's crisis. If you like this title, try *The Secret Heart* or, *The Fire-Eaters*.

Armstrong, Jennifer.

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World. This is the amazing, true story of Shackleton's ill fated voyage to Antarctica, of how they managed to survive in such extreme conditions.

Bell, Hilari.

A Matter of Profit. Sick of the horrors of conquering beings on other planets, Ahvrem will end his service as a soldier and save his sister from an unhappy marriage if he can discover who is behind a rumored plot to assassinate the Emperor. Try *Flame and Goblin Wood*.

Blackwood, Gary.

Year of the Hangman. "This story imagines what would have happened if the Americans had lost the Revolutionary War. Creighton agrees to spy on Benjamin Franklin. Battles unfold, falsehoods are exposed, loyalties are questioned, one choice could determine the fate of a nation."

Bruchac, Joseph.

Skeleton Man. Mollie, a modern Native-American girl, believes the stranger who claims to be her guardian is actually the Skeleton Man from the old legends. Also: *Code Talker*, *The Dark Pond*.

Christie, Agatha.

And Then There Were None. Ten people are trapped on a private island and one by one they begin to die. Who is the murderer?

Cormier, Robert.

The Rag and Bone Shop. Trent, an ambitious and renowned interrogator, who holds a perfect record for wrenching confessions out of criminals, and 12-year-old Jason Dorrant, suspected of murdering his neighbor, seven-year-old Alicia Bartlett meet head on. This is a riveting detective novel with Cormier's usual surprises and questions. Also try *We All Fall Down*.

Crichton, Michael.

The Andromeda Strain. Four American scientists race against an atomic deadline fighting a contaminating agent from outer space. Also try *Timeline*, *Jurassic Park*.

Delman, Carmit.

Burnt Bread and Chutney. The author, daughter of a Jewish Indian mother and a Jewish American father of Eastern European descent, describes what it was like to grow up in contrasting cultures--Midwestern America and an Israeli kibbutz--with a complex racial heritage.

Deuker, Carl.

High Heat. Shane is the star closer on the school baseball team, untouchable, until his father is convicted of a crime and his world begins to fall apart. Look for *Night Hoops*, *Painting the Black*, *On the Devil's Court* and *Runner*.

Fleischman, Paul.

Seek. Rich becomes obsessed with searching the airwaves for his long gone, radio announcer father.

Fleischman, Sid.

The Abracadabra Kid: a Writer's Life. This successful young adult author tells in an engaging brisk style how he worked his way from boy magician, to Hollywood scriptwriter, to award-winning writer. Others? *The Thirteenth Floor*; *a Ghost Story*; *The Whipping Boy* and *Disappearing Act*.

Hamilton, Virginia.

Her Stories: African American Folktales. A collection of animal tales, fairy tales, tales about the supernatural, folk tales and legends, and true stories by and about Afro-American women

Heinlein, Robert A.

Have Space Suit Will Travel. A high school senior wins a space suit in a jingle contest, takes a last walk wearing "Oscar" before cashing him in for college tuition, and suddenly finds himself on a space odyssey.

Hickam, Homer.

Rocket Boys: A Memoir. Homer Hickam looks back after a distinguished NASA career to tell his own true story of growing up in a dying coal town and how, against the odds, he made his dream of launching rockets into outer space come true. This was the bases for the movie "October Sky."

Howe, James.

The Misfits. Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names. The sequel is Totally Joe.

Lester, Julian.

Day of Tears. Presents an historical fiction written in first-person format that follows Emma, the slave of Pierce Butler, through a series of events in her life as her master hosts the largest slave auction in American history in Savannah, Georgia in 1859 in order to pay off his mounting gambling debts.

Levitin, Sonia.

The Cure. It's 2407, a young boy has started to have feelings. This is forbidden. He chooses to submit to the cure. He is sent, to Strasbourg Germany in 1348 to live as a Jew, confronting the Anti-Semitism that sweeps through Europe. They are blaming the Jews for the Black Plague and his life is in danger!

Lipsyte, Robert.

The Contender A teenage boxer from Harlem who aspires to be a champion in the ring decides to set other goals for himself as well. Sequels follow, including The Brave.

Lobel, Anita.

No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War. The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and later in Sweden. National Book Award Finalist.

Lynch, Chris.

Slot Machine. When overweight thirteen-year-old Elvin Bishop is sent to camp at St. Paul's Seminary Retreat Center, he and his two best friends are forced to try out various sports in order to find out where they belong. Follow this one with Extreme Elvin.

Murphy, Jim.

Blizzard: The Storm that Changed America. Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snowstorm that hit the Northeast in 1888, focusing on the events in New York City. Others? Why not read the latest by this master of non-fiction, An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793?

Na, An.

A Step from Heaven. A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America. Also read Wait for Me.

Oates, Joyce Carol.

Big Mouth and Ugly Girl. When sixteen-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid. Make sure to look for Freaky Green Eyes.

Pierce, Tamora.

Trickster's Choice. Alianne, a strong and resourceful young woman who masters the arts of swordplay and knightly warfare, is chosen by the trickster god to serve as his secret agent and a slave for a year in the embattled Copper Isles. In order to survive in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy, she must call forth her mother's courage and her father's wit.

Trickster's Queen follows.

Pullman, Phillip.

The Golden Compass. Living among scholars in the hallowed halls of Jordan College, Lyra hears rumors of a magical dust that supposedly possesses powers that can unite whole universes, and begins a dangerous journey to find it. Enjoy the sequels: The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass.

Rees, Celia.

Witch Child. In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts when her neighbors suspect her of being a witch. Check Sorceress!

Reiss, Kathryn.

Time Windows. Miranda can't explain her fascination with the dollhouse in the attic of her family's big, old house--no one would believe that she has discovered a time machine that allows her to see into the sometimes frightening lives of her house's previous occupants. But when her family begins to mirror the dollhouse family's ugly behavior, Miranda must act quickly to prevent disaster. Look for The Glass House People, Blackthorn Winter, Paperquake and The Time Travel Mysteries.

Rinaldi, Ann.

In My Father's House. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults, now in paperback. This insightful historical novel set during the Civil War looks at a girl's struggle to keep her family together and to accept her stepfather's beliefs about slavery and the war. Follow with: Mine Eyes Have Seen, Wolf by the Ears

Rottman, S.L.

Hero. After years of abuse from his mother and neglect from his father, ninth-grader Sean Parker is headed for trouble until he is sent to do community service at a farm owned by an old man who teaches Sean that he can take control of his own life.

Shusterman, Neal.

Downsiders. When fourteen year-old Lindsay meets Talon and discovers the Downsiders world which had evolved from the subway built in New York in 1867, she and her new friend experience the clash of their two cultures. Shadow Club, Full-Tilt and The Schwa Was Here follow.

Silverstein, Ken.

The Radioactive Boy Scout: the Frightening True Story of a Whiz Kid and His Homemade Nuclear Reactor. Yes, David Hahn really did build a reactor in his backyard and yes the U.S. government did shut him down. This book is for "Anyone who has ever wondered what the neighborhood geek might be brewing up in his backyard ..." It is a riveting and disturbing story about the power of the teenage mind.

Sleator, William.

Rewind. When Peter is hit by a car, he gets a chance to go back in time and alter the events that lead up to his death. But what can he change to avoid his fate?
Interstellar Pig. Barney's strange, new neighbors invite him to play a bizarre board game, which actually spans the universe and could destroy worlds.

Soto, Gary.

Baseball in April and Other Stories. This is a collection of short stories focusing on the every day adventures of Hispanic young people growing up in Fresno, California.

Soto, Gary

Taking Sides. Lincoln Mendoza is a basketball player for his new school. He has just moved from a city to a rural area. The problem he faces is when he has to play against his old friends and still remain loyal to his new team.

Spinelli, Jerry.

Knots in My Yo Yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid. Newbery medalist Jerry Spinelli pens his early autobiography with all the warmth, humor, and drama of his bestselling fiction. From first memories through high school, this is not merely an account of a highly unusual childhood. Rather,

like Spinelli's fiction, its appeal lies in the accessibility and universality of his life.

Staples, Susan Fischer.

Dangerous Skies. A gripping novel with stunning prose and a realistic ending, this is a powerfully moving story of friendship in the face of racism, and betrayal in the name of loyalty.

Strasser, Todd.

Boot Camp. Kidnapped and sent to live in a disciplinary boot camp, where his is physically and psychologically tortured on a daily basis, 15 year old Garrett knows that he has been wrongly imprisoned and so feels there is not choice but to attempt a daring escape! Why not try: Give a Boy a Gun, You Can't Get There From Here or Drift-X?

Stroud, Jonathan.

The Amulet of Samarkand (Bartimaeus Trilogy) Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, is bent on revenge against a ruthless, hot shot wizard. In his quest, he summons the great djinni Bartimaeus to steal the Amulet of Samarkind for him, but summoning and controlling are two different things entirely. Nathaniel finds himself caught in a whirlwind of magical espionage, murder, blackmail, and revolt. The excitement continues with The Golem's Eye and Ptolemy's Gate.

* Tolkien, J.R.R.

The Hobbit, or There and Back Again. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. (Available in the school library on CD.)

* Townsend, Sue.

Secret Life of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 3/4. A hilarious book, written as a diary, about a British boy who is 13-years-old and records the ups and down of adolescent life. Try the sequel, The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole.

Trueman, Terry.

Stuck in Neutral. Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

*Verne, Jules.

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. A French scientist and his companions travel the seven seas in the mid 19th century as prisoners in Captain Nemo's mysterious electric submarine, the Nautilus. What about Journey to the Center of the Earth?

* Wells, H.G.

War of the Worlds. Classic science fiction of an alien invasion.

* White, T.H.

Sword in the Stone. The education and training of the young King Arthur by Merlin, the unmatched wizard, takes place against a tapestry of magnificent pageantry and dark magic. Continue the story with The Once and Future King.

* = Challenging Title