



Dear Dock Mennonite Academy Middle School Students,

Reading is one way to keep your mind working and to help retain learning from one year to the next. While you're traveling or hanging out by the pool this summer, we want to encourage you to take a book with you. Therefore, it is an English requirement for all middle school students to do the following:

1. **Read at least 2 books** at the middle school level (or higher). Often middle school books are around 200 pages or more. Attached to this letter you will see a recommended list of books from which to choose. You don't have to read only the books on the list; it is included as a helpful suggestion. We recommend that you choose something enjoyable (that is not too easy), and that you discuss your book choices with your parents.
2. After completing each book, **NEATLY** (in pen or using a computer) record the information and answer the required questions on the **Reading Log Document**. You should complete a reading log document for each book you read. If you lose the log, you can print out a new one by visiting our website ([www.dock.org](http://www.dock.org)), or you can make your own on the computer.
3. Bring your **Reading Log Documents** to English class on the first day of school.

Take this opportunity to investigate the various summer reading programs offered through your local bookstores and public libraries. Many of these programs offer reading incentives and prizes! Reading is a great summer pastime whether it's in the back yard or on the beach. Use the time to exercise your mind while you relax your body!

**Have a fantastic summer; we look forward to seeing you in the fall!**

Sincerely,

Middle School English Teachers



### Recommended Summer Reading List

The following list is provided as a helpful suggestion to guide summer reading at the middle school level. Students are not required to read books from this list. It is not a comprehensive list of all the literature that is available, and some of the titles may not align with every family's approval. The Dock Mennonite Academy Middle School English teachers encourage every student to discuss their reading interests with their parents before deciding upon a book to choose for reading assignments.

#### Classics

Alcott	<i>Little Women</i>
Austen*	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
Burnett	<i>Little Princess</i>
Defoe	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
Lewis*	<i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i>
London	<i>Call of the Wild</i>
Kipling	<i>Captains Courageous</i>
Rawlings	<i>The Yearling</i>
Shelley	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Smith	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>
Steinbeck	<i>The Pearl</i> <i>Tortilla Flat</i>
Stevenson	<i>The Black Arrow</i> <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll</i> <i>And Mr. Hyde</i>
Stoker	<i>Dracula</i>
Tolkien*	<i>The Hobbit</i>
Twain*	<i>Tom Sawyer</i>
Verne*	<i>Around the World in Eighty</i> <i>Days</i>
Wells*	<i>War of the Worlds</i>

#### Realistic Fiction

Birdsall	<i>The Penderwicks</i>
Bloor	<i>Tangerine</i>
Blume	<i>Starring Sally J. Freedman</i>
Byars*	<i>Summer of the Swans</i>
Clements	<i>The School Story</i>
Choldenko	<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i>
Christopher*	<i>Return of the Homerun Kid</i>
Danziger*	<i>The Cat Ate My Gymsuit</i>
DiCamillo	<i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i>
Dovey	<i>Coe</i>
Dowell	<i>Secret Language of Girls</i>

Giff	<i>The Pictures of Hollis Woods</i>
George*	<i>Julie of the Wolves</i>
Haddix	<i>Running Out of Time</i>
Hiaasen	<i>Hoot</i> <i>Flush</i>
Jennings	<i>The Beastly Arms</i>
Kadohata	<i>Kira-Kira</i>

#### Realistic Fiction Continued

Konigsburg*	<i>From the Mixed-Up Files of</i> <i>Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i>
Langton	<i>Fledgling</i>
Lipsyte	<i>The Contender</i>
Lord	<i>Rules</i>
Lowry*	<i>Number the Stars</i>
Lupica	<i>Travel Team</i> <i>Heat</i>
Park	<i>The Graduation of Jake Moon</i>
Patron	<i>The Higher Power of Lucky</i>
Peters	<i>Love Me, Love My Broccoli</i>
Sachar*	<i>The Boy Who Lost His Face</i> <i>Dogs Don't Tell Jokes</i> <i>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Secrets</i>
Spinelli*	<i>Crash</i> <i>Space Station Seventh Grade</i>
Vail*	<i>Wonder</i>
Van Draanen	<i>Flipped</i>
Woodruff	<i>Last Summer With Maizon</i>
Woodson	<i>Hush</i>

#### Historical Fiction

Avi Crispin	<i>The Cross of Lead</i>
Cushman	<i>Catherine, Called Birdy</i> <i>The Midwife's Apprentice</i>
Fletcher	<i>Shadow Spinner</i>

Grant *Blood Red Horse*  
 Hesse *Letters from Rifka*  
 Lawrence *The Roman Mysteries (series)*  
 Mazer *Goodnight Maman*  
 McLaren *Waiting for Odysseus*  
 Mazer *A Boy No More*  
 Namiotka *Ties That Bind, Ties That Break*  
 Napoli *Stones in Water*  
 Paterson\* *Preacher's Boy*  
 Lyddie  
 Paulsen *Soldier's Heart*  
 Nightjohn  
*Bread and Roses, Too*

\* *Other books by this author are also recommended.*

#### Historical Fiction continued

Ruby *Steal Away Home*  
 Taylor *Mississippi Bridge*  
 Temple *The Ramsay Scallop*  
*The Bedouin's Gazelle*  
 Schmidt *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*  
 Speare *Witch of Blackbird Pond*  
 Vos *Hide and Seek*  
 Williams *Behind the Bedroom Wall*  
 Yolán, Harris *Odysseus and the Serpent Maze*

#### Multicultural Books

Alvarez *Before We Were Free*  
 Bagdasarian *Forgotten Fire*  
 Cameron *Colibri*  
 Davis *Just Like Martin*  
 D'Adamo *Iqbal*  
 Ellis *The Breadwinner*  
*Mud City*  
 Flake *The Skin I'm In*  
 Fogelin *Crossing Jordan*  
 Hesse *Aleutian Sparrow*  
 Jiang *Red Scarf Girl*  
 Matthews *Fish*  
 Mead *Year of No Rain*  
 Meyer *White Lilacs*  
 Napoli *Stones in Water*  
 Nye *Habibi*  
 Ryan *Esperanza Rising*  
 Spinelli *Maniac Magee*  
 Robinet *Walking to the Bus Rider*  
*Blues*  
 Salisbury *Under the Blood Red Sun*  
 Taylor\* *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*  
 Temple\* *Grab Hands and Run*

Staples *Shabanu*  
 Wolff *Make Lemonade*  
 Woodson *Locomotion*

#### Mystery and Adventure

Alexander\* *Book of Three*  
 Avi\* *Windcatcher*  
 Bunting *Blackwater*  
*The Hideout*  
 Clements *Things Not Seen*  
 Eckert *An Incident at Hawk's Hill*  
 Gardiner *Stone Fox*  
 George *My Side of the Mountain*  
 Hiaasen *Hoot*  
 Horwitz\* *Alex Ryder Mysteries*  
 Mikaelson *Touching Spirit Bear*  
*Countdown*

#### Mystery and Adventure continued

Napoli *Three Days*  
 Nickerson *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*  
 Paulsen\* *Brian's Saga*  
 Sachar\* *Holes*  
 Smith *Zach's Lie*  
 Snyder\* *Egypt Game*  
 Taylor\* *Timothy of the Cay*  
 Roth *The Iceberg Hermit*  
 Ruckman *Night of the Twisters*  
 Snyder *The Egypt Game*  
 VanDraanen\* *Sammy Keyes series*

#### Science Fiction and Fantasy

Bruchac *Skeleton Man*  
 Colfer *Artemis Fowl (series)*  
*The Supernaturalists*  
*Barry Peter and the Starcatchers*  
 Dahl\* *The BFG*  
 D'Lacey *Icefire*  
 DiCamillo *The Tale of Despereaux*  
 Duprau *The City of Ember (series)*  
 Funke *Inkheart (series)*  
*The Thief Lord*  
 Hahn *Come to Me By Moonlight*  
 Hesse\* *Music of Dolphins*  
 Hoffman *Aquamarine*  
 Jacques\* *Martin the Warrior*  
 Juster *The Phantom Tollbooth*  
 L'Engle\* *A Wrinkle in Time (series)*  
 Levine\* *Ella Enchanted*  
 Lowry\* *Gathering Blue*  
 Lubar *Hidden Talents*  
 O'Brien *Z for Zachariah*  
 Paulini *Eragon (series)*  
 Riordan *The Lightning Thief*

Sleator *Into The Dream*

Kingsbury\* *Redemption* (series)  
Peretti\* *Hangman's Curse*

\* *Other books by this author are also recommended.*

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### **Biography, Nonfiction, and Memoir**

Ambrose *The Good Fight*  
Bartoletti *Hitler Youth*  
Bridges *Through My Eyes*  
Christopher *On the Mound with Randy Johnson*  
Farrell *Invisible Enemies*  
Fleishman *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story . . .*  
Freedman *Eleanor Roosevelt*  
*Abraham Lincoln*  
Jeter *The Life You Imagine*  
Lowry *Looking Back*  
Lynn *Babe Didrikson Zaharias*  
McKissack *Ain't I a Woman*  
Mitchell *A Pocketful of Goobers*  
Paulsen *Guts*  
Peck *Anonymously Yours*  
Reiss *The Upstairs Room*  
Revkin *The North Pole Was Here*  
Spinelli *Knots on My Yo-yo String*  
Stanley *I Am an American*  
Stanley, Saladin *Noble Prince of Islam*  
Tygiel *Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*

### **Of Science and Social Studies Interest**

Beisty *Egypt in Spectacular Cross Section*  
Casselli *In Search of Troy*  
Lister *The Odyssey*  
Lauber *Tales Mummies Tell*  
Larson *There's a Hair in My Dirt*  
McCarty *The Illiad*  
Murphy *An American Plague*  
Yolen *Wings*

+Kean, Sam *Disappearing Spoon*

+Kean, Sam *The Violinist's Thumb*

+Extra Credit for 8Honors Science

### **Christian Authors**

Blackstock\* *Cape Refuge* (series)  
Dekker\* & Bright *Blessed Child*  
Gunn\* *Christy Miller* (series)  
Henderson\* *The Witness*  
Lewis\* *The Covenant* (series)

## **Literature That Is Read** **in Middle School** **English and Literature Classes**

6th

- *Hatchet* - Gary Paulsen
- *Tuck Everlasting* - Natalie Babbitt

7th

- *A Christmas Carol* – Charles Dickens
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – William Shakespeare
- *Seedfolks* -- Paul Fleischman
- *Blink of an Eye* – Ted Dekker
- *The Shunning* – Beverly Lewis
- *Last Light* – Terri Blackstock
- *The Negotiator* – Dee Henderson
- *The Door in the Dragon's Throat* - Frank Peretti
- *Mayday at Two Thousand Five-Hundred* – Frank Peretti
- *Black* – Ted Dekker
- *Raising Dragons* – Bryan Davis

8th

- *The Tempest* – William Shakespeare
- *The Giver* – Lois Lowry
- *The Diary of Anne Frank* – Anne Frank
- *Squashed* – Joan Bauer
- *The Prince and the Pauper* – Mark Twain
- *Jesse* – Gary Soto
- *The Last Battle* – C. S. Lewis

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## Student Summer Reading Log

Responses must be typed or completed in blue or black pen.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

English Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book (Underlined or Italicized)	
Author	
Genre	
Date Finished Reading (Include a parent's initial)	
Rating * 1-10	

Genre: F=Fiction, I=Informational, SF=Science Fiction, M=Memoir, N=Narrative, Y=Mystery, B=Biography, D=Drama.  
\* 1-10 Rating: #1=lowest rating, #10=the highest.

### Questions:

- 1) What did you think? Give your opinion of the book, and explain your thoughts with specific examples. Include an explanation of the rating you chose for this book.
  
- 2) Choose one character from the book that had an impact on you – either positive or negative. Describe or explain the impact that he/she made using at least 2 examples from the story.
  
- 3) What is a possible theme, or lesson, you learned from this book? Use at least 2 examples from the book to support and explain your idea.



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