

GREAT BEGINNINGS

Bala Cynwyd and Welsh Valley Middle Schools Suggested Summer Reading 2017

Greetings Parents!

Reading is very important to your students' futures. The higher their level of literacy, the greater the opportunities they will have in education. Please keep your child reading this summer by checking out the summer reading clubs at your local public library or by using the attached suggested summer reading list.

The attached summer reading list may help you and your child pick out good books. As librarians, we feel the most important part of our job is matching the right book with the right reader. Since we won't be able to personally provide this assistance over the summer, we are doing the next best thing. We are providing you with a list of "sure-reads." These books have such great opening lines that readers will immediately be hooked! Much of this list was compiled from student and teacher suggestions as well as professional journals. Many of the genres are represented. If your child gets hooked on an author, you may want to check out other titles by that same author!

The list is alphabetical by author's last name. Book summaries are provided compliments of the publishers on the Library's online public access catalog DESTINY. You can find Destiny by going to www.lmsd.org. Select Quick Links, Library Pages, your school, and Destiny in the upper left hand corner. Also available on the District's web page are the 2018 Reading Olympic titles for middle school readers.

Please remember that we have not personally read each book on the list or all of the books by each author. Although these books have been recommended for middle school readers by a variety of sources, the list represents a wide range of reading levels as well as levels of sophistication. Therefore, it is very important that you screen the books personally for content that you feel might not be appropriate for your child.

Have a wonderful and relaxing summer.

Happy Reading!

Ms. McDermott, Bala Cynwyd Middle School Librarian
Dr. Markey, Welsh Valley Middle School Librarian

GREAT BEGINNINGS
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUGGESTED SUMMER READING 2017

"It was dusk, winter-dusk."

--***The Wolves of Willoughby Chase***, by Joan Aiken

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents,' grumbled Jo, lying on the rug."

--***Little Women***, by Louisa May Alcott

"THE BEST TIME TO TALK TO GHOSTS is just before the sun comes up."

--***Chains***, by Laurie Halse Anderson

"I am Ivan. I am a gorilla. It's not as easy at it looks."

--***The One and Only Ivan***, by Katherine Applegate

"The calendar said early March, but the smell in the air said late October."

-- ***The Night Gardener***, by Jonathan Auxier

"Not every thirteen-year-old girl is accused of murder, brought to trial, and found guilty."

--***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle***, by Avi

"The first time Uncle Charlie came to live with us he was alive. The second time he was dead."

--***School of the Dead***, by Avi

"The way I see it, I stopped being a kid on April 12, 1951."

--***Catch You Later, Traitor*** by Avi

"Joost had two problems: the moon and his mustache."

--***Six of Crows***, by Leigh Bardugo

"All children, except one, grow up."

--***Peter Pan***, JM Barrie

"I must write this account, and when I have finished, I will burn it."

--***The Passion of Dolca***, by Julie Berry

"It was a pleasure to burn."

--***Fahrenheit 451***, by Ray Bradbury

"Each life, in human history, begins when a person starts to walk down a path."

--***London Calling***, by Edward Bloor

"I've watched through his eyes, I've listened through his ears, and I tell you he's the one."

--***Ender's Game***, by Orson Scott Card

“Sophie had waited all her life to be kidnapped.”

--***The School for Good and Evil***, by Soman Chainani

“Why did I write them? Love letters to nobody, nobody who loved me back.”

--***SAHARA Special***, by Esme Raji Codell

“How does one describe Artemis Fowl? Various psychiatrists have tried and failed.”

--***Artemis Fowl***, by Eoin Colfer

“Now that I’ve found the way to fly, which direction should I go into the night?”

--***Matched***, by Ally Condie

“The truth is, she was ornery and stubborn, wouldn’t listen to *a n y b o d y*, and selfish beyond selfish, and filthy, caked with mud and dust, and moody; you’d better watch it or she’d knock you flat.”

--***Moo: a novel***, by Sharon Creech

“I don’t know if what I remember is what happened or just how I imagine it happened now that I’m old enough to tell stories.

--***Apple and Rain***, by Sarah Crossan

“It’s a funny thing about mothers and fathers. Even when their own child is the most disgusting little blister you could ever imagine, they still think that he or she is wonderful.”

--***Matilda***, by Roald Dahl

“Once, in a house on Egypt street, there lived a rabbit who was made almost entirely of china.”

--***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane***, by Kate Di Camillo

“The fox had been stepping into stories since the beginning of time.”

--***The Second Life of Abigail Walker***, by Frances O’Roark Dowell

“Mr Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he stayed up all night, was seated at the breakfast table.”

--***The Hound of the Baskervilles***, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

“Rye and her two friends had never intended to steal the banned book from the Angry Poet--they’d just hoped to read it.”

--***The Luck Uglies*** by Paul Durham

“Like most of the students at the Blatt School for the Insanely Gifted, Daphna Whispers had her share of quirks.”

--***THE SCHOOL FOR THE INSANELY GIFTED*** by Dan Elish

“The night breathed through the apartment like a dark animal.”

--**Reckless**, by Cornelia Funke

“There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife.”

--**The Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman

“Once upon a time, fairy tales were awesome.”

--**A TALE DARK AND GRIMM** by Adam Gidwitz

“The year that Buttercup was born, the most beautiful woman in the world was a French scullery maid named Annette.”

--**The Princess Bride**, by William Goldman

“It’s not easy to be different.”

--**Kid Owner**, by Tim Green

“It was there. Then it was. Later, that was how Angela DuPre would describe the airplane--over and over, to one investigator after another--until she was told to never speak of it again.”

--**Found**, by Margaret Peterson Haddix

“LOOKING BACK, none of this would have happened if I’d brought lip gloss the night of the Homecoming Dance.”

--**Rebel Belle**, by Rachel Hawkins

“Mickey Cray had been out work ever since a dead iguana fell from a palm tree and hit him on the head.”

--**Chomp**, by Carl Hiaasen

“Look here, Mac. I’m gonna give it to you straight: grown-ups lie.”

--**Full of Beans**, Jennifer L. Holm

“When the doorbell rings at three in the morning, it’s never good news.”

-- **Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz

“Kidnapping children is never a good idea; all the same, sometimes it has to be done.”

--**The Island of the Aunts** by Eva Ibbotson

The very best day of my life, I threw up four times and had a fever of 103 degrees.

--**See You at Harry’s** by Jo Knowles

“I was thirteen the first time I saw a police officer up close. He was arresting me for driving without a license. At the time, I didn’t even know what a license was. I wasn’t too clear on what being arrested meant either.”

--**Schooled**, by Gordon Korman

“What if nobody picks me? Nothing could be worse than that.”
--**Starflight**, by Melissa Landers

“When my brother Fish turned thirteen, we moved to the deepest part of inland because of the hurricane and, of course, that fact that he’d caused it.”
--**Savvy**, by Ingrid Law

“THEY SAY DEATH AIMS ONLY ONCE AND NEVER misses, but I doubt Ty Yorkshire thought it would strike with a scrubbing brush.”
--**Under the Painted Sky**, by Sandra Lee

“It was a dark and stormy night.”
--**A Wrinkle in Time**, by Madeleine L’Engle

“On the morning I was scheduled to die a large barefoot man with a bushy red beard waddled past my house.”
--**Seven Wonders Book 1: The Colossus Rises**, by Peter Lerangis

“When your dad’s a cackling super-villain, you get some pretty weird stuff for your birthday.”
--**Little Miss Evil**, by Bryce Leung

“There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb and he almost deserved it.”
--**The Voyage of the Dawn Treader**, by CS Lewis

“The aliens came back in the spring, just when I was beginning to think I’d never see Dad or my identical twin brother, Eddie, again.”
--**The Twin Powers**, by Robert Lipsyte

“His voice ripped the air like a chain saw.”
--**Dunk**, by David Lubar

“Teddy Madden felt better about himself than he had ever had before. Even though he was scared out of his mind.”
--**The Extra Yard** by Mike Lupica

“Admit it, if you suddenly had magical powers, you would have turned that leftover meatloaf into pizza, too.”
--**Graceful**, by Wendy Mass

“My sweat smells like peanut butter.”
--**JEREMY FINK AND THE MEANING OF LIFE** by Wendy Mass

“There’s a hint of wind coming over the top of the stone walls and through the barbed-wire sky on the day Alexander Stowe was to be Purged.”
--**The Unwanteds**, by Lisa McMann

“How five crows managed to lift a twenty-pound baby boy into the air was beyond Prue, but that was certainly the least of her worries.”

--**Wildwood**, by Colin Meloy

“Call me Ishmael.”

--**Moby-Dick**, Herman Melville

“The screw through Cinder’s ankle had rusted, the engraved cross marks worn to a mangled circle.”

--**Cinder**, by Marissa Meyer

“There’s a right way to do things and a wrong way, if you’re going to run a hotel in a smuggler’s town. You shouldn’t make it a habit to ask too many questions, for one thing. And you probably shouldn’t be in it for the money.”

--**The Greenglass House**, by Kate Milford

“Gotham City. Maybe it’s all I deserve, now. Maybe it’s just my time in Hell.”

--**Batman Year One**, by Frank Miller

“The sign in the front of St. Barnaby’s Home for the Hopeless, Abandoned, Forgotten, and Lost read CRUSHING THE SPIRIT OF CHILDHOOD SINCE 1898.”

--**The Accidental Hero** by Matt Myklusch

“The day I decided to steal a dog was the same day my friend, Luanne Godfrey, found out I lived in my car.”

--**How to Steal a Dog**, by Barbara O’Connor

“The first time I saw them, I thought they were angels.”

--**The Nest**, by Kenneth Oppel

“Ordinary. I know I’m not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. I have an Xbox. Stuff like that makes me ordinary. I guess. And I feel ordinary. Inside. But I know ordinary kids don’t make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. I know ordinary kids don’t get stared at wherever they go.”

--**Wonder**, by RJ Palacio

“Congratulations. The fact that you’re reading this means you’ve taken one giant step closer to your next birthday.”

--**Maximum Ride, The Angel Experiment**, by James Patterson

“Ba-room, ba-room, ba-room, baripity, baripity, baripity, baripity—Good.”

--**Bridge to Terabithia**, by Katherine Patterson

“Don’t step in the blood.”

--***Six Kids and a Stuffed Cat*** by Gary Paulsen

“There’s nothing worse than leftovers, except school-cafeteria leftovers, which are so bad they should be called something else--leftunders, maybe?”

--***The Thing About Leftovers***, by CC Payne

“If your teacher has to die, August isn’t a bad time of the year for it.”

--***The Teacher’s Funeral***, by Richard Peck

“The fox felt the car slow before the boy did, as he felt everything first.”

--***Pax***, by Sara Pennypacker

“Johnny never knew for certain why he started seeing the dead.”

--***Johnny and the Dead***, by Terry Pratchett

“I had just come to accept that my life would be ordinary when extraordinary things began to happen.”

--***Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children***, by Ransom Riggs

“Look, I didn’t want to be a half-blood.”

--***The Lightning Thief***, by Rick Riordan

“The end of the world started when a pegasus landed on the hood of my car.”

--***The Last Olympian***, by Rick Riordan

“Even before he got electrocuted, Jason was having a rotten day.”

-- ***The Lost Hero*** by Rick Riordan

“The whole thing feels like a prank at first, like something they planned—a joke with a punch line.”

--***The Girl in the Well is Me*** by Karen Rivers

“Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number four Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.”

--***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone***, by JK Rowling

“There is no lake at Camp Green Lake.”

--***Holes***, by Louis Sachar

“I always knew I had a purpose.”

--***Lawless***, by Jeffrey Salane

"If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth."

--***The Catcher in the Rye***, by JD Salinger

"Turner Buckminster had lived in Phippsburg, Maine, for fifteen minutes shy of six hours."

--***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy***, by Gary D. Schmidt

"Of all the kids in the seventh grade at Camillo Junior High, there was one kid that Mrs. Baker hated with heat whiter than the sun. Me."

--***The Wednesday Wars*** by Gary Schmidt

"If you are interested in reading stories with happy endings you would be better off reading some other book."

--***A Series of Unfortunate Events***, by Lemony Snicket

"The pretty little Swiss town of Mayenfield lies at the foot of a mountain range, whose grim rugged peaks tower high above the valley below."

--***Heidi***, by Johanna Spyri

"*The yeas have it. The Council has made its decision. He lives.*"

--***The Only Ones***, by Aaron Starmer

"Squire Trelawney, Dr Livesey, and the rest of these gentlemen having asked me to write down the whole particulars about Treasure Island, from the beginning to the end, keeping nothing back but the bearings of the island, and that only because there is still treasure not yet lifted, I take up my pen in the year of grace 17-, and go back to the time when my father kept the Admiral Benbow inn, and the brown old seaman, with the sabre cut, first took up his lodging under our roof."

--***Treasure Island***, by Louis Robert Stevenson

"Blue Sargent had forgotten how many times she'd been told that she would kill her true love."

--***The Raven Boys***, by Maggie Stiefvater

"A summer spent without a favorite sister could not be called a summer at all."

--***A Tiny Piece of Sky***, by Shawn K. Stout

"Of the first few hauntings I investigated with Lockwood and Co. I intend to say little, in part to protect the identity of the victims, in part because of the gruesome nature of the incidents, but mainly because, in a variety of ingenious ways, we succeeded in messing them all up."

--***The Screaming Staircase***, by Jonathan Stroud

“In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.”

--***The Hobbit***, by JRR Tolkien

“When Mr. Bilbo Baggins of Bag End announced that he would shortly be celebrating his eleventyfirst birthday with a party of special magnificence, there was much talk and excitement in Hobbiton.”

--***The Fellowship of the Ring***, by JRR Tolkien,

“The Austrian horses glinted in the moonlight, their riders standing tall in the saddle, swords raised.”

--***Leviathan***, by Scott Westerfeld

“Where’s Papa going with that ax?”

--***Charlotte’s Web***, EB White

“I am eleven years old, and I am invisible.”

--***COUNTDOWN***, by Deborah Wiles

“The year I turned twelve, I learned how to lie.”

--***Wolf Hollow***, by Lauren Wolk

“Here is a small fact: You are going to die.”

--***The Book Thief***, by Markus Zusak

