Suggested Summer Reading
for students entering 7th and 8th grade, 2009

**Series** (Sometimes the perfect series will get you through the summer.)

**Berkeley, Jon**  
**The Wednesday Tales**  
In a world of talking tigers, laughing potions, and sinister clowns, a runaway orphan meets up with an angel and they set out on a quest to find the angel’s brother. **The Series: Palace of Laughter, The Tiger’s Egg, The Lightning Key**

**Cooney, Barbara**  
**The Face on the Milk Carton**  
Janie Johnson is eating lunch one day when the picture of the missing girl on the milk carton captures her attention. The polka-dot dress the little girl is wearing seems familiar and Janie suspects that she is that girl. A page-turner, written before the age of Google, e-mail and texting. **The Series: The Face on the Milk Carton, Whatever Happened to Janie?, The Voice on the Radio, What Janie Found**

**Delaney, Joseph**  
**The Last Apprentice**  
The Spook and his apprentice are monster hunters who wrangle ghosts, witches and boggarts. Expect menacing villains, violence and gore. **The Series: Revenge of the Witch, Curse of the Bane, Night of the Soul Stealer, Attack of the Fiend, Wrath of the Bloodeye, Clash of the Demons**

**DuPrau, Jeanne**  
**Books of Ember**  
You might have seen the recent movie, but there is so much more to this series! Follow the story of the inhabitants of the city of Ember, as they discover a way out of their dying underground city and emerge into the harsh new reality that awaits them. **The Series: The City of Ember, The People of Sparks, The Prophet of Yonwood, The Diamond of Darkhold**

**Flanagan, John**  
**Ranger’s Apprentice**  
Rejected for training as a warrior-knight, Will ends up becoming an apprentice ranger on Choosing Day when each of the 15-year-old wards of Castle Redmont are assigned to a different master. He learns archery, knife-throwing, tracking people and concealing weapons—all in preparation to battle evil magic forces. **The Series: The Ruins of Gorlan, The Burning Bridge, The Icebound Land, The Battle for Skandia, The Sorcerer of the North, The Siege of Macindaw, Erak’s Ransom, The King of Clonmel**
Higson, Charlie
**The Young Bond Series**
Meet 13-year-old James, before he becomes the infamous 007 spy of Ian Fleming’s novels. **The Series:** *Silver Fin, Blood Fever, Double or Die, Hurricane Gold*

McNab, Andy & Robert Rigby
**Boy Soldier** (aka *Traitor*)
Orphaned Danny Watts wants nothing to do with his estranged grandfather, a traitor who went MIA years ago, until the British military offers Danny a proposition: find his grandfather and he'll receive a scholarship. He thinks the offer is his only chance for a decent future. Lots of adventure and military lingo. **The Series:** *Traitor, Payback, Avenger, Meltdown*

Meyer, L.A
**Bloody Jack Adventures**
A penniless orphan at the end of the 18th century in London, Mary joins a gang of street kids in order to survive. When the leader of her gang is killed, she takes his clothes, changes her name and heads out to sea as a ship's boy. Pretending to be a boy aboard a ship for two years is no easy feat, but "Jacky" manages quite skilfully. **The Series:** *Bloody Jack, Curse of the Blue Tattoo, Under the Jolly Roger, In the Belly of the Bloodhound, Mississippi Jack, My Bonny Light Horseman*

Montgomery, L.M.
**Anne of Green Gables**
Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert, unmarried middle-aged siblings, decide to adopt a boy to help out on their farm. They end up with precocious Anne who talks a lot. **The Series:** *Anne of Green Gables, Anne of Avonlea, Anne of the Island, Anne of Windy Poplars, Anne’s House of Dreams, Anne of Ingleside, Rainbow Valley, Rilla of Ingleside*

Novik, Naomi
**Temeraire Series**
Taking place during the Napoleonic Wars, this epic fantasy involves breeds of talking, thinking dragons. Each nation has its own breeds, but none are so jealously guarded as the mysterious dragons of China. That’s why Captain Will Laurence of the British Navy is shocked when his crew captures an egg from a French ship and it hatches a Chinese dragon. **The Series:** *His Majesty’s Dragon, Throne of Jade, Black Powder War, Empire of Ivory, Victory of Eagles*

Scott, Michael
**The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel**
Sophie and Josh Newman take summer jobs: she at a coffee shop, he at a bookstore owned by Nick and Perry Fleming. Thugs take Perry hostage and steal a rare book called the *Codex*, an ancient text of magical wisdom. Nick Fleming is really Nicholas Flamel, the 14th-century alchemist who could turn base metal into gold, and make a potion that ensures immortality. **The Series:** *The Alchemyst, The Magician, The Sorceress*
Westerfeld, Scott
The Uglies
In this futuristic society everyone remains ugly until age sixteen when an operation transforms you into a “pretty.” Pretties live together and just party all the time. A few months before she turns sixteen, Tally meets Shay who introduces her to another world, a world where people live free, a world where she learns the truth about the pretty world—and it’s not that pretty! The Series: Uglies, Pretties, Specials, Extras

Fiction
Alexie, Sherman
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
Arnold Spirit lives on a reservation in Wellpinit, Washington. He is dorky and smart—a real target for bullies. Luckily he has some skill in basketball as well as a desire to do something different with his life and get off the reservation. Arnold decides to go to the white high school in Reardan. As one can imagine, this causes problems for him, both on the reservation and in the white school. This is the story of his freshman year—and what a year it was!

Bodeen, S.A.
Compound
Ever since their world was destroyed by a nuclear attack, 15-year-old Eli and his family have lived in the Compound, a state-of-the-art bomb shelter built by his billionaire father. When Eli’s father begins to act suspiciously, Eli questions his father’s sanity. Perhaps the Compound is not the refuge it seems.

Cashore, Kristen
Graceling
Only certain people are born with a "grace." Those with graces, special skills in anything from swimming to fighting, can be identified by their different colored eyes. Katsa was born with a killing grace and her uncle, King Randa, makes her use it to his political advantage. Eventually Katsa takes her destiny into her own hands and joins forces with Po, another graceling fighter.

Collins, Suzanne
The Hunger Games
This is one heck of a televised reality show! In the country of Panem, two children between the ages of 12 and 18 are chosen from each district every year to compete in the Hunger Games, a fight to the death with only one victor. Katniss is chosen to represent District 12. Needless to say, this is not a game that most want to play. What follows is an amazing heart-wrenching adventure. Don’t miss this one!
Coy, John
**Box Out**
Liam has just been bumped up to starter on the varsity basketball team, and the pressure's on. When the team's coach starts counting on the power of prayer—and enforcing teamwide participation—Liam finds himself in a spotlight that's more nerve-racking than any trip to the free-throw line. In trying to stand up for what's right, Liam is forced to stand up for himself.

Danicat, Edwidge
**Behind the Mountains**
Celiane has been living in Haiti with her mother and brother, waiting to join her father in Brooklyn. She is excited to immigrate but nervous about seeing her father after such a long time. Get a glimpse of a modern immigrant experience.

DeKeyser, Stacy
**Jump the Cracks**
Victoria thinks her Dad hasn’t been trying hard enough to be a part of her life since her parents separated. When he invites her to stay with him in his New York City apartment, she accepts the invitation. On her train ride to New York, Victoria notices a woman leave her grubby toddler alone in the bathroom while she steps onto the platform to meet a sketchy-looking dude. The train leaves and Victoria finds herself traveling with little “William.” This is when things start to get out of control and the adventure begins!

Deuker, Carl
**Heart of a Champion**
Seth, who lost his father at age seven, becomes a baseball fanatic five years later, when he starts playing ball with Jimmy Winter and Jimmy's perfectionist father. But Mr. Winter is hardly perfect: an alcoholic, he abruptly moves out and then, months later, shows up drunk at a ballgame. Baseball, friendship and a gritty reality make this a compelling read.

Doctorow, Cory
**Little Brother**
Marcus (aka W1n5t0n) is out on the streets of San Francisco gaming with his friends when they are caught in the middle of a terrorist attack. The Department of Homeland Security takes them in for questioning as possible terrorist suspects. They are interrogated and held for days. In the aftermath of the attacks, the DHS take over San Francisco, turning it into a police state. Privacy is a thing of the past and everyone is a possible suspect. Marcus, with his technological know-how, decides that he has to do something about it.

Friesner, Ester
**Nobody’s Princess**
Although the young Helen of Troy is a beautiful princess, she wants more out of life. Helen sets out to get what she wants with steely determination and a sassy attitude. That same attitude makes Helen a few enemies—such as Theseus, the self-proclaimed "son of Zeus"—but it also intrigues and charms those who become her friends, from the huntress Atalanta to the Oracle of Delphi. The sequel is *Nobody’s Prize*. 
Green, John
**Paper Towns**
Q has known Margo Roth Spiegelman since they were two. Or has he? Q can’t help but wonder, when, a month before high-school graduation, she vanishes. At first he worries that she might have committed suicide, but then he begins discovering clues that seem to have been left for him, which might reveal Margo’s whereabouts…

Han, Jenny
**The Summer I Turned Pretty**
For Belly, the important parts of life all happen in the summer. This book has it all: a beach house, summer love, and enduring friendship. Another great title by the author of *Shug*.

Jinks, Catherine
**Evil Genius**
If you liked *Artemis Fowl*, you are bound to love this book. Set in Australia, Cadel Piggott is being groomed for evil. At the age of seven, Cadel gets busted for computer hacking and is sent to a psychologist. He attends the secret Axis Institute for World Domination, where he learns to become an expert at embezzlement, fraud, and misinformation.

Kantor, Melissa
**Girlfriend Material**
Kate is from Salt Lake City, Utah, and has just finished her sophomore year. Her mother decides to uproot her and drag her to Cape Cod for the summer, taking her away from her best friend and pulling her out of the summer writing program that she is attending at the University. Kate feels totally lost and wonders if she will ever be *girlfriend material*?

Knox, Elizabeth
**Dreamhunter**
“The Place” is a land that fosters dreams of every kind and is inaccessible to all but a select few: the dreamhunters who have the ability to catch dreams. People travel from all around to experience the benefits of the hunters’ unique visions. Laura and her cousin Rose, daughters of dreamhunters, are old enough to find out if they qualify to enter the Place. Laura’s dreamy childhood is ending, and a nightmare is beginning. The sequel is *Dreamquake*.

Lichtman, Wendy
**Do the Math: Secrets, Lies, and Algebra**
Tess embarks on an investigation after she begins to suspect that her mom’s friend has murdered his wife. What will she unearth? The sequel is *The Writing on the Wall*.

E. Lockhart
**The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks**
Frankie is a sophomore at a swanky boarding school and she is dating the very cool senior, Matthew Livingston. Written as a confessional, Frankie describes the semi-criminal activities she committed in her attempts to disrupt the all-male secret society at school called the Loyal Order of the basset hounds. Totally fun.
Lott, Tim
**Fearless**
Fearless lives at the juvenile detention center known as the City Community Faith School for Retraining, Opportunity and Hope. There is no opportunity at the school, nor is there hope; instead there is discipline, hunger, filth, slave-labor and no education to speak of. Fearless, true to her nickname, decides to sneak out and tell the word about the girls' plight. At first the world is unresponsive, but she persists...

Lupica, Mike
**The Big Field**
The latest by Lupica. Hutch plays shortstop. That is, he does until the arrival of Darryl "D-Will" Williams, the hottest shortstop prospect from Florida since A-Rod. Hutch is displaced big-time. How far will he go to be a member of the team?

Marchetta, Melina
**Jellicoe Road**
Taylor is the leader of one of the houses at her boarding school, but she is also the underground leader of her school's territory wars which occur every year with the townies and the cadets. The territory wars are serious business with the three groups vying for land and power. Ambushes, attacks and even kidnappings are all part of the "game." What's not part of the game is Taylor's search for clues to her past—why her mother abandoned her when she was eleven and the mystery of her father’s identity.

McCaughrean, Geraldine
**The White Darkness**
Sym has a rich imaginary life where she actually talks regularly to Captain Lawrence Oates, nicknamed Titus, who was part of Robert Scott's failed expedition to the South Pole in 1911. Sym knows everything there is to know about Antarctica because she has been obsessed with the topic for years. When Uncle Victor offers to take her and her mum to Paris for a few days, Sym jumps at the chance. However, things are not always as they appear and Sym finds herself in the middle of her own Antarctic expedition and her story, like that of Titus, is one of bravery and a fight for survival.

Padrian, Maria
**Brett McCarthy: Work in Progress**
Brett has always been awesome at soccer, vocabulary, and being a good friend and daughter. Suddenly, everything in her world goes topsy-turvy; she loses her best friend, argues with her parents, gets suspended twice and is forced to have private lunches with the principal. Will Brett figure out a way to get her life back to normal?

Perkins, Mitali
**Monsoon Summer**
Jazz’s mom announces that the whole family will be moving to Pune, India for the summer because she received a grant to work at the orphanage where she lived as a child. Jazz is not thrilled about the trip—she will have to leave her best friend Steve (with whom she is secretly in love) and the small business that she has worked so hard to establish!
Pfeffer, Susan Beth  
**Life As We Knew It**
When Miranda first begins hearing the reports of a meteor on a collision course with the moon, it hardly seems worth a mention in her diary. But after the meteor hits, pushing the moon off its axis and causing worldwide earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes, all the things Miranda used to take for granted begin to disappear.

Shusterman, Neal  
**Unwind**
In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways are on the run from the system that would “unwind” them.

Van Draanen, Wendelin  
**Swear to Howdy**
Hilarious and disturbing, this is the story of two boys who live in the sticks. They spend their summer going to swimming holes, shooting frogs, and playing pranks. Unfortunately one of their pranks goes terribly wrong....

Woodson, Jacqueline  
**After Tupac and D Foster**
When D Foster arrives everything changes for Neeka and her best friend. D comes from a world vastly different from their safe Queens neighborhood, and through her, the girls see another side of life that includes loss, foster families and an amount of freedom that makes the girls envious.

---

**Nonfiction, Memoir, Essays & Poetry**

Bausum, Ann  
**Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration**
Past immigration issues of economics, racism, national security, and patriotism mixed in with what is happening now. Individual chapters look closely at instances of immigration gone wrong, such as World War II holocaust refugees denied entry and Japanese Americans detained in camps.

Beals, Melba Patillo  
**Warriors Don’t Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock’s Central High**
The true story of the nine brave African-American students who stood up to hate and violence to integrate Little Rock High School in 1957, told by one of the nine.
Dandy, Leslie & Mel Boring
*Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-Experimenters in Science and Medicine*
Ten fascinating—and sometimes disgusting—stories of scientists who advanced knowledge by experimenting on themselves.

Kahn, Roger
*The Boys of Summer*
A classic sports book. Kahn, an award-winning sports writer, tells the story of the Brooklyn Dodgers—the team that broke the color barrier with Jackie Robinson.

Herriot, James
*All Creatures Great and Small*
If you love animals, you’ll love this book. This is Herriot’s story of his life as a veterinarian in the farmlands of Yorkshire, England.

Mortenson, Greg & David Oliver Relin
*Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Journey to Change the World…One Child at a Time (Young Reader’s Edition)*
While climbing K-2, one of the world’s most difficult mountains, the author became ill. After kind Pakistani villagers saved his life, he vowed to build a school for their children. The book describes how he did that—and much more—in the face of huge obstacles.

Nagorski, Tom
*Miracles on the Water: The Heroic Survivors of a World War II U-Boat Attack*
A British passenger liner was attacked by a Nazi submarine with 90 children aboard. Passengers rushed to lifeboats in the icy sea, but rescuers were nowhere to be seen. The author’s great uncle was among the survivors and this book is based largely on eye-witness accounts.

Nye, Naomi Shihab
*What Have You Lost?*
What have you lost? A collection of poems about lost gloves, memories and loved ones.

Thimmesh, Catherine
*Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon*
Apollo 11, the first moon landing, is a story that belongs to many, not just the few and famous. It belongs to the seamstress who put together twenty-two layers of fabric for each space suit. It belongs to the flight directors, camera designers, software experts, suit testers, telescope crew, aerospace technicians, photo developers, engineers, and navigators. A new take on a famous story with great photographs.
Rhodes-Courter, Ashley
**Three Little Words**
Read Ashley’s eye-opening story of the nine years she spent in the American foster care system.

Sedaris, David
**Me Talk Pretty Some Day**
These are scathing, hilarious vignettes of Sedaris’ life. Written in a dead-pan tone, his observations of his wacky family, friends and acquaintances are very entertaining.

---

**Graphic Novels**

Lutes, Jason & Nick Bertozzi
**Houdini: The Handcuff King**
Follow Houdini on the morning of his leap (while handcuffed) into the frigid Boston River. Meet his wife, Bess; his strong-arm man, Beatty; reporters desperate to get a quote; and crowds hungry for a glimpse of him. Most of all, get to know Houdini himself through these extraordinary graphics.

McCloud, Scott
This collection will keep even the fastest graphic novel reader busy for awhile. The series stars Zot, a teenager from an alternate Earth where rocket-powered boots and laser guns are commonplace, and Jenny, a girl from our Earth who just wants to escape her humdrum high school existence.

Satrapi, Marjane
**Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood**
A memoir about growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Descended from the last Emperor of Iran, Satrapi is nine when fundamentalist rebels overthrow the Shah. While Satrapi’s radical parents and their community initially welcome the ouster, they soon learn a new brand of totalitarianism is taking over. The sequel is *Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return.*

Spiegelman, Art
**Maus: A Survivor’s Tale: My Father Bleeds History**
The incredible story of Vladek Spiegelman, who lived through the Holocaust, as told by his cartoonist son, who tries to grasp what happened to his dad. The characters are depicted as mice and cats. Prize. A classic.
Yang, Gene luen
**American Born Chinese**
Three stories in one: the efforts of the Chinese folk hero Monkey King to shed his humble roots and be revered as a god; the struggles faced by Jin Wang, a lonely Asian-American middle school student who would do anything to fit in with his white classmates; and the sitcom plight of Danny, an All-American teen so shamed by his Chinese cousin Chin-Kee that he changes schools.

**Hands-On**

Haden, Christen
**Creepy Cute Crochet**
Who can resist crocheting a grim reaper figure, a ninja or a robot?

Karol, Amy
**Bend-the-Rules Sewing**
Sewing projects or beginners. Make a bag, pillow or a scalloped blanket.

Smith, Esther K.
**Magic Books & Paper Toys**
Make a pop-up or any number of other really cool book projects.

Tack, Karen & Alan Richardson
**Hello Cupcake!: Irresistibly Playful Creations Anyone Can Make**
This is the book for you if you have any desire to make an alien cupcake. Penguin cupcake anyone?

**How About a Classic?**

**Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens
**Lord of the Rings** by J.R.R. Tolkien
**Rebecca** by Daphne Du Maurier
**Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston
**Three Musketeers** by Alexandre Dumas
**Travels with Charley** by John Steinbeck

**Happy Reading!**

*Love, Ragan, Maria, Denise and Eva*