

## The Columbus Academy Middle School Summer Reading List 2009



Welcome to summer reading! The long, leisurely days of summer are just right for picking up a great book to read in a cool, shady spot. Spend some time each day reading, and you'll develop a habit that will last a lifetime. Attached you will find reading lists for each grade level.

### **Entering Grades 5 and 6:**

1. Small group books as assigned. Assignments related to the books will be given by the teachers leading the groups at the start of the school year.
2. Students are to choose **two** books from the appropriate grade list attached. Each book should be from a different genre. Be prepared to discuss the books with small groups of students who have read them also or to participate in other book-related activities.

### **Entering Grades 7 and 8:**

1. *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson is required reading for all students entering grades 7 and 8.
2. Small group books as assigned. Assignments related to the books will be given by the teachers leading the groups at the start of the school year.
3. Choose at least one book from the appropriate grade list attached.

*Note: Descriptions and reviews of summer reading book choices can be found at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)*

*Happy Summer Reading  
from the Middle School Language Arts Department!*

## SUMMER READING 2009 – Entering Grade 5

The summer reading requirement includes:

1. Your book group selection, as assigned.
2. **Two books of your choice from the list below. Each book should be from a different category.**  
Choose books you have not already read. You should be familiar enough with the books to be able to give a short book talk and to discuss the books with your classmates.

### Adventure

*The Cay* by Theodore Taylor  
*Ghost Canoe* by Will Hobbs  
*Running Out of Time* or *Among the Hidden* Margaret Peterson Haddix  
*The Kite Rider* by Geraldine McCaughrean  
*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi

### Fantasy

*The Divide* or *Beyond the Divide* by Elizabeth Kay  
*Dealing with Dragons* or other books in *The Enchanted Forest Chronicles* by Patricia Wrede  
*The Secret of Platform Thirteen, Which Witch?*, or *Island of the Aunts* by Eva Ibbotson  
*The Anybodies, The Nobodies, or The Somebodies* by N.E. Bode  
*Peter and the Starcatchers* and sequels by Dave Barry and Lindley Pearson

### Historical Fiction

*Bud, not Buddy* or *The Watsons go to Birmingham 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Crispin, the Cross of Lead* by Avi  
*Our Only May Amelia* by Jennifer L. Holm

### Mystery

*The Ghost of Fossil Glen* or *The Case of the Missing Manatee* by Cynthia DeFelice  
*Falcon's Malteser* (or other *Diamond Brothers' Mysteries*) by Anthony Horowitz  
*The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn (The Samurai Mysteries)* by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler  
*Found* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

### Nonfiction

*Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* by Jennifer Armstrong  
*Everybody's Revolution* by Thomas Fleming  
*The Daring Book for Girls* by Andrea J. Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz  
*The Dangerous Book for Boys* by Conn Iggulden and Hal Iggulden

### Realistic Fiction

*Walk Two Moons* or *Replay* by Sharon Creech  
*Ida B* by Katherine Hannigan  
*Double Dutch* by Sharon Draper  
*Flush* or *Hoot* by Carl Hiassen  
*The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall

### Sports

*Travel Team, The Big Field, or Summer Ball* by Mike Lupica  
*Jackie and Me* or other *Baseball Card Adventures* by Dan Gutman  
*Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery, Cover Up, or Vanishing Act* by John Feinstein  
*No Cream Puffs* by Karen Day

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## SUMMER READING 2009 – Entering Grade 6

1. Required reading group book, as assigned
2. Please choose *two* books **that you have not already read** from the list below. Each book should be from a different genre. Although you do not need to take notes as you read, you should be prepared to write about the two books and to discuss them with others in your class.

### Adventure/Mystery

*The Calder Game* or *Wright 3* by Blue Balliett  
*Half Moon Investigations* by Eoin Colfer  
*Silverfin (A James Bond Adventure)* by Charlie Higson  
*Stormbreaker* and sequels by Anthony Horowitz

### Classics

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott  
*The Dark is Rising* sequence by Susan Cooper  
*King of the Wind* by Marguerite Henry  
*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

### Fantasy/Science Fiction

*Summerland* by Michael Chabon  
*The Shadow Thieves* by Anne Ursu  
*Coraline* by Neil Gaiman  
*City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau

### Historical Fiction

*Water Street* by Patricia Reilly Giff  
*Out of the Dust* or *Witness* by Karen Hesse  
*Montmorency* by Eleanor Updale  
*Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman  
*Percy Jackson and the Olympians* – any book in the series by Rick Riordan

### Nonfiction

*Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science* by John Fleischman  
*Journey to the Bottomless Pit: The Story of Stephen Bishop and Mammoth Cave* by E. Mitchell  
*The Boys' War* by Jim Murphy  
*On the Field with Mia Hamm* by Matt Christopher

### Realistic Fiction

*Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam* by Cynthia Kadohata  
*The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place* by E.L. Konigsburg  
*A Corner of the Universe* by Ann Martin  
*Small Steps* by Louis Sachar  
*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

### Sports Fiction

*Heat* or *Miracle on 49<sup>th</sup> Street* by Mike Lupica  
*The Boy Who Saved Baseball* by John H. Ritter  
*Soccer Chick Rules* by Dawn FitzGerald

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## SUMMER READING 2009 - Entering Grade 7

1. Required for all students: *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson
2. Required reading group book, as assigned
3. Choose at least one book from the list below:

### **Adventure Fiction**

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London  
*White Fang* by Jack London  
*The Wreckers* by Iain Lawrence  
*Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne

### **Biography/Memoir**

*Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* by Ji-Li Jang  
*Bad Boy: A Memoir* by Walter Dean Myers  
*A Year of Impossible Goodbyes* by Sook Nyul Choi

### **General Fiction**

*Nothing But the Truth* by Avi  
*Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier  
*Gifted* by Beth Evangelista  
*Freak, the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick

### **Historical Fiction**

*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Mary. Bloody Mary* by Carolyn Meyer

### **Science Fiction/Fantasy**

*Life As We Knew It* by Susan Pfeffer  
*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

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## SUMMER READING 2009 - Entering Grade 8

1. Required for all students: *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson
2. Required reading small group book, as assigned
3. Choose at least ONE book from the following list:

### **Fantasy/Science Fiction**

*Watership Down* by Richard Adams  
*The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury  
*Z for Zachariah* by Robert O'Brien

### **Historical Fiction**

*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne  
*Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers  
*The Last Silk Dress* by Anne Rinaldi

### **Non-fiction**

*Hole in My Life* by Jack Gantos  
*The Life and Death of Adolph Hitler* by James Cross Giblin

### **Poetry**

*Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States* by Lori Carlson, ed.

### **Realistic Fiction**

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Code Talkers: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of WWII* by Joseph Bruchac  
*Godless* by Pete Hautman  
*Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes  
*Son of the Mob* by Gordon Korman  
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

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