

May 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

Our school district has a required summer reading program. On the other side of this letter is a list of recommended books to read during the summer. Because students' maturity and reading levels vary, we encourage parents to participate actively in selecting their children's reading.

Students are expected to read and respond to two books from the list for the grade they will be entering in the fall. Students are responsible for obtaining their own books; the public libraries, as well as local booksellers specializing in children's and young adult literature, will have most of these titles available. Some schools will have book fairs this spring featuring these summer reading titles.

(continued on back)

All students must be prepared to share and evaluate the two books they read soon after school begins in September.

**TASK #1:** Be prepared to make a written recommendation to your teacher that a book you read be retained or deleted from next year's list.

**TASK #2:** Guidelines for the assignment for the second book you read will be given the first or second week of school. This assignment could be in-class writing, a book talk, or a special project.

We are very excited about this program and hope the books on this list will provide knowledge and pleasure for your child. We encourage you to read and/or discuss these books with your student.

Sincerely,

**Erica Cuyugan**, Young Adult Librarian, Santa Monica Public Library

**Joe Di Mercurio**, Librarian, Malibu High School

**Kelly Urtz**, Librarian, Lincoln Middle School



## INCOMING 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## SUMMER READING LIST

★ 2010 ★

SANTA MONICA-  
MALIBU UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



## REALISTIC

**BASKIN, NORA RALEIGH - ANYTHING BUT TYPICAL.** Jason, a 12-year old boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world.

**FLAKE, SHARON - THE SKIN I'M IN.** Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.

**HINTON, S.E. - THE OUTSIDERS.** Ponyboy is 14, tough, confused, yet sensitive - when his best friend kills a rival gang member, a nightmare of violence begins.

**RYAN, PAM MUNOZ - BECOMING NAOMI LEON.** When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

**SOTO, GARY - LOCAL NEWS.** A collection of thirteen short stories about the everyday lives of Mexican American young people in California's Central Valley.

**SPINELLI, JERRY - LOSER.** Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

**VAN DRAANEN, WENDELIN - FLIPPED.** In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

## SPORTS

**LUPICA, MIKE - HEAT.** Twelve-year-old Michael Arroyo is a star pitcher who struggles with his father's death as he pursues his dream of leading his South Bronx All-Stars to the Little League World Series.

**MYERS, WALTER DEAN - SLAM!** Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

## HISTORICAL

**AVI - CRISPIN: THE CROSS OF LEAD.** Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

**LESTER, JULIUS - DAY OF TEARS.** During the Weeping Time, the largest slave auction in American history, Emma is one of over 400 slaves sold to pay off Pierce Butler's gambling debts.

**NAMIOKA, LENSEY - TIES THAT BIND, TIES THAT BREAK.** Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound.

**PARK, LINDA SUE - A SINGLE SHARD.** Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

**SCHLITZ, LAURA AMY - GOOD MASTERS! SWEET LADIES!: VOICES FROM A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE.** A collection of plays featuring characters from the 13-century such as the Barbary, the mud slinger, and Jack, the half-wit.

## MYSTERY & ADVENTURE

**BLACKWOOD, GARY - THE SHAKESPEARE STEALER.** A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

**HOUBLER, DOROTHY - IN DARKNESS, DEATH.** In eighteenth-century Japan, young Seikei becomes involved with a ninja as he helps Judge Ooka, his foster father, investigate the murder of a samurai.

**PATTERSON, JAMES - MAXIMUM RIDE: THE ANGEL EXPERIMENT.** Max leads her feisty half-human, half-bird "family" on an action-packed journey from Death Valley, California, to the bowels of the New York City subway system to rescue their youngest sister Angel.

**PAULSEN, GARY - BRIAN'S WINTER.** Brian is forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

## BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY

**JIMENEZ, FRANCISCO - BREAKING THROUGH.** Having come from Mexico to California ten years ago, fourteen-year-old Francisco is still working in the fields but fighting to improve his life and complete his education.

**THOMSON, SARAH - THREE CUPS OF TEA (YOUNG READER'S EDITION).** When mountaineer Greg Mortenson becomes lost in the mountains and is rescued by Pakistani villagers, he vows to return to build a village school.

## SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY

**BARRON, T.A. - THE LOST YEARS OF MERLIN.** A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

**SCOTT, MICHAEL - THE ALCHEMYST: THE SECRETS OF THE IMMORTAL NICHOLAS FLAMMEL.** Twins Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in a centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flammel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas.

**SHUSTERMAN, NEIL - THE SCHWA WAS HERE.** When eighth-grader Antsy Bonano realizes his friend Calvin Schwa has the ability to be nearly invisible, he concocts a money-making scheme.

**WREDE, PATRICIA - DEALING WITH DRAGONS.** Determined not to be pushed into marrying a boring and proper prince, Princess Cimerone flees her kingdom and becomes an assistant to the dragon Kazul.

## CLASSIC

**ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY - LITTLE WOMEN.** Chronicles the joys and troubles of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies and marry in 19th-century New England.

**RAWLS, WILSON - WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS.** A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.