

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.

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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 8TH
GRADE

SUMMER
READING LIST
2010

SANTA MONICA-
MALIBU UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT



REALISTIC

BAUER, JOAN - *HOPE WAS HERE*. When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

DEUKER, CARL - *NIGHT HOOPS*. While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

HINTON, S.E. - *THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW*. Sixteen-year-old Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate.

LUBAR, DAVID — *SLEEPING FRESHMAN NEVER LIE*. Scott, a ninth-grader, keeps a hilarious diary with a list of “do's” and “don'ts” for surviving freshman year in hopes of helping his unborn sibling.

MURDOCK, CATHERINE GILBERT - DAIRY QUEEN. After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, 16-year old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

MYERS, WALTER DEAN - *AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MY DEAD BROTHER*. After the death of a close friend, Jesse pours his heart and soul into his sketchbook to make sense of life in his troubled Harlem neighborhood.

NA, AN - *A STEP FROM HEAVEN*. A young Korean girl and her family find it hard to adjust to life in America.

PHILBRICK, RODMAN - *FREAK THE MIGHTY*. Max, a large eighth-grader with a learning disability, becomes friends with Freak, an intelligent boy who is physically impaired.

SONES, SONYA - *WHAT MY MOTHER DOESN'T KNOW*. Through poetry, Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.

CLASSIC

AUSTEN, JANE - *EMMA*. Emma devotes her formidable energies to matchmaking between friends and acquaintances in the village of Highbury. The plot turns on a romance of which she is wholly unaware.

SMITH, BETTY - *A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN*. The tale of a little girl living in the slums of Brooklyn, who dreamily watches out her window as a tree struggles to reach the sky.

HISTORICAL

ANDERSON, LAURIE HALSE - *CHAINS*. After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

MOSES, SHELIA - *THE LEGEND OF BUDDY BUSH*. In 1947, twelve-year-old Pattie Mae is sustained by her dreams of escaping Rich Square, North Carolina, and moving to Harlem when her Uncle Buddy is under arrest for attempted rape of a white woman and her grandfather is diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor.

OTSUKA, JULIE - *WHEN THE EMPEROR WAS DIVINE*. The five members of a Japanese American family present their unique perspectives on the experience of being forced into an internment camp during World War II.

SCHMIDT, GARY — *THE WEDNESDAY WARS*. In 1967, Holling Hoodhood starts seventh grade and experiences a series of mishaps and adventures involving cream puffs, yellow tights, Shakespeare and the New York Yankees.

MYSTERY & ADVENTURE

DU MAURIER, DAPHNE - *REBECCA*. For months after her death, the memory of Rebecca de Winter continues to dominate everyone at her former home, Manderley, a famous English country house.

HOROWITZ, ANTHONY - *EAGLE STRIKE*. Teenage spy Alex Rider investigates international pop star and philanthropist Damian Cray whose new video game venture hides sinister motives involving Air Force One, nuclear missiles, and the international drug trade.

YANCEY, RICK — *THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF ALFRED KROPP*. When teenager Alfred Kropp accidentally rescues King Arthur's legendary Excalibur, he begins a dangerous mission to keep the sword safe from the forces of evil.

SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY

ADAMS, DOUGLAS - *THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY*. Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.

CARD, ORSON SCOTT - *ENDER'S GAME*. In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers.

CRICHTON, MICHAEL - *ANDROMEDA STRAIN*. For five days, American scientists struggle to identify and control a deadly new form of life.

FARMER, NANCY - *THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION*. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

KLAUSE, ANNETTE - *SILVER KISS*. A mysterious teenage boy harboring a dark secret helps Zoe come to terms with her mother's terminal illness.

WESTERFELD, SCOTT - *UGLIES*. Growing up in a futuristic world, 15 year old Tally, a fun-loving trickster, attracts the attention of the secret police when she begins to question the society she lives in and break the rules.

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY

MÜLLER, MELISSA - *ANNE FRANK: THE BIOGRAPHY*. Chronicles the life of Anne Frank and discusses her childhood, the time she spent hidden in the annex, who betrayed the people living in the annex, the experiences she and her family had in the concentration camps, and other related topics

SPIEGELMAN, ART - *MAUS I*. A story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father's story and history itself.