



February, 2017

Dear Parents and Students:

ALL students at Woodcreek Middle School who are enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year will be required to read over the summer. In addition, each student must complete an assignment for their Reading/Language Arts Class. There is only one book list for all 3 grade levels and 1 choice list for their assignment. This is different from past years.

The assignment will be due NO LATER than September 22, 2017. Grades 6, 7 and 8 will choose from the one list. The list is developed by public and school librarians from the Young Adult Round Table specifically for grades 6 – 8. Parent and student should look at the list together and decide on book choice. Take note of recommended age range on each book title.

Points will be deducted for everyday the assignment is late thereafter. The assignment will count as a double formative for Pre-ap and 1 formative for on-level classes. Summer Reading assignments provide several advantages for students, including maintaining skills over the summer, fostering independent learning, and continued love of reading. Enjoy!

Thank you for your cooperation and continuing interest in your child's education.

Should you have any questions, please email Brenda.rider@humble.k12.tx.us.

WMS RELA Department

Spirit of Texas Reading Program for Middle School

Please note Recommended Age Range for each book as well as the lexile (reading level)

Not all books are appropriate for all age levels, help your child decide

Allen, Crystal, Recommended Age Range 11 – 14, Lexile 550

Featured Titles – *How Lamar's Bad Prank Won a Bubba-Sized Trophy* Balzer + Bray. 2011.

Hardcover: 978-0-06-199272-8 Paperback: 978-0-06-199273-5

When thirteen-year-old, bowling –obsessed Lamar Washington finds out that his idol is coming to town, he finds himself involved in some unsavory activities as he tries to change his image to impress people.

***The Laura Line*, Recommended Age Range 8 – 10, Lexile 650**

Hardcover: 978-0-06-199274-2

When Laura Dyson's seventh-grade history teacher schedules a class trip to the slave shack on her grandmother's farm, Laura is forced to come to terms with her family's past and what it means for her future.

Bacon, Lee – Recommended Age Range 8 to 10, Lexile 700

Featured Title – *Joshua Dread*. Delacorte Press, 2012. Hardcover: 978-0-385-74185-9,

Paperback: 978-0-307-92998-3, Audiobook: 978-0-8041-2183-5, ebook: 978-0-375-98721-2

Sixth grader Joshua Dread's life is far from ordinary. As the son of the super villains, the Dread Duo, Josh spends most of his time traveling from town to town. Living in Sheepdale for a while, Josh has adjusted to a fairly normal existence, when he becomes "gyfted" with the power of spontaneous combustion. When new girl Sophie shows up at school, Josh finds another "gyfted" teen, but Sophie is also the daughter of Captain Justice, his parents' archenemy.

Baldwin, Kathleen, Recommended Age Range 13 – 18, Lexile 680

Featured Titles – *The School for Unusual Girls*. Tor, 2015.

Hardcover: 978-0-7653-7600-8

In 1918, London, Georgiana is relieved that ball-gown flounces are not a priority at Stranje House, which fronts as a girls' reform school. Instead, she is assigned a chemistry project of international importance.

De los Santos, Marisa and Teague, David, Recommended Age Range 10-11, Lexile 840

Featured Titles – *Connect the Stars*. HarperCollins. 2015.

Hardcover: 978-0-06-227465-6

When thirteen-year-olds Aaron and Audrey meet at a wilderness camp in the desert, they think their quirks are enough to prevent them from ever having friends. But as they trek through the challenging and unforgiving landscape, they learn that they each have what it takes to make the other whole.

Fry, Michael, Recommended Age Range 8 – 10, Lexile 500

Featured Title – *The Odd Squad, Disney Hyperion*, 2013. Hardcover: 978-1-42316-924-6

"Shortest Kid on the planet," Nick is bullied incessantly. When he and two other misfits are forced into Safety Patrol by the middle school students things begin to develop.

Halls, Kelly Milner, Recommended Age Range 10 – 18, Lexile 1240

Featured Title – *Alien Investigation: Searching for the Truth about UFOs and Aliens*.

Millbrook Press, 2012, Hardcover: 978-07613-6204-3, ebook; 978-0-7613-8844-9

The author begins with an alien alter ego names Yllek (Kelly spelled backwards) who is planning a possible journey through space. His perspective is sprinkled throughout this historical survey of UFO and extraterrestrial sightings, providing a humorous touch to the information.

Holt, K.A., Recommended Age Range 9 – 14, Lexile 610

Featured Title – *House Arrest*. Chronicle, 2015.

Hardcover: 978-1-45213-477-2

Young Timothy is sentenced to house arrest after impulsively stealing a wallet, and he is forced to keep a journal into which he pours all his thoughts, fears and frustrations.

Honeyman, Kay, Age 11 – 13, Lexile 660

Featured Title – *The Fire Horse Girl*. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2013. Hardcover: 978-0-545-40310-8, eBook: 978-0-545-53224-2

The Fire Horse Girl is a tale of adventure and romance that, as the back cover claims, unforgettable. The heroine, Jade Moon, is a Fire Horse, the worst Zodiac Sign for girls. In her Chinese village, she is ignored by her family, and insulted by their neighbors Auntie Wu, and her family.

Levinson, Cynthia, Recommended Age Range 11 -13, Lexile 1020

Featured Title – *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March*. Peachtree, 2012.

Hardcover: 978-1-56145-627-7, Audiobook: 978-0-449-01518-6

In 1963, three to four thousand black children went to jail to try to stop segregation. This critically acclaimed book tells their story.

Loftin, Nikki, Recommended Age Range 8 – 12, Lexile 630

Featured Title – *Nightingale's Nest*. Razorbill, 2014.

Hardcover: 978-1-59514-546-8 Paperback: 978-1-59514-623-6

In this twist on "The Nightingale," Little John, despite his own poverty and grief, reaches out to Gayle, an unhappy foster child living next door, who sings beautifully and hides a great secret.

The Sinister Sweetness of Splendid Academy. Razorbill, 2012., **Recommended Age Range 8 – 12, Lexile 560** Hardcover: 978-1-59514-508-6 Paperback: 978-1-59514-628-1
1 In this twist of "Hansel and Gretel," two middle-school students find themselves in a new charter school filled with an abundance of food at mealtimes and sinister teachers up to no good.

Wish Girl, Recommended Age Range 8-10, Lexile 590

Hardcover: 978-1-59514-686-1 Paperback: 978-1-59514-687-8

Feeling out of place in an extroverted family that communicates by yelling, Peter finds tranquility in his relationship with Annie, a girl who is faced with surgery for a rapidly growing brain tumor.

Mealer, Bryan, Recommended Age Range 14 – 18 Lexile 960

Featured Title – *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Dial Books for Young Readers. 2015.

Hardcover: 978-0-8037-4080-8

When William, a Malawian teen, began building a windmill from scraps and claimed the machine would generate electricity, everyone in his village thought he was crazy.

Nichols, Travis, Recommended Age Range 11-14, Lexile 770

Featured Title – *Matthew Meets the Man*. Roaring Brook Press, 2012,c2011. Hardcover: 978-1-59643-545-2, eBook: 978-1-42995-042-8

Matthew Swanbeck has a classic problem. Back in seventh grade, his dad talked him into playing the trumpet instead of the drums.

greater interaction between Texas authors and illustrators, Texas librarians, and Texas youth. The Spirit of Texas Reading Program-Middle School is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum. Due to the diversity of this Recommended Age Range, Texas librarians should purchase titles on this list according to their individual collection policies. Each author featured on the list has had at least one book favorably reviewed for grades 6-8 in a professional review source. Six authors will be featured bi-monthly with all programming available year round.

See <http://txla.org/groups/SpiritofTXMiddleSchool> for more information and to access the programs.

Required for ALL students

WMS Summer Reading Assignments

For all grade levels

Choose **1** novel from the list provided. Read the novel and make any notes you feel will help you with your summer project.

Choose **1** of the following projects to complete that show your understanding of the novel you have read. This project will be one of your first important grades for the next year so make sure that it showcases your talent and abilities. This project could require a significant amount of time beyond just reading the book, so do not rush your project. Regardless of the project you choose you should include information relating and showing your understanding of: the plot of the story, the characters involved, the themes or big ideas in the story, and your opinion of the book.

Some ideas are as follows:

- book/movie trailer,
- recreate a scene,
- a recorded book talk that covers one of the themes in the novel,
- Investigate and reveal the

1. Design a **multimedia** presentation (about 1 and a half minutes long) for your novel. Do not use Power Point, but be creative using technology. Options are endless! Some resources could be iMovie or Windows Movie Maker, or web based programs like Animoto (<https://animoto.com/>). Remember, your project must include plot events, character analysis and themes from your book.



2. Make an illustrated timeline of the novel. You must illustrate 10 different events/scenes from the story you selected. Your illustrations must be put in proper order for your book, and should show the characters and events of importance throughout your story. Be sure to include a written explanation of why you chose each scene and how it relates to the theme of the novel. Illustrations will be graded on quality and must be in color; no stick figures will be accepted. Remember, your project must include plot events, character analysis and themes from your book.



3. Create a newspaper for the town/city your story takes place in. Have the stories and features of the newspaper be about the characters and events in your novel. Your newspaper should contain information about the characters, setting, plot, and theme(s) of the novel. The newspaper should be informative and must contain text and pictures. You could include editorials, weather reports, sports, reports, feature stories. Be creative! Here is a link for a newspaper template: <http://www.extranewspapers.com/newspaper-template-pack-word-school/> Remember, your project must include plot events, character analysis and themes from your book.



4. **Book Jacket:** Must be your own design – do not duplicate original book jacket. Remember, your project must include plot events, character analysis and themes from your book. Create a colorful, engaging book jacket that includes the following:

a. **Cover:** New cover for the book with illustration, title, author, and student name.

b. **Inner Flap:** (left side):

Summary – Sequential summary of key story events from the reading

Characters – discuss the major characters in the story and their personalities

c. **Inner Flap:** (right side):

Text Connections (1 text to text, 1 text to self, and 1 text to world)

d. **Back Flap:** Theme – Description of the theme in the novel make sure to support your answer with specific examples from the story.

<http://desktoppub.about.com/od/glossary/g/Book-Jacket.htm>

<http://www.readwritethink.net/files/resources/interactives/bookcover/>

<http://homeworktips.about.com/od/englishhomework/ss/How-To-Design-A-Book-Cover.htm>

5. **Talk Show:** Imagine the characters from the book are on a talk show that is either about an issue that arose in the book or a show for people that are interested in reading the book. Create a script for the talk show and record a short video of the interview. You will host the show, and decide who to invite as guests. Provide enough scripting to lead the audience to an understanding of the issue or the novel itself. While you read the book think about the main ideas and message the book conveys. Make sure your interview questions and responses are open ended so you guests are prompted to do most of the talking. If, for example, you have your interviewer ask, "Did you like being the main character in the story?" the guest might give a one word answer like "Yes". Instead ask, "What was the best part about being the main character in this book?"



Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

| | 4 (excellent work) | 3 (acceptable work) | 2 (inadequate work) | 1 (disappointing work) |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Theme 20 pts. | Project shows clear understanding of the big ideas and messages behind the novel. Includes insightful comments not only about what themes are present but how those themes can be expressed beyond the novel. | One major theme from the story is included and explained by the student. Some effort has been made to show how these themes were expressed and could relate. | One theme is listed but is not explained or explored in much detail. | Theme is missing, or mentioned with no detail or connection to the novel. |
| Character 20 pts. | All characters are fully explored and discussed through the student's project, including character motivations and traits. The project shows a clear understanding of the how the author created the characters. | All major characters are described through the student's project, but some minor characters may be missing discussion on character traits and motivations. The project shows some understanding of how the author created the characters. | Some characters may be listed or missing, very little comment on characterization is provided. | Lists of characters only, lacking discussion of motivations, traits, or how the author created the characters. |
| Plot 20 pts. | The plot of the novel is fully explained and explored. The project shows a careful and detailed reading of the novel. Student has made multiple connections and insights into the plot beyond simply explaining the events. | The plot of the story is included and complete. This is not simply a summary of the story but a well written explanation of what takes place throughout the novel. Provides some connections and insight on the events. | Student has provided a brief summary of the events in the novel without commentary or explanation. | Some aspects of the story are missing or not fully explained, hard to follow the events. It is not clear that the student has read the novel at all. |
| Quality 40 pts. | Project is clearly something the student worked hard on. Artwork is carefully drawn and colored, written portions are typed and free from errors. The project shows a finished quality that a student should be proud of and demonstrates exceptional effort. | Project shows effort to produce a finished, high quality product. Most illustrations show the result of time and attention. Some errors may persist but they do not distract from the content of the work. | Some time was spent on project but there are clear signs that more effort was needed. Extensive errors can be distracting and should have been fixed before a final copy was turned in. | Project was clearly rushed and has not been carefully constructed. Illustrations and artwork are uncolored, sloppy, or missing. Spelling and grammatical errors make project difficult to read. |