

William Annin Middle School Library Media Center
70 Quincy Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920



SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS



Why not read some of the books nominated for the
2008 Garden State Book Award (GSBA)?
You can vote for all your favorites in the fall.
Pick up a ballot in your school or public library next September.

Allison, Jennifer. ***Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator***

During the summer before ninth grade, intrepid Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his thirteen-year-old daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower. **(GSBA nominee)**

Barron, T.A. ***The Lost Years of Merlin***

A young boy who has neither identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures. Read all the books in the series!

Bruchac, Joseph. ***Code Talker***

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue. **(GSBA nominee)**

Clugston-Major, Chynna. ***Queen Bee***

Haley wants to be in the popular group, "the Hive," at her new school. With a little help from her psychokinesis, she saves a few kids from bullies and makes a name for herself as the new "Queen Bee." All is well until another new girl, Alexa, with the same power as Haley, charms the entire school in less than a day to take over as Queen. The two girls create havoc for each other day after day, but only one girl can remain on top of the Hive. **(GSBA nominee)**

Collins, Suzanne. ***Gregor the Overlander***

Gregor and his sister fall through an air duct in his New York City apartment house laundry room. They land far below in the Underland populated by humans, giant spiders, bats and rats.
Sequels: ***Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane*** and ***Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods***

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. ***The Seeing Stone***

In late twelfth-century England, a thirteen-year-old boy named Arthur recounts how Merlin gives him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, the events of whose life seems to have many parallels to his own.

DuPrau, Jeanne. ***The City of Ember***

In Ember, a town lit only by electrical power, twelve-year olds Lina Marfleet and Door Harrow take upon themselves to investigate why lights keep failing to save the doomed city. Sequel: *The People of Sparks*

Farmer, Nancy. ***The Sea of Trolls***

In a tale inspired by Norse legend, Jack sets off on a quest and encounters wild adventures and outrageous characters, including trolls, dragons, giant spiders and fierce boars.

Feinstein, John. ***Last Shot: a Final Four Mystery***

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game. Continue this series in ***Vanishing Act*** when eighth-grade sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open tennis championships where they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top Russian player.

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Gantos, Jack. **Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key**

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting work up and acting wired. Sequels are **Joey Pigza Loses Control** and **What Would Joey Do?**

Lupica, Mike. **Heat**

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt that he is only twelve years old. He has no parents to offer them proof of age and all of his papers are in Cuba. Other sports books by this author include **Travel Team** and **Miracle on 49th Street**.

Oppel, Kenneth. **Airborn**

Matt, a cabin boy aboard a luxury airship, saves a dying balloonist whose ship has been damaged. The balloonist's last words are about beautiful, winged creatures. One year later, the granddaughter of the balloonist takes passage on the airship, hoping to find the mysterious creatures. Continue the story in **Skybreaker**. (GSBA nominee)

Peck, Richard. **A long Way from Chicago**

A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than – life grandmother. The story continues in **A Year Down Yonder**, when 15-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty grandmother.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. **Criss Cross**

Teenagers in a small town experience new thoughts and feelings as they question their identities. They connect and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life. (2006 Newbery Award)

Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief**

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war. (GSBA nominee) Also try the sequel: **The Sea of Monsters**

Sonnenblick, Jordan. **Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie**

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen year –old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, school life, and his desire to support his family. (GSBA nominee)

Westerfeld, Scott **Uglies**

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to an operation that turns 16 year-old girls into gorgeous beauties. She realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like. (GSBA nominee) **Pretties** and **Specials** are the next books in the trilogy. Also, look for **Extras**, which will be published this summer.

Wilson, Diane Lee. **Black Storm Comin'**

Twelve-year-old Colton, son of an African-American mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 after his father abandons the family on their California-bound wagon train, and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South. (GSBA nominee)

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NON-FICTION SUGGESTIONS

(All are nominated for the 2008 Garden State Book Award)

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. ***Hitler Youth: Growing up in Hitler's Shadow***

What was it like to be a teenager in Germany under Hitler? Through diaries, letters, and interviews the author describes experiences of those who followed Hitler and fought for the Nazis, revealing why they joined and how Hitler used them.

Blumenthal, Karen. ***Let Me Play: the Story of Title IX, the Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America***

Interesting and easy-to-follow chapters highlight the process of creating, revising, fighting for, and ultimately passing this legislation that gave girls and women equal access to physical-education classes, gymnasiums, universities, and graduate schools.

Dendy, Leslie. ***Guinea Pig Scientists***

Scientists and doctors throughout history put themselves at risk to discover such mysteries as how atmospheric heat affects body temperature, how we digest food, and how supersonic speed affects the safety of a jet pilot's ejection seat.

Giblin, James Cross. ***Good Brother, Bad Brother: the Story of Edwin and John Wilkes Booth***

Edwin Booth was the greatest classical actor of his day. His younger brother, John, assassinated Abraham Lincoln. For every person who knows of Edwin Booth, thousands more know about his murderous sibling. Such is the way with heroes and villains! Of great interest are details of the conspiracy John hatched to kidnap the president to ransom him for Confederate prisoners.

Johnson, Delores. ***Onward: A Photobiography of African-American Polar Explorer Matthew Henson***

The quest to be the first to reach the North Pole is an exciting adventure story, and Henson got there first, as part of the ninth expedition led by Robert Peary in 1909. But Henson was African American and he did not get full recognition until 2001. Stunning photographs help tell the inspiring story of the African-American polar explorer.



WHY READ IN THE SUMMER?

(We know the answer! Those who read...SUCCEED!)

“Reading Can Make You Smarter!” In an article by Anne Cunningham and Keith Stanovich (*Principal* November/December 2003: 34-39) the authors report that the more children read, the greater their vocabulary and the better their cognitive skills.

“In *Summer Learning and the Effects of Schooling* (Academic Press, 1978), Barbara Heyns followed sixth and seventh graders in the Atlanta public schools through two school years and one summer. Among the findings of her research:

- The number of books read during the summer is consistently related to academic gains.
- Children in every income group who read six or more books over the summer gained more in reading achievement than children who did not.
- The use of the public library during the summer is more predictive of vocabulary gains than attending summer school is.”

In Stephen Krashen’s book, *The Power of Reading*, (Libraries Unlimited, 1993) the value of **free voluntary reading** in the development of reading, writing and spelling skills is demonstrated. Studies are reviewed that illustrate how free voluntary reading benefits student achievement, including these highlights:

- People who read more, write better.
- Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed.
- Outstanding high school writers reported extensive summer reading.

We hope that you choose to READ this summer!

These book suggestions were compiled by Kathleen Hedden, Media Specialist at William Annin Middle School and Karen Olivari, Young Adult Services Librarian at Bernards Township Library.

Copies of these and other great books are available at the township library.

This list, and many other lists of books to read, can be found online at:

<http://www.bernardsboe.com/wams/cybrary/ReadingList/ReadingHomePage.htm>