

“When children read what they enjoy, they learn to love reading and become better readers.”

*Janet Welch, Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and New York's State Librarian*

May, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The New York State Education Department encourages educators and school administrators to involve students in summer reading. Summer reading provides an excellent opportunity for students to continue to enhance literacy skills developed throughout the school year. It is also an opportunity to engage students in reading for fun and at their own level of interest and ability. To this end, the Plainview – Old Bethpage School District is issuing a Summer Reading List to all middle school students. The Middle School’s English Language Arts Teachers, the Reading Specialists, and the Library Media Specialists developed this diverse list from titles recommended by the American Library Association and professional journals. We invite parents and students to carefully review these lists and make every effort to have students read as much as possible over the upcoming summer. Students **MUST** read one book from this list and will be required to complete an assignment on their book selection in September. Please find a reading worksheet enclosed which can serve as a note-taking resource. It is important for all students to maintain good reading habits over the summer so as not to fall behind for the opening of school in September 2009. According to the National Reading Panel's 2000 report, hundreds of studies suggest that the more children read, the better their fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

The Summer Reading List contains a wide variety of genres from which students may select reading materials. Parents should become familiar with these lists so as to guide their children to make appropriate selections. As well, the Plainview – Old Bethpage Public Library and local bookstores have received copies of our Summer Reading Lists and will be happy to help your children select books. Public libraries provide a great opportunity to use computers, search the Internet, and socialize with peers. In addition, a link will be provided on the district’s website to connect you with the statewide summer reading programs, “Be Creative @ Your Library” and “Express Yourself @ Your Library.”

On behalf of the Plainview-Old Bethpage schools, we wish you a healthy and enjoyable summer. Please enjoy frequent visits to libraries and book stores. Make literacy, in all of its aspects, a part of the time you spend together this summer.

Mr. Dean Mittleman  
Principal

Dr. Edward Metzendorf  
Principal

Mr. Jeffrey Yagaloff  
English Language Arts Chair, K – 12



Crutcher, Chris.	<i>Sledding Hill</i>	Realistic/Mature
Billy, recently deceased, keeps an eye on his best friend Eddie, and helps him stand up to a conservative minister who is also an English teacher who is trying to ban a book.		
Deuker, Carl.	<i>On the Devil's Court</i>	Realistic
Joe must decide whether it's worth selling his soul to the devil for one perfect season of basketball.		
Farmer, Nancy.	<i>The House of the Scorpion</i>	Newbery Medal/Science Fiction
Matt is the clone of El Patron, a drug lord, in this science fiction work that explores the social implications of technological advances and their effect on humanity.		
Fleischman, Paul.	<i>Mind's Eye</i>	Realistic
88-year-old Elva and Courtney, an attractive 16-year-old with a severed spinal cord, lie in adjacent beds in a grim convalescent home and use their imaginations to escape on a fantasy trip to Italy in this novel written in dialogue.		
Fogelin, Adrian.	<i>Crossing Jordan</i>	Realistic
When African American Jemmie moves in next door, Cass' father builds a fence separating the houses, but the girls become friends anyway and form the "Chocolate Milk" running team.		
George, Madeline.	<i>Looks</i>	Realistic/Mature
An anorexic poet and an obese loner form an unlikely friendship and take revenge on the one who hurt them both.		
Going, K.L.	<i>Fat Kid Rules the World</i>	Realistic
Troy, a 300-pound HS student, is befriended by a punk rock guitarist who convinces him to join his band.		
Greenberg, Jan & Sandra Jordan.	<i>Runaway Girl: The Artist Louise Bourgeois</i>	Biography
An intimate look at one of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century's leading sculptors.		
Hesse, Karen.	<i>Music of Dolphins</i>	
Using computer technology, a fifteen-year-old girl who has been raised by dolphins, records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world.		
Holt, Kimberly Willis.	<i>Keeper of the Night</i>	Realistic
After the suicide of her mother, a young girl struggles to keep her family together as she grapples with her own grief.		
Hopkinson, Deborah.	<i>Shutting Out the Sky</i>	Non-fiction
A humanizing look at European immigration, emphasizing why they left and how they changed America, told through the eyes of five young people.		
Ibbotson, Eva.	<i>Star of Kazan</i>	Mystery
Reunited with her long lost mother, Annika discovers that things are not what they seem.		
Johnston, Tony.	<i>Bone by Bone by Bone</i>	Historical Fiction
In 1950's Tennessee, David's racist father refuses to allow him associate with his best friend Malcolm, who is an African American.		
Jordan, Sherryl.	<i>The Raging Quiet</i>	Realistic
Marnie befriends a boy the villagers label a madman and discovers he is not crazy, but deaf.		
Kadohata, Cynthia.	<i>Cracker! Best Dog in Vietnam</i>	Historical Fiction
A young soldier bonds with his bomb sniffing dog.		
	<i>Outside Beauty</i>	Realistic
Three sisters are sent to live with their respective fathers while their mother recuperates from a car accident.		
Konigsburg, E.L.	<i>Silent to the Bone</i>	Realistic/Mature
Brantwell becomes unable to speak when the au pair accuses him of hurting his baby sister, and only his best friend can reach him to find out what really happened. You may also read the companion novel <i>The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place</i> .		
Korman, Gordon.	<i>Born to Rock</i>	Realistic/Mature
Leo, a conservative republican high school student, learns his father is a punk rock legend.		

Kostick, Conor.	<i>Epic</i>	Fantasy
Fantasy and video games meet in Epic, a society where violence is banned, people must settle their disputes and at the same time try to stay alive in order to accumulate wealth and status in both the game world and in reality.		
Krakauer, Jon.	<i>Into Thin Air</i>	Non-Fiction
A controversial account of the most recent Mount Everest disaster by a man who was there.		
Larson, Kirby.	<i>Hattie Big Sky</i>	Historical Fiction
Hattie inherits her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana and has a year to make it successful in order to keep it.		
LeGuin, Ursula.	<i>Gifts</i>	Fantasy
Uplanders have wondrous gifts - deadly gifts. Two children vow never to use their gifts lest they hurt someone.		
Lehmann, Christopher.	<i>Ultimate Game</i>	Science Fiction
High school boys get into a new virtual-reality computer game that transports them to different battlefields through history.		
Lipsyte, Robert.	<i>The Contender</i>	Sports
Alfred wants to be a boxing champion in the ring and outside.		
Lubar, David.	<i>True Talents and Hidden Talents</i>	Science Fiction
An evil former military operative, Major Bowdler, has kidnapped telekinetic 15-year-old Eddie "Trash" Thalmayer, and his supernaturally talented friends must rescue him.		
Lynch, Chris.	<i>Slot Machine</i> and the sequel <i>Extreme Elvin</i>	Realistic/Mature/Humor
Elvin's struggles with his weight in his school's summer sports, and in the sequel he tries to find his place among his peers.		
	<i>Gold Dust</i>	Historical Fiction
Richard believes that learning to love baseball will help Napoleon, a black youth from the Caribbean, fit into their 1970's racially charged Boston neighborhood.		
Mass, Wendy.	<i>A Mango-Shaped Space</i>	Realistic
Sounds, numbers and letters have color for Mia, which leads to trouble in school.		
Murdock, Catherine.	<i>Dairy Queen</i> and <i>The Off Season</i> (sequel)	Realistic
D.J. spends her summer doing all the heavy work on her family's farm and training the rival H.S.'s quarterback, and in the fall she goes out for football herself.		
Myers, Walter Dean.	<i>The Greatest: Muhammad Ali</i>	Biography
An illustrated biography of Ali, discussing his politics, struggle with Parkinson's and the realities of boxing.		
Na, An.	<i>The Fold</i>	Realistic
When Joyce, a Korean American, is offered the chance to have plastic surgery to make her eyes more "American" looking, she struggles with the decision.		
Oates, Joyce Carol.	<i>Big Mouth &amp; Ugly Girl</i>	Realistic/Mature
Accused of plotting to blow up the school, Matt finds an ally in an outspoken social outcast.		
Orlev, Uri.	<i>Run, Boy, Run</i>	Historical Fiction
An eight-year-old Jewish boy struggles to survive in Warsaw during World War II.		
Patterson, James.	Maximum Ride series	Science Fiction
Maximum Ride and her flock of genetically engineered children who can fly, attempt to save the world.		
Paulsen, Gary.	<i>Soldier's Heart</i>	Historical Fiction
Eager to enlist, fifteen year old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.		
Peck, Richard.	<i>Are You in the House Alone?</i>	Realistic/Mature
After receiving a series of threatening notes, Gail is raped by one of the richest and most popular boys in her school - but nobody believes her story.		
	<i>The River Between Us</i>	Historical Fiction
The Pruitt family takes in two mysterious girls who have fled New Orleans to come to Illinois during the Civil War.		

Peters, Julie Anne.	<i>Define Normal</i>	Realistic
Who is peer counseling for anyway?		
Peterson, P.J. and Ivy Ruckman.	<i>rob&amp;sara.com</i>	Realistic
A military brat and a troubled teen email each other and develop a romance. But are they who they say they are?		
Reeder, Carolyn.	<i>Shades of Gray</i>	Historical Fiction
Will loses his immediate family fighting the Yankees, and now must move in with his aunt and uncle who refused to fight.		
Schmidt, Gary D.	<i>Trouble</i>	Realistic
In order to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, Henry sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog, but on their trek they encounter the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin.		
Sonnenblick, Jordan.	<i>Zen and the Art of Faking It</i>	Realistic
When San Lee moves to a new town and school and is looking for a way to stand out. His knowledge of Zen Buddhism provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.		
Soto, Gary.	<i>The Afterlife</i>	Fantasy
After Chuy is stabbed to death he floats around the city of Fresno and recounts what he sees and experiences.		
Spinelli, Jerry.	<i>Milkweed</i>	Historical Fiction
A young boy alone in 1939 Warsaw is taken in by a band of Jewish orphans and struggles to understand what is happening around him when the Nazis arrive.		
Stratton, Allan.	<i>Chanda's Secrets</i>	Realistic/Mature
Chanda Kabelo, a sixteen-year-old in a small South African town, faces down shame and stigma in her efforts to help friends and family members who are dying of AIDS.		
Strasser, Todd.	<i>CON-fidence</i>	Realistic
What is the price Lauren is willing to pay to be part of the popular "Don't You Wish You Were Me" crowd in Middle School?		
Thompson, Kate.	<i>The New Policeman</i>	Fantasy
Fifteen year old J.J. leaves his Irish home in search of fairies to give his busy mom more time and uncovers a family secret.		
Woodson, Jacqueline.	<i>After Tupac &amp; Foster</i>	Newbery Honor
Three girls from Queens become fast friends reinforced by their love of Tupac's rap music.		
	<i>Miracle's Boys</i>	Realistic
Three teenage boys struggle to survive without their parents.		
Zevin, Gabrielle.	<i>Elsewhere</i>	Fantasy
After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."		
Zindel, Paul.	<i>The Gadget</i>	Historical Fiction
Stephen becomes caught in a web of secrecy and intrigue when he joins his father at Los Alamos where he and other scientists are working on a secret project to end World War II.		
Zusak, Markus.	<i>The Book Thief</i>	Historical Fiction
A young Jewish girl sustains her family and neighbors with her book stealing storytelling abilities.		

All mysteries by Agatha Christie, Carol Higgins Clark, Mary Higgins Clark, Michael Hoeye