

WEST SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Presents:

Sizzling Summer Selections 2008

Great books selected by kids, for kids!

Dear Parents:

As the school year draws to a close, the Reading Department would like to wish you and your children a relaxing and enjoyable vacation. We hope that as families, you will build into your precious time together the pleasures and adventures that reading good books offer. It is our hope that all students entering grades 6, 7 and 8 will read during the summer.

We acknowledge that middle school is a time of choice and being held responsible for those choices. Therefore, with your assistance, students should make thoughtful decisions about what is a “just right” book for them to read, both in interest and difficulty level. Especially during the summer, it is important for your children to be reading books of *high interest to them*. It is our belief that all students are capable of reading at least three “just right” books. To help guide those decisions, we have provided you with some helpful information including book reviews by students and staff, lists of the most popular young adult novels as well as links to reliable websites that can offer more in depth information about the books.

Here are some students’ sizzling suggestions:

Cirque Du Freak by Darren Shan

This book is just one in a series of fantasies. It is about a boy whose life gets turned around when he has to perform the worst errand to save his friend’s life...convert into a vampire! I recommend this book because it is action packed and gory. **Justin** – Grade 6

The Fashion Disaster that Ruined My Life by Lauren Myracle

I loved this realistic fiction book for several reasons; one, it is written in diary form which makes it easy to follow, and two, it reminds me of real life situations that happen in middle school sometimes between friends. **Erica** – Grade 6

Spike Lee by James S. Haskins

This biographical book is about a black man who is still alive and making movies today. He is a famous movie maker because his films don’t just entertain, they teach a lesson. We watched one of his documentaries in class called “Four Little Girls” which was about innocent little girls killed during the Civil Rights Movement. I hope you read this very interesting book and enjoy it as much as I did. **Chris** – Grade 6

Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper

This amazing book is about a girl named Amari who was taken away from her family and sold into slavery. Amari longs to make it home, but most of the people in her village have been killed. Then she hears about a miracle. Can miracles really come true? Find out for yourself by reading Copper Sun. **Kristina** – Grade 6

Midnight for Charlie Bone by Jenny Nimmo

If you liked Harry Potter, here's another series for you to enjoy. This story is about an ordinary boy of about 10 or 11 who lives with his mother, grandmother and cousins. This peculiar family has special "powers" and when Charlie starts to hear the characters in photographs speak, he is sent away to a school for similarly "gifted" children. Give it a try and you'll be hooked! **Lacey** – Grade 6

Define Normal by Julie Ann Peters

Antonia and Jazz could not be any different; one belongs to the math club while the other hangs out at a tattoo parlor. This is an awesome summer read for 7th graders because....things aren't always what they seem! **Brianna** – Grade 7

One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies by Sonya Sones

In this book, a 15 year old girl must leave her best friend, her boyfriend and her mother's grave in Boston to go live with her dad in L.A. To make matters worse, her dad divorced her mom before she was even born, and now he is a famous movie star. Read this sizzler on the beach! You won't want to put it down. **Jordan** – Grade 7

Uglies by Sharon Mills Draper

In this science fiction thriller, Tally, age 15, is about to have an operation to make her pretty...but when her best friend runs away into the wild, she learns that it is not always easy being pretty. Perhaps it is best to stay ugly. **Vicky** – Grade 7

Twilight by Stephanie Mayer

Have you ever met someone who immediately hated you and you didn't know why? Bella's first encounter with Edward was not what she expected, especially since all the other students at Forks High School were excited to have a new student at the school. Read and find out why the new blood Bella brings to Forks Washington and to Forks High School spell disaster. A summer sizzler not to be missed!

Mrs. Robarge – Grade 8 Teacher

Librarian LaFlamme's Firey Favorites:

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

Star Girl by Jerry Spinelli

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Heat by Mike Lupica

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck

Other “tried and true” suggestions:

Holes by Louis Sachar

True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline Cooney

Ballad of Lucy Whipple by Karen Cushman

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier

The Golden Compass by Phillip Pullman

Where are the Children by Mary Higgins Clark

The following links will provide you with reliable additional selections for all grade levels and genres. Of course, it is ultimately the parents’ responsibility to approve their children’s choices.

- <http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices.html>
- www.nea.org/ref?readinglists

In case you misplace this notice, it can be found online at wsps.org as well as the town library and Barnes & Noble in Holyoke.

We look forward to beginning the new school year by having the students present “book talks” about their summer selections. A form outlining the information included in a “book talk” is in this packet. We strongly encourage you to read along with your children and enjoy the rewarding conversations that always follow the reading of a great book! Thank you for your support.

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