

WEST SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

West Springfield, Massachusetts

West Springfield Middle School wants students to become lifelong readers and learners. The following suggested reading list supports the Massachusetts Frameworks and has been created for your convenience. Although the Summer Reading Program is optional, students are encouraged to read throughout the summer. Allow your child to respond to his/her reading by doing a project that illustrates their understanding of the book. All projects will be displayed and celebrated at our school. The West Springfield Public Library, in collaboration with the Middle School, has set aside four days for students to create projects under the supervision of the library staff. Further information regarding books and optional projects can be found at the public library and at our website <http://www.wsps.org>. (Books read during the summer may be used to gain Accelerated Reader points in the fall) Have a great summer and get reading!

2007 Suggested Summer Reading List for Entering Grade 8 Students

Andromeda Strain by Michael Crichton -Recounts the five-day history of a major American scientific crisis involving a contaminated satellite returning mysteriously from space.

Ballad of Lucy Whipple by Karen Cushman -In 1849, twelve-year-old California Morning -Whipple, who renames herself Lucy, is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a rough California mining town.

Chocolate War (The) by Robert Cormier -A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

Client (The) by John Grisham -An eleven-year-old boy witnesses the bizarre suicide of a New Orleans attorney. Before he dies, the attorney tells the boy a deadly secret; and the boy feels inclined to hire his own lawyer to protect himself from the mob.

Gentle Annie by Mary Francis Shura -A biography of Anna Blair Etheridge, a nurse during the Civil War, from childhood through her four years of service with the Army of the Potomac.

The Golden Compass by Phillip Pullman --Accompanied by her daemon, 11-year-old Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

In My Father's House by Anne Rinaldi --Through the lives of one family, Rinaldi reveals the fierce struggles that occurred not only in the battles, but also in the hearts and minds of the American people during the Civil War. Based on the real McLean family, on whose property the Civil War began and in whose parlor it ended.

Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford -A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family,

Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes -After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.

Jump Ship to Freedom by James Collier -- In 1787, a fourteen-year-old slave, anxious to buy freedom for himself and his mother, escapes from his dishonest master and tries to find help in cashing the soldier's notes received by his father for fighting in the Revolution.

Kit's Wilderness by David Almond --Thirteen-year-old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal mining town of Stoneygate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.

The Lost Years of Merlin by T.A. Barron --A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past, washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

Missing May by Cynthia Rylant -After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her Uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

My Brother Sam is Dead by Christopher Collier -Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

Nothing to Fear by Jackie French Koller -When his father moves away to find work and his mother becomes ill, Danny struggles to help his family during the Great Depression.

Rascal by Sterling North -The author recalls his carefree life in a small Midwestern town at the close of World War I, and his adventures with his pet raccoon, Rascal.

Soldier's Heart by Gary Paulsen- Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

Summer of Fear by Lois Duncan -When her cousin Julia arrives for a visit, Rachel starts to believe Julia is a witch and must be stopped from carrying out a disastrous plan.

Swallowing Stones by Joyce McDonald ---Dual perspectives reveal the aftermath of seventeen-year-old Michael MacKenzie's birthday celebration, during which he discharges an antique Winchester rifle and unknowingly kills the father of his high school classmate Jenna Ward.

Up a Road Slowly by Irene Hunt -After her mother's death, Julie goes to live with Aunt Cordelia, a spinster schoolteacher, where she experiences many emotions and changes as she grows from seven to eighteen.

Where Are the Children by Mary Higgins Clark -After a terrible marriage and the tragic deaths of her two children, Nancy changes her name, hair, and residence and finally finds peace...until the nightmare begins again.