

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 7 Students

Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain—The adventures of Tom Sawyer and his friend, Huck Finn, in a Mississippi River town in the nineteenth century.

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery—Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Bearstone by Will Hobbs—A troubled Indian boy goes to live with an elderly rancher whose caring ways help the boy become a man..

A Break with Charity by Ann Rinaldi—While waiting for a church meeting in 1706, Susanna English, daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692.

Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen—Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis—Ten -year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Crash by Jerry Spinelli- Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

Dealing with Dragons by Patricia C. Wrede- Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom.

Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline Cooney- Janie Johnson finds a picture of herself, twelve years earlier, on the back of a milk carton. How could it possibly be true?

The Ghost of Fossil Glen by Cynthia DeFelice- Allie knows it's not her imagination when she hears a voice and sees in her mind's eye the face of a girl who seems to be seeking Allie's help.

Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt- Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

Journey of the Sparrows by Fran Leeper Boss- Eager for a new life in the United States, Maria, her pregnant older sister, her little brother, and a stranger endure a terrifying journey nailed in a crate in the back of a truck, as they flee El Salvador.

Marlfox by Brian Jacques- A villainous new presence is a-prowl in Mossflower Woods: the Marlfoxes. And when they ruthlessly steal the most precious treasure of all, the tapestry of Martin the Warrior, it takes the children of warrior squirrels to follow in their fathers' heroic footsteps to recover it.

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman- in medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

Nory Ryan's Song by Patricia Reilly Giff- When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity helps her family and neighbors survive.

Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood- A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet", but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox- Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.

So Far From the Bamboo Grove by Kawash Watkins- A fictionalized autobiography in which eleven-year-old Yoko escapes from Korea to Japan with her mother and sister at the end of World War II.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin- The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck- During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.