

STRATH HAVEN MIDDLE SCHOOL



8TH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

2010

1. Students should read one of the following books from the box below and be prepared to discuss the book with their teachers in September.
2. When school resumes in September, students will be expected to complete an activity that proves they have read their book selection.
3. Students may read a second book from the selections in the box below and receive extra credit when they have shown their language arts teacher that they have read the book.
4. Students should record the books that they have read in the log and present the log to their teacher in September.
5. Students are encouraged to read other selections from the general list.

Least Difficult

Haddix, Margaret
Lipsyte, Robert
Yolen, Jane

Among the Hidden
The Contender
Devil's Arithmetic

General Young Adult

Bruchac, Joseph
Hinton, S.E.
Houston, Jeanne W.
Mah, Adeline Yen

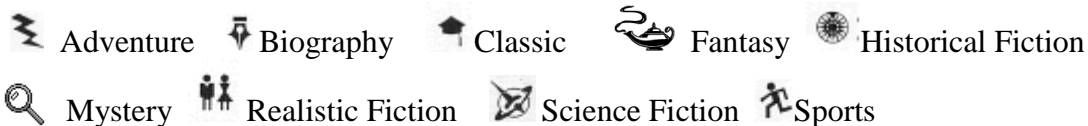
Code Talker
Outsiders
Farewell to Manzanar
Chinese Cinderella

Most Challenging


Adams, Richard
Cisneros, Sandra
Keyes, Daniel
Potok, Chaim
Taylor, Mildred

Watership Down
House on Mango Street
Flowers For Algernon
The Chosen
Road to Memphis

Look for book annotations on the back of the insert.



REQUIRED READING LIST ANNOTATIONS

 Adams, Richard **Watership Down**


A band of rabbits encounters harrowing trials poised by predators and hostile warrens, driven only by their vision to create a perfect society

 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

 Cisneros, Sandra **House on Mango Street.**


A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends.

 Haddix, Margaret **Among The Hidden**

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm. That changes when he meets another "third" who convinces him that the government is wrong.

 Hinton, S.E. **The Outsiders**


Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death. They search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society in which they find themselves "outsiders."

 Houston, Jeanne W. **Farewell to Manzanar**


A true story of a Japanese American's experiences while living in an internment camp during World War II.

 Keyes, Daniel **Flowers For Algernon**


Charlie Gordon, born with an unusually low IQ, must face his gradual return to his former state when the astounding results of an experimental surgery that increased his intelligence prove to be only temporary.

 Lipsyte, Robert **The Contender**

After a successful start in a boxing career, a Harlem high school dropout decides there is more to life than competing in the ring and resolves to aim for different goals.

 Mah, Adeline Yen **Chinese Cinderella**

The story of the author's painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair.

 Potok, Chaim **The Chosen**

This story relays the odyssey from boyhood to manhood for two Jewish boys amidst the conflict between generations and religious traditions.

 Taylor, Mildred **The Road to Memphis**

High-school-aged Cassie becomes involved in an ugly racial incident that threatens the lives of her brother and her friends.

 Yolen, Jane **Devil's Arithmetic**

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village during the Nazi occupation of Poland



Abbot, Ellen Jensen **Watersmeet**

Abisina, an outcast in her community which follows the repressive codes of Vran, sets out in search of the father she has never known, and learns along the way that she is not without her own prejudices.



Adams, D **Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy**

The story of a British earthling plucked from his planet, and his subsequent adventures elsewhere in the universe.



Beddor, Frank **Looking Glass Wars**

When she is cast out of Wonderland by her evil aunt Redd, young Alyss Heart finds herself living in Victorian Oxford as Alice Liddell and struggles to keep memories of her kingdom intact until she can return and claim her rightful throne.



Bradley, James **Flags of Our Fathers**

A chronicle of the most famous moment in American military history. The true story behind the immortal photograph of the American flag being raised on Iwo Jima.



Bray, Libba **A Great and Terrible Beauty**

A British girl uncovers the mystery of her mother's death and discovers powers she never knew she possessed. See also, Rebel Angels and ASweet Far Thing



Budhos, Marina **Ask Me No Questions**

Fourteen-year old Nadira, her sister and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow and terror for the whole family



Chevalier, Tracy **Girl with the Pearl Earring**

The story of sixteen-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her brief encounter with genius. Even as she herself is immortalized in canvas and oil.



Christie, Agatha **Murder on the Orient Express**

Hercule Poirot refuses a stranger's request for help and then, within six hours, is asked to find the stranger's killer.



Cummings, Priscilla **Red Kayak**

Living near the water on Maryland's shore, Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their idea about right and wrong.



Dickinson, Peter **Eva**

The picnic on the beach is Eva's last memory. As she lies in the hospital bed while her mother explains about the accident and the coma, Eva senses there is something they are not telling her--a price she must pay to be alive



DuMauier, Daphne **Rebecca**

A timid young girl marries a widower, only to find her new home haunted by the memory of Rebecca, his first wife.



Elliott, Laura **Under a War-Torn Sky**

After his plane is shot down by Hitler's Luftwaffe, Henry Forester, of Richmond, Virginia, strives to walk across occupied France, with the help of the French Resistance, in hopes of rejoining his unit.



Feinstein, John Last: **Shot: 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.

Gaiman, Neil **Graveyard Book**

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and other worldly creatures.



Goldman, William **The Princess Bride**

S. Morgenstern's timeless tale—discovered and wonderfully abridged by William Goldman—pits country against country, good against evil, love against hate. From the Cliffs of Insanity through the Fire Swamp and down into the Zoo of Death, this incredible journey and brilliant tale is peppered with strange beasts, monstrous and gentle, and memorable surprises both terrible and sublime.



Hesse, Karen **Phoenix Rising**

Thirteen-year-old Nyle learns about relationships and death when fifteen-year-old Ezra, who was exposed to radiation leaked from a nearby nuclear plant, comes to stay at her grandmother's Vermont farmhouse.



Hobbs, Will **The Maze**

After Rick is sent to a juvenile detention home, he escapes and hides out in the Utah wilderness where he becomes the protector of endangered condors.



Kadohata, Cynthia **Cracker.**


A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog.




King, Stephen **The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon**


When a young girl gets lost in the woods, she has only her Sony Walkman for comfort. She is a huge fan of Tom Gordon, a relief pitcher for the Boston Red Sox. After she listens to a game he becomes an imaginary companion who provides comfort as she tries to survive in the woods against lurking terror.


NF Kurson, Robert **Shadow Divers**
The true adventure of two Americans who risk everything to solve one of the last mysteries of World War II.


 Lobel, Anita **No Pretty Pictures**
A child's view of the Holocaust as illustrator Lobel relates her experiences in a Polish concentration camp during WWII.

NF Martin, James **Meaning of the 21st Century**
A virtual blueprint for ensuring our future.


 MacHale, D. J. **Merchant of Death (Pendragon Series)**
Bobby Pendragon is a seemingly normal fourteen-year-old boy. He has a family, a home, and even Marley, his beloved dog. But there is something very special about Bobby. He is going to save the world. And not just Earth as we know it. Bobby is slowly starting to realize that life in the cosmos isn't quite what he thought it was.


 Mazer, Harry **A Boy at War**
While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack. Through the chaos of the subsequent days, he tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell (look for the sequels - **A Boy No More** and **Heroes Don't Run**).


 Meyers, Walter Dean **Fallen Angels**
Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.


 Murdock, Katherine Gilbert **Dairy Queen**
Welcome to the summer that fifteen-year-old D.J. Schwenk of red bend, Wisconsin, learns to talk, and ends up having an awful lot of stuff to say.


NF Nelson, Peter **Left For Dead**
Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later


 O'Brien, Robert C. **Z for Zachariah**
Seemingly the only person left alive after a nuclear war, a young girl is relieved to see a man arrive into her valley until she realizes that he is a tyrant and she must somehow escape

 Patterson, James **Maximum Ride : Angel Experiment**
After the mutant Erasers abducted the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids", who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose

 Pfeffer, Susan Beth **Life As We Knew It**
Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

 Smith, Roland **Peak**
A fourteen-year-old attempts to be the youngest to climb Mount Everest.

 Stevenson, Robert Louis **The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**
A kind and well-respected doctor can turn himself into a murderous madman by taking a secret drug he's created.

 Zuzak, Mark **The Book Thief**
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story telling talents help sustain their family and the Jewish man they are hiding as well as their neighbors.

Annotations courtesy of the publishers, Amazon Books and Barnes and Noble

FREE CHOICE:

Author: _____

Title: _____

