

## What is the PISD philosophy behind middle school summer reading?

### **PISD encourages all middle school students to read over the summer to**

- help students maintain English Language Arts skills over the summer break
- expose students to quality literature that they might not pick up on their own
- promote independent reading, inquiry, and scholarship which will facilitate students as life-long learners

### **PISD requires middle school students who are enrolled in Pre-AP English to read over the summer to**

- allow teachers to begin literary discussions at the level of depth and complexity required in an Advanced Academics course during the first weeks of school

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# Middle School Summer Reading

## 2009-2010

“Books are the bees which carry the quickening pollen from one to another mind.”

**James Russell Lowell**

## Activities / Grading

All middle school students are encouraged to read from this list over the summer.

Students in **Pre-AP English** classes (Grades 6-8) are **required** to read **one book** from their grade level list over the summer and will be completing oral and written assignments during the first three weeks of school based on the book they read.

Students are encouraged to mark significant passages with sticky notes, take Cornell notes, keep a journal, etc to help them process and remember what they read.

Projects/activities will be assigned by the teacher and discussion over the novels will begin after the first week of school.

Students will receive a “**major grade**” for the work they complete over their chosen summer reading book by the third week of school. Any late work or make-up work related to the summer reading book will be completed by the end of the first six-weeks grading period.

## How were the books chosen for these lists?

Pre-AP English teachers and administrators meet several times a year to discuss and determine the reading list. Books are chosen based on the following criteria:

- Appropriate readability for independent summer reading
- High interest for students at the designated grade level
- Literary merit/promote rich discussion and literary analysis
- Variety of genres and themes

Please note that some of the books on these lists may contain **mature language or situations**. We strongly encourage parents and/or guardians to preview the books.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choices

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

*The Lost Years of Merlin* by T.A. Barron

*Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Any book from the **2009 Lone Star Reading list:**  
<http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/Assets/Files/lonestar/lone0910.pdf>

## 7th Grade Choices

*A Summer Life* by Gary Soto

*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick

*Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac

*Dark Water Rising* by Marian Hale

Any book from the **2009 Lone Star Reading list:**

<http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/Assets/Files/lonestar/lone0910.pdf>

## 8th Grade Choices

*Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons* by Ann Rinaldi

*The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas (translator of your choice)

Any book from the **2009 Lone Star Reading list:**  
<http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/Assets/Files/lonestar/lone0910.pdf>