

Poetry and Nonfiction

Basketball's Best Shots: The Greatest NBA Photography of the Century: Presents more than one hundred photos from the NBA archives, capturing the magic moments and the colorful personalities that have shaped professional basketball's history.

The Good Fight: How World War II Was Won – **Ambrose**: A respected historian uses vivid photographs, letters, quotes, and clear, concise text to describe the major events of WWII.

Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion – **Burns**: Scientists track trash that has spilled into the ocean in the name of science. The information that has been collected is much more than casual news; it is important scientific data that can help protect our ocean.

Bodies From the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past – **Deem**: Examines the science of glaciers and looks at some of the discoveries of the past that have been made as the ice masses move and melt, including the preserved frozen remains of Otzi, the oldest human mummy ever found in ice, believed to be at least 5,300 years old, and Incan sacrificial children. Read this and then read *Bodies From the Bog*.

Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems – **George**: A collection of poems capture the feelings and experiences of a girl in middle school.

Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board – **Hamilton**: Bethany Hamilton, a teenage surfer lost her arm in a shark attack off the coast of Kauai, Hawaii. Not even the loss of her arm keeps her from returning to surfing, the sport she loves.

Gutsy Girls: Young Women Who Dare: Inspiring first-person stories include extreme sports to groundbreaking achievements.

House of Invention: The Secret Life of Everyday Products – **Lindsay**: Where did Vaseline come from and who came up with Muzak?

Yoga for Teens: How to Improve Your Fitness, Confidence, Appearance, and Health-And Have Fun Doing It! – **Luby**: Detailed color photographs

enlighten the reader, making this ancient spiritual and physical practice accessible.

Secret Subway: The Fascinating Tale of an Amazing Feat of Engineering – **Sandler**: An illustrated overview of the history of New York's first subway that discusses why it was necessary to build, Alfred Beach's vision for the system and efforts to see it through, resistance to its construction, and other related topics. Imagine, the constructors working in secret at night twenty feet underground, to complete a plan that would reduce the chaos above ground. Imagine the vision squashed when word of the project leaks out, and the plans derailed.

Yeah, Yeah, Yeah! The Beatles Beatlemania and the Music That Changed the World – **Spitz**: Superb storytelling showing the Beatles both as musicians and as individuals, relates the genesis of some of the best-known tunes, such as "Yesterday," describes life in the studio, and imparts appreciation for the Beatles' musical legacy.

Unleashed: Poems By Writers' Dogs: A collection of poems expressing the viewpoints of the writers' dogs and expressing canine concerns about food, play, and masters.

Recommended Websites

Ipl2

<http://www.ipl.org/>

A reliable subject directory of useful sites reviewed and evaluated by librarians.

Recently became a site combining the Internet Public Library (IPL) and the Librarians' Internet Index (LII)

American Library Association Newberry Page

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/newbery.html>

For a look at current and past Newberry-Medal-awarded authors, visit the site of the Association for Library Service to Children.

AlltheWeb from Yahoo

<http://www.alltheweb.com/?cat=news>

A strong news site that includes international events; Keep abreast over the summer.

Teensread

<http://www.teenreads.com/index.asp>

Teenreads.com bring teens info and features about their favorite authors, books, series and characters. It is a part of The Book Report Network, a group of websites founded in 1996 that share thoughtful book reviews, compelling features, in-depth author profiles and interviews, excerpts of new releases, literary games and contests, and more with readers every week.



Winchester Thurston School

SUMMER READING Requirements and Recommendations



For students entering
GRADE 7

2010-2011

www.winchesterthurston.org

Required Reading for Seventh-Graders

These books must be read before school starts on August 26, 2010:

In addition to the titles listed for each class, students must also read one book for the Advisory Program. Before leaving for summer break, students entering grade 7 will receive, ON LOAN, a book to read for Advisory. Books are to be returned to language arts teachers on August 26, 2010, or the school will charge for unreturned copies. Please refer to the letter from Nancy Patton that outlines the guidelines for reading the books.

Language Arts

Choose 1:

Monster – Myers

Kira Kira – Kadohata

The Wednesday Wars – Schmidt

The Book Thief – Zusak

Social Studies

Fever, 1793 – Anderson

Other Suggested Reading for Seventh-Graders

Fiction

Whales on Stilts – **Anderson:** Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.

The Boy Who Dared: A Novel Based on the True Story of A Hitler Youth – **Bartoletti:** A German teen in Nazi Germany listens to Allied radio stations and is infuriated to learn that the Nazis are distorting the facts about the war. He is determined to let his fellow Germans know the truth, even if it means risking his life. Based on real events.

Stand Tall – **Bauer:** Tree, a six-foot-three-inch twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' recent divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and Sophie, a new girl at school.

Story Time – **Bloor:** George and Kate are promised the best education but instead face obsessed administrators, endless tests, and evil spirits when they are transferred to Whittaker Magnet School.

The Princess & the Pauper – **Brian:** Julia has never been like the other students at her elite high school. Instead of worrying about her looks, she is worrying about finding a way to keep a roof over her family's head, and when a princess who happens to look exactly like Julia offers her \$10,000 to switch places for one day, Julia thinks she has finally found a way to help her family.

The Winter People – **Bruchac:** A fourteen-year-old member of the Abenaki tribe in Canada embarks on a dangerous rescue mission when his mother and two younger sisters are captured by the British in 1759.

Airman – **Colfer:** In the late nineteenth century, when Conor Boekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a dar-

ing escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design, build, and hardest of all, trust to carry him to safety.

Waiting for Normal – **Connor:** Twelve-year old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

The Gollywopper Game – **Feldman:** This book is unusually interactive, encompassing brain-teasers and puzzles to challenge the reader. In the story twelve-year-old Gil Goodson competes against thousands of other children at extraordinary puzzles, stunts, and more in hopes of a fresh start for his family, which has been ostracized since his father was falsely accused of embezzling money from Golly Toy and Game Company.

Copper Sun – **Draper:** Two fifteen-year-old girls—on a slave and the other an indentured servant—escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

The Graveyard Book – **Gaiman:** Nobody Owens, or "Bod" is a normal boy except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard. The graveyard is a safe place but nothing has prepared Bod for the day the killer "Jack" returns to finish the job he started years ago. The suspense really builds in this fast moving, unpredictable tale. What other author could humanize ghosts so well? A great introduction to the horror genre for your middle schoolers.

The Goose Girl – **Hale:** An eventful retelling of the classic fairy tale of the princess whose identity is assumed by her lady-in-waiting, and who in turn must play the role of goose girl while panning to make things right.

Enna Burning – **Hale:** Sequel to: *The Goose Girl*. Enna hopes that her new knowledge of how to wield fire will help protect her good friend Isi—the Princess Anidori—and all of Bayern against their enemies, but the need to burn is uncontrollable and puts Enna and her loved ones in grave danger.

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg – **Philbrick:** Homer and Harold have taken care of each other since their mother died, while their uncle became their guardian. This historical novel takes place during the Civil War through Homer's eyes. Their uncle is not the nicest man, and these mischievous boys push limits, and go too far. Their adventures begin when Harold is sold into the army by his uncle illegally, and Homer runs away to find him.

The Shamer's Daughter – **Kaaberbol:** After her mother, a Shamer, is summoned to Dunark for a mission, ten-year-old Dina is forced to use her own special powers as she is caught up in an adventure of political intrigue and survival.

No More Dead Dogs – **Korman:** Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and suggests changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

Daughter of Venice – **Napoli:** Fourteen-year-old Donata, disguised as a boy, sneaks out of her noble family's house to roam the streets of late sixteenth-century Venice.

Lizzy Bright and the Buckminster Boy – **Schmidt:** In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine. Things improve when he meets Lizzie, a girl from a nearby island founded by former slaves that the town fathers want to change into a tourist spot. Turner and Lizzie attempt to save the community but may pay a terrible price.

Zen and the Art of Faking It – **Sonneblich:** When thirteen-year-old Stan Lee moves to a new town and a new school, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in previous school, provides the answer.

Peace, Locomotion – **Woodson:** Through letters to his little sister, who is living in a different foster home, sixth-grader Lonnie, also known as "Locomotion," keeps a record of their lives while they are apart, describing his own foster family, including his foster brother who returns home after losing a leg in the Iraq War. Lonnie's letters enable him to deal with his overwhelming issues.