Excellent analytical and reading comprehension skills are essential ingredients in the recipe for success. Furthermore, reading is the key to writing. The more one reads, the better one's writing becomes.

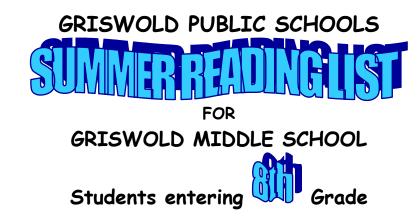
Each student is required to read at least two (2) books. (not previously read) One <u>must</u> be chosen from the eighth grade summer reading list. The second book may be a student's personal choice. When Language Arts classes meet at the beginning of the school year, students will be held accountable for having read their two books. **Keeping a summer reading journal should help students do well.** A written assessment will be due Monday, September 12, 2011. Students will be required to do the following:

- Name the books read and explain their similarities and differences.
- Discuss the physical appearances, personality traits, and changes of the characters from both books.
- Write about the various conflicts and their resolutions.
- Compare the writing styles of the authors.
- Elaborate on other important aspects such as theme, symbolism, cause/effect, and setting.
- Answer this question: Should both books be on the summer reading list? Why or Why not?

The assessment will be evaluated on the quality of the information offered about the books and the student's ability to present ideas well. The DETAILS elaborated on from each novel will help determine the grade earned. The completed assessment will count as a test grade in Language Arts.

Good literature provides enjoyment, offers insight into human behavior, promotes language development, and educates the mind!

Summer reading lists have been sent to the following bookstores: Borders Express at the Crystal Mall, Waterford Wal-Mart, Lisbon



The Griswold Public Schools Summer Reading Program is founded on the belief that the more students read, the greater their potential for success. Students who read over the summer are better prepared to learn when they return to school in the fall.

Endorsed by the members of the Griswold Board of Education, the administration, and the faculty, the Summer Reading Program provides students with an opportunity to maintain the reading habit during the summer months. Summer reading is essential. Education is a year-round activity.

The books selected for the Summer Reading Program were carefully chosen with an eye toward making reading an enjoyable part of a middle schooler's life. The goal is to encourage each individual to think about what he/she read and to be able to express ideas about the books read.

# The Arm of the Starfish, Madeleine L'Engle

Sixteen year old Adam Eddington, on his way to Portugal, has no idea that a seemingly chance meeting will set into motion a chain of events he will be unable to stop.

### The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, John Boyne

Nine year old Bruno is trying to understand what is happening around him in Out-With during World War II.

# *The Brave*, Robert Lipsyte (sequel to *The Contender*)

Having left the Indian reservation for the streets of New York, seventeen year old boxer Sonny tries to harness his hot temper by training with a man who left the sport to become a policeman.

## Canyons, Gary Paulsen

Finding a skull on a camping trip in the canyons outside El Paso, Texas, Brennan becomes involved with the fate of a young Apache Indian who lived in the late 1800's

### The Cay, Theodore Taylor

A fine portrait of how a boy makes his separate peace with racial prejudice while trying to survive on an island.

### Code Talker, Joseph Bruchac

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 during World War II.

### Death Be Not Proud, John Gunther

A father's moving memoir of his seventeen year old son's brave fight with a brain tumor.

### Deathwatch, Robb White

Exciting novel about a fight to the finish between an honest and courageous young man and a cynical business tycoon.

## Dragonwings, Laurence Yep

This is a beautiful story of Moon Shadow and his father Windrider, a Chinese immigrant, who made a flying machine in 1909.

## Flipped, Wendelin Van Draanen

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families.

### .Maximum Ride, James Patterson

This book is the first in the **Maximum Ride** series. Set in the near future, the novel centers around the "Flock", a group of human-avian hybrids on the run from the scientists who created them.

# Over Sea, Under Stone, Susan Cooper

Three children find an ancient manuscript which sends them on a dangerous quest for a grail that would reveal the true story of King Arthur. First novel of The **Dark is Rising** series.

### Ransom, Lois Duncan

In the beginning, it's just another bus trip home from school, but the driver is a stranger. Five teenagers face a terrifying ride into a nightmare.

# Stealing Home: The Story of Jackie Robinson, Barry Denenberg

Biography of the first black man to play in the all white baseball major league. This Brooklyn Dodger made the Hall of Fame.

### Touching Spirit Bear, Ben Mikaelsen

Within Cole Mathews lies anger, rage, and hate that he has been fighting for years. Now Cole is in the biggest trouble of his life.

### Uglies, Scott Westerfeld

In Tally's world reaching sixteen brings an operation that turns you from ugly to pretty, and Tally's almost there. But when her friend runs away, Tally learns about a new side of the pretty world and must choose between betrayal and never turning pretty.

### The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963, Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in 1963.

## Whirligig, Paul Fleischman

Sixteen year old Brent Bishop is sent on an unusual journey of repentance, building wind toys across the land after he causes the death of a young woman.