

When Students Return in the Fall

Each student is required to read at least two (2) books from the list during the summer. During the first week of school in the fall, students will write an essay in one of their core academic classes.

To prepare for the writing of the essay, *students are encouraged to take notes* on the contents, characters, writing styles, ending of the two books, and other aspects considered important by the student. In addition, notes may include quotations that could be used in the essay. Taking notes is strongly encouraged and will help students to successfully write their essay. *All notes may be brought to class and can be used during the writing process.*

The essay should include **DETAILS** about the characters, the conflicts and resolutions, and the author's style from each novel. Students need to be certain that **BOTH** books are analyzed in their responses.

The essay will be evaluated on the quality of the insights 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 essay will count as a test grade in the language arts class.

A limited number of copies of each book are available at the Slater Library in Jewett City throughout the summer.

GRISWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUMMER READING LIST
FOR
GRISWOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL
Students entering **7th** Grade

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 months 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. Every educator knows it. So do most parents. 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.

READ!



Each student going into 7th grade is required to read at least two (2) books from this list. Of course students are encouraged to read more than what is required.

***The Fires of Merlin*, T.A. Barron**

Having voyaged to the Otherworld in his quest to find himself, the young wizard Merlin must face fire in many different forms and deal with the possibility of losing his own magical power.

***House With a Clock in its Walls*, John Bellairs**

Lewis moves in with his uncle, a magician, then discovers that the former tenant, also a magician, has devised a plan for the end of the world.

***Here's to You, Rachel Robinson*, Judy Blume**

A trip to Ellis Island shifts a 7th grade's perspective in this humorous story about real friendship. ALA Best Book

***Walk Two Moons*, Sharon Creech**

Thirteen-year-old Sal and her loving, eccentric grandparents retrace the route taken by her mother to try to understand why Sal's mother left and with hopes that she will return soon. Newbery Award

***Incident at Hawk's Hill*, Allan W. Eckert**

Based on an actual incident, six year old Ben disappears in 1870. He survives the summer when he is adopted by a wild badger. Newbery Honor Book

***By the Great Horned Spoon!*, Sid Fleischman**

Young Jack and his aunt's butler Praiseworthy, stow away on a ship and head for their place in the California Gold Rush.

***The Slave Dancer*, Paula Fox**

Kidnapped and taken aboard a slave ship bound for America, Jesse is forced to play his music while the slaves exercise, until a hurricane changes the course of his life.

***The Story of My Life: Helen Keller*, Helen Keller**

The autobiography of this great American who was born blind and deaf and how she overcame these incredible disabilities to succeed.

***Number the Stars*, Lois Lowry**

During the German occupation of Denmark in 1943, ten year old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazi's.

***Hoops*, Walter Dean Myers**

Seventeen year old Lonnie Jackson looks to basketball as a ticket out of the Harlem ghetto. Young Adult Choice

***Tangled Threads: A Hmong Girl's Story*, Pegi Shea**

After ten years in a refugee camp in Thailand, 13-year-old Mai Yang travels to Providence, R.I., where her American-ized cousins introduce her to pizza, shopping, and other things, while her grandmother and new friends keep her connected to her Hmong heritage.

***Treasure Island*, Robert Lewis Stevenson**

In this classic adventure, Jim Hawkins finds himself seeking buried treasure and fighting pirates on the high seas in times long ago.

***Homeless Bird*, Gloria Whelan**

In this cultural story of coming of age and tradition in India, thirteen-year-old Koly finds the courage to deal with her endangered adolescence and achieve some hard-won victories.

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The season of summer is often associated with relaxation and leisure-time activities. Since we all have extra time, summer provides a good opportunity to discover new books! Have a safe and enjoyable summer! We look forward to discussing the novels with you when you return to school at the end of the summer.

