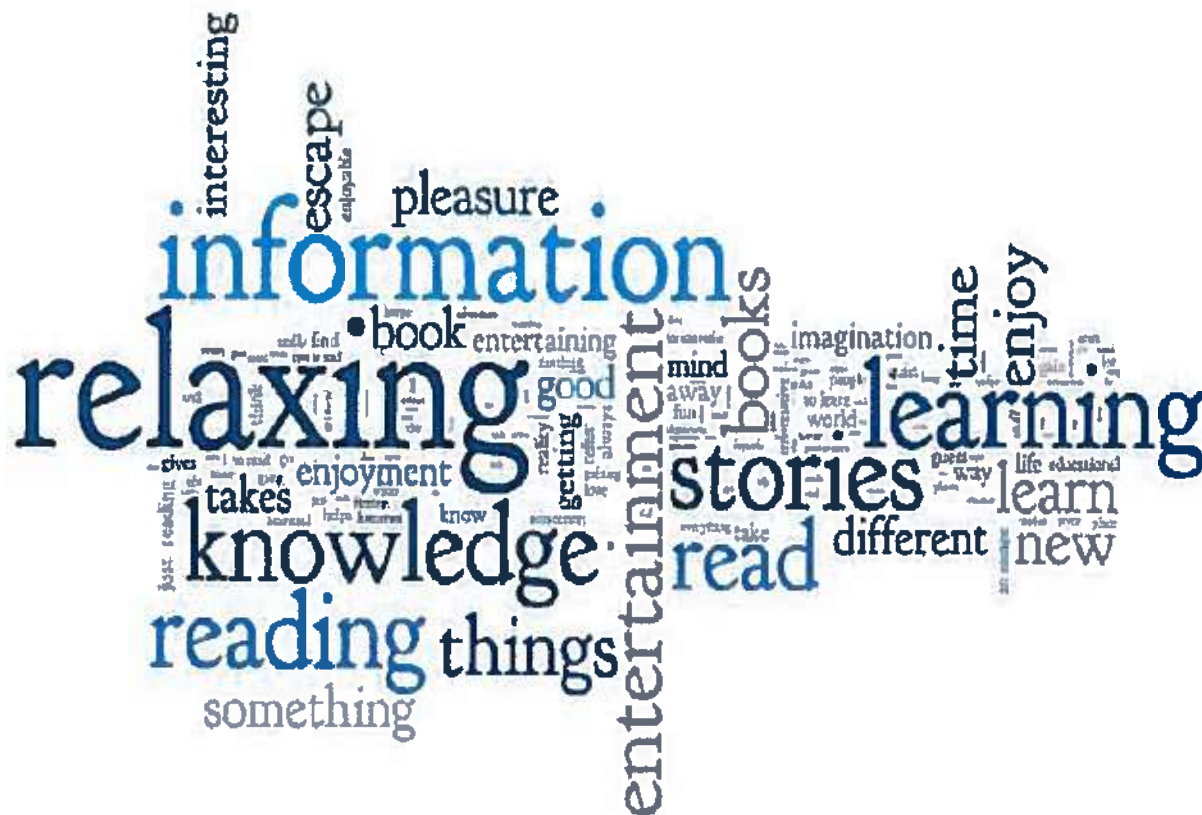


# Griswold Middle School Summer Reading 2016



For Students Entering  
**Grade 5**

Dear GMS Students and Parents,

We believe that reading is fundamental for each student's success in learning. This is why we are promoting summer reading as an important part of your child's educational experience. Students who read do better in other subjects and in all aspects of schooling and beyond. As the world becomes more complex, reading is increasingly important for students in trying to find their place in it.

The Summer Reading List is a joint project of the English/Language Arts, Reading and Social Studies Departments as well as the GMS Library. The following is a list for students entering grades 5-8. It includes books that meet students' different interests and reading levels. Many of the books have been selected by Connecticut students and teachers for award nominations. This summer, students are required to read at least **two** books. One book relates to Language Arts and one book relates to Social Studies.

Here are some ways to support your child's reading during the summer:

- Set aside time every day for reading.
- Read together as a family.
- Have your child read aloud to you or read aloud to them.
- Allow your child to choose books that interest him or her.
- Plan regular visits to the library or bookstore.
- Listen to books on tape for long car trips.
- Participate in the district-wide summer reading.

We hope these books will encourage students to think, wonder, and laugh as they read.

Sincerely,

Griswold Middle School

Students are **required to read at least two books** this summer. Students must choose one book on the Language Arts grade level summer reading lists, one book on the Social Studies grade level summer reading lists. **\*If the book(s) are too challenging or if your child is having difficulty understanding the book(s), please consider reading and discussing the book with your child or listening to the book on tape or CD.** Abridged or simplified versions are also acceptable. In addition, students may also read books of their choice from the library or bookstore. Please consider texts that are nonfiction/ informational OR classic literature, as most of the titles on the grade level LA/SS reading lists are fiction.

All of the books included on the Language Arts reading lists have been nominated for the 2017 Nutmeg Book Award. The Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in grades 4-8 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of nominated titles. In the spring of 2017, students will have the opportunity to participate in state-wide voting to select the 2017 Nutmeg Award Winners. For more information about the Nutmeg books, please visit the website [www.nutmegaward.org](http://www.nutmegaward.org).

Students will complete a written response related to the Common Core State Standards for each of the books they read **upon their return to school**. The written responses should **NOT** be done over the summer. However, students may bring in notes about each book to help them remember what they read. A note taking sheet is attached.

Books on the Summer Reading List are available at the Slater Library, most bookstores and online. Families are also encouraged to take advantage of e-book technology for summer reading. **Using the free Kindle app on a smart phone, tablet or computer, electronic copies of the summer reading books can be purchased from Amazon.com, often at a cheaper cost than print copies (and without travel to a bookstore).** We hope this option makes it even easier for all our students to access copies of the summer reading choices.

Additionally, **Bank Square Books in Mystic, CT will offer a 20% discount** on purchasing the summer reading books if you present a student ID or a copy of this letter and reading list.

Attached you will find the following information:

- A form on which to list all books read during the summer – Parents, please sign this form to verify that your child has read the books listed
- A Language Arts and Social Studies book list for each grade level followed by the written response that each student will complete in September in their LA and SS classes
- A grading rubric that teachers will use to score student responses

Happy Reading from the GMS Language Arts, Social Studies, and Reading Departments!! ☺

**GMS Summer Reading 2016**  
**List of Books Read During the Summer**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\* Include the **title** and **author** of each book.

• Language Arts book: \_\_\_\_\_

• Social Studies book: \_\_\_\_\_

Below is optional, not required (See the Governor's Reading Challenge list on the state Department of Education website for suggestions):

• Other books read: \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

\*FYI – Griswold Middle School will honor the top readers in September.

**Parent Signature**

**Total number of books read**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Grade 5 LANGUAGE ARTS

(**CHOOSE ONE** from the 2017 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees below)

### **Gaby, Lost and Found**-Angela Cervantes

Gaby Ramirez Howard loves volunteering at the local animal shelter. She plays with the kittens, helps to obedience train the dogs, and writes adoption advertisements so that the strays who live there can find their forever homes: places where they'll be loved and cared for, no matter what. Gaby has been feeling like a bit of a stray herself, lately. Her mother has recently been deported to Honduras and Gaby is stuck living with her inattentive dad. She's confident that her mom will come home soon so that they can adopt Gaby's favorite shelter cat together. When the cat's original owners turn up at the shelter, however, Gaby worries that her plans for the perfect family are about to fall apart.

### **A Snicker of Magic**-Natalie Lloyd

Midnight Gulch used to be a magical place, a town where people could sing up thunderstorms and dance up sunflowers. But that was long ago, before a curse drove the magic away. Twelve-year-old Felicity knows all about things like that; her nomadic mother is cursed with a wandering heart. But when she arrives in Midnight Gulch, Felicity thinks her luck's about to change. A "word collector," Felicity sees words everywhere---shining above strangers, tucked into church eaves, and tangled up her dog's floppy ears---but Midnight Gulch is the first place she's ever seen the word "home." And then there's Jonah, a mysterious, spiky-haired do-gooder who shimmers with words Felicity's never seen before, words that make Felicity's heart beat a little faster. Felicity wants to stay in Midnight Gulch more than anything, but first, she'll need to figure out how to bring back the magic, breaking the spell that's been cast over the town . . . and her mother's broken heart.

### **Space Case**-Stuart Gibbs

The sudden, mysterious death of Moon Base Alpha's physician threatens the entire underfunded lunar-colonization program. Worse, though the base commander and her NASA superiors insist it was an accident, an overheard conversation leads 12-year-old Dashiell to suspect that it was nothing of the sort. Shrugging off hostility from the powers that be and even an anonymous threat, he enlists the aid of a pair of tech-savvy peers and—encouraged by an oddly elusive new arrival—goes digging. Ultimately, the investigation culminates in a suspenseful murder attempt out on the lunar surface, followed by a game-changing revelation.

### **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library**- Chris Grabenstein

Kyle Keeley is the class clown, popular with most kids, (if not the teachers), and an ardent fan of all games: board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the building of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot to be one of the first 12 kids in the library for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other winners must solve every clue and every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route. And the stakes are very high.

### **Roller Girl**-Victoria Jamieson

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she *is* strong enough to handle it all... in short, strong enough to be a roller girl. In this graphic novel debut that earned a Newbery Honor, real-life derby girl Victoria Jamieson has created an inspiring coming-of-age story about friendship, perseverance, and girl power!

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**\*BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION ABOUT THE BOOK YOU SELECTED WHEN YOU RETURN TO SCHOOL:**

**Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in the story using specific details from the text.**

**Grade 6 LANGUAGE ARTS**

## Grade 5 SOCIAL STUDIES

### **CHOOSE ONE:**

#### **Chains- Laurie Halse Anderson**

If an entire nation could seek its freedom, *why not a girl?* As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom. *Parents are cautioned that, while age-appropriate for middle school, this book does include some depictions of the cruel treatment faced by slaves.*

### **OR**

#### **The Fighting Ground-Avi**

April 3, 1778. America is caught up in the Revolutionary War. Not far from Trenton, NJ a 13 year-old boy and his father are quietly tilling the sod on their farm. Unexpectedly, the quiet is cut by the sound of an alarm bell ringing from a near-by tavern and Jonathan is sent out to find out what the trouble is. What he discovers within the next 24 hours, when he joins the fight and is taken prisoner, changes his understanding of war and life forever.

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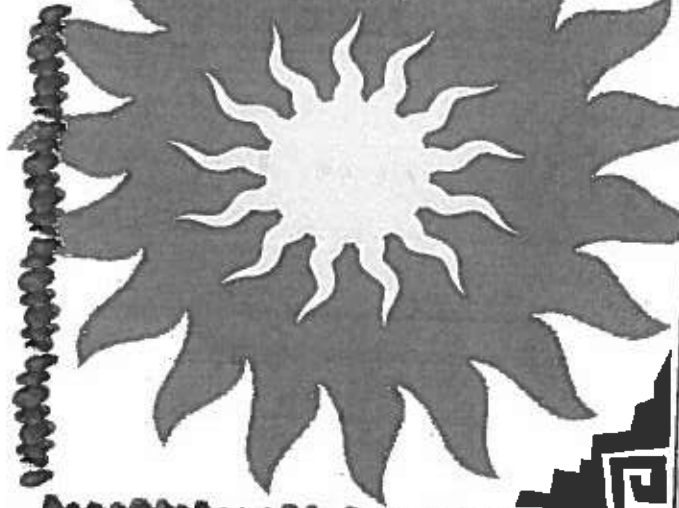
**\*BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION ABOUT THE BOOK YOU SELECTED WHEN YOU RETURN TO SCHOOL:**

**Summarize the text. Include important ideas and key details in your summary.**

# THE PLOT THICKENS!



What is the turning point in the story?



Who is telling the story?

What genre(s) does this book fall into?

List 10 major events in the book in the order they happen.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



Find 3 vocabulary words from the book. Write the page, the word in a sentence and the definition.

1.

2.

3.

Write an epilogue for the story. What has happened in the ten years since the story ended?

Lined writing area for the epilogue.



**▪ ACTION! ▪**

Title:

Author:

Publisher:

Year:                      pages:

Star rating:

One sentence review.

When does this book take place?  
Give examples from the book.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Where does this book take place?  
Give examples from the book.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Compare or contrast an event in this book to something from your life.



Explain the main conflict in the story.

Name of main character: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

List 4 choices the character makes that move the story forward. Explain your choices. If possible, list the pages of the event(s).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.