

Crestdale Middle School's
2016 Summer Reading Options:
Rising 7th Graders

Summer is an important time for students to keep reading and improve their language skills. If your child does not read regularly this summer, he/she may be in danger of the "[summer slide](#)"—a decline in their reading ability. Therefore, students must choose at least one book from this list for summer reading. These titles have been carefully chosen to help maintain reading fluency and reading level and to encourage independent reading!

Students will be reflecting on their summer reading this fall in their Language Arts classes.

**Titles taken from the Prentice Hall Suggested Reading List for Middle School Students*

***Alexander, Lloyd.** *The Arkadians.*

Three Arkadians wander through a fantasy land from one misadventure to another. An out-of-work bean counter, a young woman of mysterious talents, and a poet try to escape the wicked King Bromios and his crooked soothsayers. 780L

***Armstrong, Jennifer.** *Steal Away.*

Two women, one white and one black, tell the story of their escape from a southern farm during the 1850s and of their difficult journey north to freedom. 690L

***Bruchac, Joseph.** *A Boy Called Slow: The True Story of Sitting Bull.*

The true story of a child so deliberate and methodical he was called Slow; he turns out to be Sitting Bull, the Lakota's greatest leader. 690L

***Byars, Betsy.** *The Moon and I.*

The author describes her hilarious adventures with a black snake and some comical stories about her first attempts at becoming a professional writer. 870L

***Collier, James L. and Christopher.** *With Every Drop of Blood.*

Although Johnny promises his dying father he will not desert the family to fight for the rebel cause, the lure of adventure and financial gain are strong. The book realistically focuses on the reasons the Civil War was fought as well as the enormity of the suffering of soldiers and civilians. 820L

***Cooney, Caroline.** *Among Friends.*

Six high school juniors discover surprising things about themselves and their friends in the diaries they are asked to keep as a three-month English assignment. 700L

***Creech, Sharon.** *Absolutely Normal Chaos.*

Mary Louis is keeping a journal as an English class assignment. Through the entries, the events of her summer come alive. 900L

***Curtis, Christopher Paul.** *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963.*

A family story, both comic and moving, touches on the frightening times of the early civil rights movement. 1000L

***Cushman, Karen.** *The Midwife's Apprentice.*

A homeless girl in Medieval England finds a place when she becomes a midwife's apprentice. 1240L

***Filipovic, Zlata.** *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo.*

This personal narrative of life, death, and the loss of childhood depicts Zlata's life before and during the war in Bosnia. 640L

***Freedman, Russell.** *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery.*

A biography of one of this century's most outstanding, inspirational women. 1100L

***Fritz, Jean.** *You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?*

This engaging historical biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton presents a lively look at her impatient, outspoken personality as she fought for women's suffrage. 870L

Halse Anderson, Laurie. *Chains.*

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. 780L

***Hesse, Karen.** *Letters from Rifka.*

In a series of letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl reveals the struggles of her family's flight from Russia in 1919. 660L

***Hite, Sid.** *It's Nothing to a Mountain.*

After the death of their parents, Lisette and Riley go to live with their grandparents in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. There they experience a series of adventures that change their lives. 920L

***Klass, David.** *Danger Zone.*

In this thriller, Jimmy is recruited for an all-star basketball team scheduled to represent the U.S. in an international tournament. When they travel to Rome, the all-star teens are trapped in events beyond their understanding. 850L

***Lewin, Ted.** *I Was a Teenage Professional Wrestler.*

The true-story account of how a children's illustrator earned his way through college. 900L

***McKay, Hilary.** *Dog Friday.*

A boy finds himself in a series of often hilarious, occasionally dangerous scrapes when a wild and eccentric family moves next door. 750L

***Myers, Walter Dean.** *Shadow of the Red Moon.*

Terrorists are about to attack Crystal City. In order to protect their children, parents send them to search for the Ancient Land. 660L

***Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.** *Alice the Brave.*

For Alice, spending the summer around the pool should be ideal, but instead her secret fear of drowning is revealed when a group of boys try to throw her into the pool. Her brother helps her to conquer her fears. 890L

***Paterson, Katherine.** *Lyddie.*

In an effort to gain independence, a poor girl from a Vermont farm leaves home and becomes a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts during the 1840s. 860L

***Paulsen, Gary.** *Brian's Winter.*

What would have happened if Brian Robeson, the subject of *Hatchet*, had not been rescued when he had? Brian must confront the Canadian winter; he scrambles to reinforce his shelter and make animal skin clothing and arrowhead tools to help him improve hunting techniques. 1140L

Paulsen, Gary. *Dogsong.*

14-year-old Russel Susskit leads a dog team on an arduous trek across the frozen Alaskan wilderness on a life-altering journey haunted by dreams of an ancient warrior whose life oddly parallels his own. 930L

***Plummer, Louise.** *The Unlikely Romance of Kate Bjorkman.*

Kate, seventeen, is writing a romance novel based on her real romance with her brother's friend, Richard. As time goes by Kate is able to reflect upon her relationship and her writing. 730L

***Powell, Randy.** *Dean Duffy.*

Dean is assured of a scholarship until his pitching arm gives out and he bats only .052 in his last season. His future is questionable until he receives an offer from a small private college for a one-semester scholarship. 760L

***Rawls, Wilson.** *Where The Red Fern Grows.*

A young boy living in the Ozarks works hard to fulfill his dream of purchasing two redbone hound dogs and training them to be champions. 700L

***Rosen, Michael J.** *A School for Pompey Walker.*

A true narrative of an escaped slave who returned to the South to raise money for a school by selling himself back into slavery again and again. 1170L

***Rylant, Cynthia.** *The Van Gogh Cafe.*

Magic seems to occur at a cafe in Kansas where Clara and her father witness a series of unusual happenings. 810L

Swanson, James. *Chasing Lincoln's Killer.*

Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, this is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth. 980L

***Taylor, Mildred.** *The Well: David's Story.*

Despite the racial prejudice and injustice of the South in the early 1900s, the Logans share their well water. 760L

***Taylor, Theodore.** *The Bomb.*

In 1946, sixteen-year-old Sorry and his family are confronted by U.S. military personnel who tell them their home will be used as a testing site for atomic bombs and that they may return in a few years! 920L

***Wallace, Bill.** *Buffalo Gal.*

Fifteen-year-old Amanda finds herself leaving her refined life to accompany her mother to the Oklahoma Territory on a crusade to save the buffalo. 720L