

## Winthrop Middle School

Dear Future Eighth Graders:

You will soon be on summer break. Everyone at Winthrop Middle School hopes that you have a safe and happy vacation. We do, however, expect that you keep working on your skills and return in September ready to go to work.

### SUMMER READING LIST

Every year each student is required to read **one** book over the summer.

**All students must choose one of the following to read and use to complete the attached story map to be collected during the first week of September. The story map will count as a quiz grade. This will be the first grade you will receive in September toward your first report card grade. This is an enjoyable and easy way to start off the year with an A.**

#### Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Carl Hiaasen (Basket Case, etc.) plunges readers right into the middle of an ecological mystery, made up of endangered miniature owls, the Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House scheduled to be built over their burrows, and the owls' unlikely allies--three middle school kids determined to beat the screwed-up adult system

#### Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

"Speak up for yourself--we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. In Laurie Halse Anderson's powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. She speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while demonstrating the importance of speaking up for oneself.

#### The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who wanted to be left alone in quiet comfort. But the wizard Gandalf came along with a band of homeless dwarves. Soon Bilbo was drawn into their quest, facing evil orcs, savage wolves, giant spiders, and worse unknown dangers.

#### Slam! by Walter Dean Myers

For 16-year-old Sam, life is about to get extremely complicated. He and his girlfriend—make that ex-girlfriend—Alicia have gotten themselves into a bit of trouble. Sam is suddenly forced to grow up and struggle with the familiar fears and inclinations that haunt us all.

#### Whirligig by Paul Fleischman

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

#### Uglies by Scott Westerfield

Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only

job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

The Pox Party (The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing) by MT Anderson

It sounds like a fairy tale. He is a boy dressed in silks and white wigs and given the finest of classical educations. Raised by a group of rational philosophers known only by numbers, the boy and his mother — a princess in exile from a faraway land — are the only persons in their household assigned names. As the boy's regal mother, Cassiopeia, entertains the house scholars with her beauty and wit, young Octavian begins to question the purpose behind his guardians' fanatical studies. Only after he dares to open a forbidden door does he learn the hideous nature of their experiments — and his own chilling role in them.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Genre \_\_\_\_\_

### STORY MAP – Grade 8

#### **PROTAGONIST (MAIN CHARACTER)**

Name the protagonist:

Identify two **physical** traits (age, appearance, size, etc.):

- 1.
- 2.

Three **personality** traits

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did the character change?

#### **SETTING**

Describe the place and time of the story.

#### **THEME**

Explain the theme, message, or main idea.

#### **PLOT/SUMMARY (answer on a separate sheet of paper)**

1. Describe the beginning events in the story. (rising action)
2. Explain the conflict. Is it internal (man vs. self) or external (man vs. man, nature, society)
3. List the major events including the climax of the story.
4. Explain how the main problem/conflict is solved. (resolution)

#### **Choose one (answer on a separate sheet of paper)**

1. Make a text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world connection to the story.
- or**
2. Describe your favorite part of the book.