

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
106 Washington Avenue
Plainview, New York 11803



May, 2013

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Summer reading provides an excellent opportunity for students to continue to enhance literacy skills developed throughout the school year. It is also an opportunity to engage students in reading for fun and at their own level of interest and ability. To this end, the Plainview–Old Bethpage School District is issuing a Summer Reading List to all middle school students.

The Middle School teachers and librarians developed a diverse list from titles recommended by the American Library Association and professional journals. We invite parents and guardians to carefully review the list in an effort to guide children in making appropriate selections in terms of text difficulty as well as the subject matter discussed.

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library and local bookstores have received copies of our Summer Reading Lists and will be happy to help you select books. Public libraries provide a great opportunity to use computers, search the Internet, and socialize with peers. In addition, a link will be provided on the district's website to connect you with the 2013 statewide summer reading program, "Dig into Reading" (for younger children) and "Beneath the Surface" (for teens).

Please make every effort to read as much as possible over the upcoming summer. It would be helpful to keep track of the titles and authors of books read to share with teachers upon the return of school in September. While we strongly encourage reading multiple titles, **students must read one book from the attached list and will be required to complete a writing assignment in September that will contribute to their first quarter average.** Please find an *optional* reading worksheet enclosed which can serve as a note-taking resource toward the first quarter assessment.

On behalf of the Plainview-Old Bethpage schools, we wish you a healthy and enjoyable summer. Please enjoy frequent visits to libraries and book stores. Make literacy, in all of its aspects, a part of the time you spend together this summer.

Mr. Dean Mittleman
Principal

Mr. John McNamara
Principal

Mr. Jeffrey Yagaloff
English Language Arts Chair, K – 12

**"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."
~ Joseph Addison**

Plainview-Old-Bethpage School District
Mattlin & Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle Schools
6th Grade Summer Reading List 2013

- Baker, E.D. *The Tales of the Frog Princess* series
Fantasy
Twists on the classic tale.
- Balliett, Blue. *The Calder Game* (all titles by author)
Mystery
Art crimes, pentominoes codes, patterns, and ingenious puzzles will challenge readers to solve these mysteries.
- Choldenko, Gennifer. *If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period*
Realistic Fiction
Two seventh-grade girls deal with wealth, weight, and other issues and try to stand up to a mean but influential classmate.
- Cottrell Boyce, Frank. *Framed*
Mystery
Dylan and his sisters try to make the family business profitable, but when some strange men appear in their town with some famous paintings and their father disappears, they consider turning to crime.
- Creech, Sharon. *Ruby Holler*
Realistic Fiction
A funny yet poignant novel about downtrodden siblings who refuse to be squished together.
- Cushman, Karen. *The Midwife's Apprentice*
Newbery Honor
In medieval England, a homeless girl known only as Brat, is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife and, in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains a place in the world.
- Daneshvari, Gitty. *School of Fear* series
Fantasy
Four children are sent to the School of Fear to overcome their phobias.
- Deedy, Carmen. *The Cheshire Cheese Cat; a Dickens of a Tale*
Fantasy
An unlikely alliance forms between a cheese loving cat and a community of mice in an inn in England.
- Deuker, Carl. *Night Hoops*
Realistic Fiction
While trying to prove he's good enough to play varsity basketball, Nick must deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate.
- Dowd, Siobhan. *London Eye Mystery*
Mystery
Kat and Ted, whose brain is wired differently, try to solve the mystery of Kat's cousin's disappearance from the London Eye ferris wheel.

- Draper, Sharon. *Out of My Mind*
Realistic
A brilliant 5th grader with cerebral palsy discovers a device that will allow her to speak for the first time.
- Emerson, Kevin. *Carlos is Gonna Get it*
Realistic Fiction
Recounts the events that occur at the end of seventh grade, when a group of friends plan to trick Carlos, an annoying "problem" student who says he is visited by aliens, while they are on a field trip in the mountains.
- Ferris, Jean. *Once upon a Marigold, Twice upon a Marigold*
Fantasy
A bad queen, a troll, some romance, and some tragedy all mixed up to create these humorous stories.
- Fine, Anne. *Up on Cloud Nine*
Realistic Fiction
Ian tries to discover why his best friend Stol is up on cloud nine – in a hospital, unconscious and hooked up to machines after falling (jumping?) from the top floor of the building.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Nory Ryan's Song* companion novel *Maggie's Door*
Historical Fiction
When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop, Nory's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive.
- Gliori, Debi. *Pure Dead Magic* (all titles in the series)
Fantasy
Things go awry at the Strega-Borgia castle in this hilarious fantasy series.
- Green, Tim *Football Genius* (all titles in the series) (also Football Great series)
Sports
Lots of football action (or baseball) mixed with fun escapades of two 6th graders.
- Hershey, Mary. *10 Lucky Things That Have Happened to Me Since I Nearly Got Hit by Lightning*
Realistic Fiction
Effie thinks her life is practically perfect until the Valentine's Day fiasco at school.
- Horvath, Polly. *Everything on a Waffle (and The Trolls, and The Pepins and their Problems)*
Newbery Honor
Every type of food comes on a waffle in the restaurant where Primrose stays while waiting for her parents to return.
- Korman, Gordon. *Schooled*
Realistic Fiction
When his grandmother breaks her leg Cap is forced to go to public school for the first time.

- Law, Ingrid. *Savvy* and sequel *Scumble*
 Fantasy/Newbery Honor
 The Beaumonts each possess a “savvy” supernatural power that comes to them at age 13.
- LaFevers, R. L. *Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos* (all titles in the series)
 Fantasy
 Eleven-year-old Theodosia has the ability to detect black magic and ancient curses that are attached to objects in the Museum of Legends and Antiquities, where her father is the curator.
- Lisle, Janet Taylor. *Highway Cats*
 Fantasy
 Mangy highway cats are changed forever by the arrival of 3 kittens.
- MacHale, D. J. *Pendragon* series
 Fantasy/Science Fiction
 Bobby and his uncle flume (time travel) from Connecticut to medieval times to save the world.
- Martin, Ann. *The Doll People* series
 Fantasy
 The adventures of the 100 year old doll Annabelle as she tries to find Auntie Sarah, missing since 1955.
 A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray
 Realistic Fiction
 The adventures of a stray as she finds friends and a home.
- McKay, Hilary. *Saffy's Angel*
 Historical Fiction
 Saffron discovers she's adopted and leaves her English home to find her roots in Italy.
- Myron, Vicki. *Dewey The Library Cat*
 Non-Fiction
 A true story of a kitten abandoned in a library book drop in Iowa and lives in the library for the next 19 years , entertaining and helping the library patrons..
- Pullman, Philip. *Spring-Heeled Jack*
 Adventure
 A Victorian hero attempts to help 3 orphan children in London in this hilarious story with comic book style illustrations.
- Reeve, Philip. *Starcross* and *Larklight*
 Science Fiction
 Arthur, his sister Myrtle, and their mother accept an invitation to take a holiday at a resort in the asteroid belt, where they become involved in a dastardly plot involving spies, time travel, and mind-altering clothing.
- Rex, Adam. *True Meaning of Smekday*
 Science Fiction
 "Tip" Tucci is left to fend for herself after Earth is colonized by aliens and her mother is abducted.

Sachar, Louis. *The Boy Who Lost his Face*

Realistic Fiction

A hilarious romp through junior high.

Sage, Angie. *Magyk* (all titles in the Septimus Heap series)

Fantasy

Ten-year-olds Septimus Heap and Jenna are threatened by the evil wizard DomDaniel, who intends to finish off the entire royal line.

Schlits, Laura Amy. *Splendors & Glooms*

Newbery

Was Clara kidnapped by a puppeteer who performed at a party in her house?

Schusterman, Neal. *The Schwa was Here* and *Antsy Does Time*

Realistic Fiction

Friendship between Antsy and his “invisible-ish” friend the Schwa who is tired of blending into his surroundings.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Eggs*

Realistic Fiction

Mourning the loss of his mother, nine-year-old David forms an unlikely friendship with independent, quirky, thirteen-year-old Primrose, as the two help each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

Loser

Realistic Fiction

Donald’s exuberance and supportive family help him not to feel like he is a loser.

Wardlaw, Lee. *101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher* (all titles in the 101 Ways series)

Realistic Fiction

Steve has to come up with a way to keep his parents from making him skip a grade and entering the Invention Convention.

Student Name: _____

Summer Reading 2013

This is a note-taking worksheet for you to log information on concerning your reading selection. This is optional and is not the actual assignment your teacher will be giving you in the first quarter. It is a great way for you to record your thoughts during the process of reading as well as immediately after completing your text choice. This can be especially important if you plan on reading your choice very early into the summer because it can serve as a study tool as you prepare for your first quarter assignment.

1. What is the **title** of your selection?

2. What is the **author's name** of your selection?

3. Describe the **setting** of your selection:

- a. What are the key **locations** where your story takes place? Describe them briefly.

- b. Explain **when** your story takes place. Does it take place during a certain month, year, season, or time period? Does most of the action occur during day or night? Ask yourself if there is anything of importance concerning this.

4. Describe **two major characters** and **one minor character** from your selection.

- a. **Major Character One:**

- i. Name:

- ii. Describe the physical appearance of this character:

- iii. Provide a few comments about this character's actions, personality, and what others think of him/her:

b. Major Character Two:

- i. Name:

- ii. Describe the physical appearance of this character:

- iii. Provide a few comments about this character's actions, personality, and what others think of him/her:

c. Minor Character One:

- i. Name:

- ii. Describe the physical appearance of this character:

- iii. Provide a few comments about this character's actions, personality, and what others think of him/her:

- 5. The **conflict** is the major problem that occurs in a story. Stories almost always have an external conflict that exists between the central character and an additional source (for example, person vs. person, person vs. society, person vs. nature) and often have an internal conflict, such as when a character has a "battle" with him/herself over something such as a tough decision. What are the external and internal conflicts in the story that you selected?

- 6. The **plot** of a story is its basic storyline and it generally follows a classic pattern of development. Reflect on how the plot progresses and summarize each step of its development.

- a. **Exposition** (This usually occurs at the very beginning of the story and provides background information and serves to introduce the characters, conflict, and setting):

- b. **Rising Action** (This is the portion of the story when the conflict develops beyond its initial introduction):

- c. **Climax** (This describes the turning point in a story when things change for the better or worse):

- d. **Falling Action** (This concerns the resolution of the conflict when a protagonist often “wins” or “loses” against his/her antagonist. It helps lead the story to its conclusion):

- e. **Resolution** (This serves as the conclusion of a story when conflicts are resolved, creating a sense of normalcy for characters):

- a. What topics are featured in your selection?

b. What lesson about life does the author want you to learn from this story?

8. What are your **general reactions** to your reading selection now that you have finished reading it? Would you rate this book as poor, fair, good, or excellent? Did you enjoy the story? Do you respect the author's craftsmanship? Is there a certain type of reader that you would recommend this book to?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Name: _____

**Summer Reading 2013
Incoming Grade Six
Optional Note-Taking Sheet**

After finishing your book, feel free to take notes on the following items to help you remember it.

- Title:
- Author:
- Setting (time and place):
- Main Character (appearance and Character traits):
- Conflict (the major problem in your book):

- Plot (beginning, middle, and end):
- Themes and Morals (lessons about life):
- Would you rate this book as poor, fair, good, or excellent? Why?
- Did you enjoy the story? Why?
- Who should read this book? Why?