

HOMMOCKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th GRADE SUMMER READING LIST (2006)

REQUIRED READING (Choose TWO of the following)

Byars, Betsy - *The Pinballs* Carlie knows she's got no say in what happens to her. Stuck in a foster home with two other kids, Harvey and Thomas J., she's just a pinball being bounced from bumper to bumper. As soon as you get settled, someone puts another coin in the machine and off you go again. But against her will and her better judgment, Carlie and the boys become friends.

Curtis, Christopher Paul – *Bud, Not Buddy* A story of a ten-year-old boy who was orphaned at the age of six. The story takes place during the Depression of the 1930s. Bud is in an orphanage and is soon sent home to live with a family. The family is mean and Bud gets his revenge. Now on the run, it's his will to survive and succeed that helps him.

Ellis, Deborah - *The Breadwinner* Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.

Choices for the Third Required Selection

Aiken, Joan – *Wolves of Willoughby Chase* Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia are left in the care of a cruel governess when Bonnie's parents go on a sea voyage. Besieged by wolves outside and the terrible Miss Slighcarp inside, how will they reclaim Willoughby Chase?

Avi – *Captain Grey* A swashbuckling pirate adventure story that deals with a young boy's determination to free himself from a band of pirates based on a New Jersey shoreline just after the Revolutionary War.

Blumberg, Rhoda—*Shipwrecked! The True Adventures of a Japanese Boy* In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck, fourteen-year-old Manjiro learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

Buck, Pearl S. – *The Big Wave* A tidal wave and a volcano are a constant threat to Kino and Jiya who live in a small, Japanese village.

Byars, Betsy - *The 18th Emergency* A funny book with a serious theme of facing up to one's responsibility. Benji and his friend, Ezzi, have defined 17 emergencies based on old adventure movies - impossible situations with miraculous escapes. But they can't figure out what to do about the 18th emergency.

Choldenko, Gennifer – *Notes from a Liar and Her Dog* Twelve-year-old Antonia MacPherson has an unenviable position in her family, falling between two perfect sisters, Katherine the Great and Your Highness Elizabeth. She has a penchant for getting into trouble and driving her bewildered parents crazy.

Cleary, Beverly – *Dear Mr. Henshaw* Young Leigh Botts corresponds with a writer to come to terms with the separation of his parents.

Clements, Andrew – *The Landry News* Barely noticed by classmates or her teacher, fifth grade student, Cara Landry, publishes her first edition of the Landry News creating a transformation of teacher, students, and even herself.

Creech, Sharon – *Love That Dog* As school starts in September, Jack is not eager to embark on Miss Stretchberry's poetry writing assignments. "I don't want to/because boys/don't write poetry. Girls do." But Jack's attitude soon changes.

Creech, Sharon – *Granny Torelli Makes Soup* Twelve-year-old Rosie and her best friend, Bailey, don't always get along. "Bailey, who is usually so nice, Bailey, my neighbor, my friend, my buddy, my pal for my whole life, knowing me better than anybody, that Bailey, that Bailey I am so mad at right now, that Bailey, I hate him today."

Cushman, Karen – *Rodzina It is 1881, and 12-year-old Rodzina Clara Jadwiga Brodski finds herself on an orphan train bound from Chicago to the west where, she is afraid that she will be sold into slavery.

Dickinson, Peter – *A Bone from a Dry Sea In two parallel stories, a young female member of a prehistoric tribe becomes instrumental in advancing her people, and a present-day young girl visits her paleontologist father on a dig in Africa where they discover important fossil remains.

Farmer, Nancy – *The Ear, the Eye and the Arm In the year 2194, General Matsika's children leave the house on a forbidden adventure and disappear. Their parents call in Africa's most unusual detectives - the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm - who have powers far beyond human beings.

Hamilton, Virginia – *House of Dies Drear* A compelling story of the weird and terrifying happenings that threaten a black professor and his family who are living in a house that was a former Underground Railway station.

Hautzig, Esther – *The Endless Steppe Based on the memories of the author, this is the true story of her family who was forced to live in Siberia during World War II and their struggle to survive.

Hobbs, Valerie – *Defiance* While vacationing in the country, eleven-year-old Toby, a cancer patient, learns some important lessons about living and dying from an elderly poet and her cow.

Holm, Jennifer L. - *Our Only May Amelia* As the only girl in a Finnish-American family of seven brothers, May Amelia Jackson resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington state in 1899.

La Faye, A. – *Worth* After breaking his leg, eleven-year-old Nate feels useless because he cannot work on the family farm in nineteenth-century Nebraska. When his father brings home an orphan boy to help with the chores, Nate feels even worse.

L'Engle, Madeleine – *A Wrinkle in Time Fourteen-year-old Meg Murry, her younger brother Charles Wallace, and friend, Calvin O'Keefe are in search of her scientist father when an unearthly visitor takes them on a fantastic voyage to rescue him.

MacLachlan, Patricia – *Baby Larkin and her family love the baby that was left on their doorstep even though they know that the mother will return to claim her.

Montgomery, Lucy - *Anne of Green Gables Eleven-year-old Anne recounts her mishaps before she wins the heart of her foster mother.

Park, Barbara - *Mick Harte was Here* Mick was one of the neatest kids you'd ever want to meet. Mick was also the kid who would still be alive now if he'd only worn his bicycle helmet.

Raskin, Ellen - *The Westing Game The sixteen potential heirs of the Westing fortune play a guessing game devised by an eccentric millionaire.

Sachar, Louis – *Holes* Stanley Yelnats suffers from a curse brought on by his great, great grandfather who stole a pig from a one-legged gypsy. Now Stanley must dig one hole every day in a correctional camp for young boys for a crime he did not commit.

Sewell, Anna - *Black Beauty* A wonderful story of the life of a horse, written autobiographically. Written before the automobile era to protest cruelty to horses.

Spinelli, Jerry – *Loser* Even though his classmates since first grade have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

Taylor, Theodore – *The Trouble with Tuck* What does Helen do when her loved dog, Friar Tuck, begins to go blind?

Yep, Laurence – *Dragonwings The beautiful story of a son who helps his father build a flying machine in 1909.

***More challenging selections**