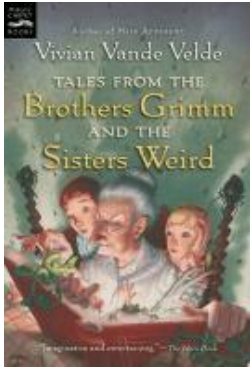


2010 HKMS Summer Reading List - Incoming 5th & 6th Grade

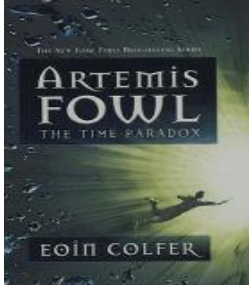
Reading experts report that most young readers suffer a backslide in reading skills during summer downtime. Summer reading is essential for kids! The following is a sampling of some books the students might enjoy. We encourage you to read many books this summer, both fiction and non-fiction. **It is required that you read one fiction book from this list and respond to it on the sheet provided. Your written response will be handed in next fall to your language arts teacher and will be your first language arts grade of the school year. Students entering 5th or 6th grade must choose one of the attached questions to answer and students entering 7th or 8th grade must answer both questions attached.**



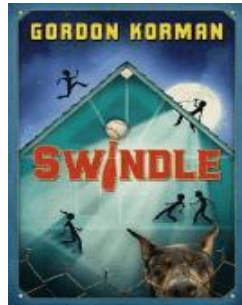
Tales from the Brothers Grimm and the Sisters Weird by Vivian Vande Velde. **Genre: Fairy Tale**
Welcome to the fairy-tale world where Hansel and Gretel are horrible children who deserve to be baked and where These tongue-in-cheek interpretations of more than a dozen favorite fairy tales will have readers in stitches. 13 twisted versions of such familiar fairy tales as Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Hansel and Gretel, and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. (128 pages).



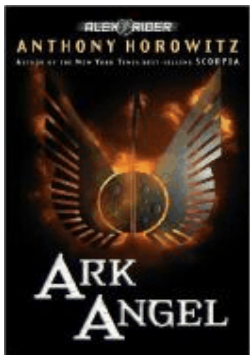
The London Eye mystery by Siobhan Dowd. **Genre: Mystery.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee)
A 12-year-old Londoner with something like Asperger's syndrome narrates this page-turner, which grabs readers from the beginning and doesn't let go. As Ted and his older sister Katrina watch, their visiting cousin Salim boards a "pod" for a ride on a towering tourist attraction, Salim never comes down. (322 pages)



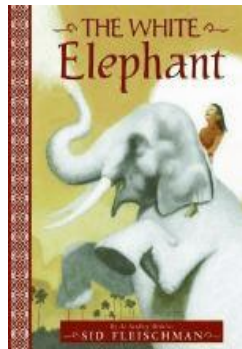
The Time Paradox by Eoin Colfer. **Genre: Fantasy/ Adventure/Science Fiction.**
Artemis's fairy friends help him travel back in time to find a cure for his mother's rare disease which can only be cured by the brain fluid of now-extinct African lemurs, and is shocked to discover that it was actually his younger self who was responsible for bringing about the animal's extinction. (391 pages)



Swindle by Gordon Korman. **Genre: Adventure.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee)
After a collector cheats Griffin Bing out of a valuable baseball card, he recruits his divers group of friends in an adventure that includes vicious dogs, high-tech security, tall trees, and a frozen turkey. This is Gordon Korman at his crowd-pleasing best, perfect for readers who like a hoot, a howl, and a heist. (230 pages).



Ark Angel by Anthony Horowitz. (Alex Rider book #6) **Genre: Adventure/Mystery.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) A James Bond-like novel. Being a teenage secret agent is just too dangerous. His mission involves eco-terrorists, rockets to space, maniacal killers, and a less-than-idyllic tropical island. The action-filled plot develops quickly and keeps readers on the edge of their seats. Though there are some references to previous missions, this title can certainly stand alone. Recommended for reluctant readers. -Heather E. Miller (326 pages).



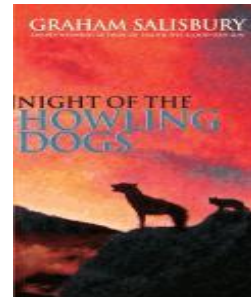
The White Elephant by Sid Fleischman. **Genre: Historical Fiction.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee)
How can a beautiful white elephant be a terrible curse? A cruel prince, accidentally sprayed with water by the animal, complicates Run-Run's already difficult life by giving him a gift that is really a curse-a white elephant. Somehow, Run-Run must take excellent care of Sahib, who is forbidden to work because he is sacred: "Wash the hair at his ears! Brush it! Use no harsh words. Do not scold him. Treat him like an honored guest!" (243 pages).



Fairest by Gail Carson Levine

Genre: Realistic Fiction.

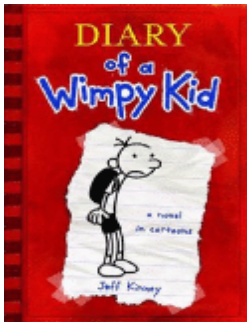
In an alluring companion novel that some readers may argue even surpasses Ella Enchanted, Levine gives a visionary rendering of the Snow White tale that challenges conventional ideas of beauty. ~ Reed Business Information. (326 pages).



Night of the Howling Dogs by Graham Salisbury.

Genre: Adventure/Historical Fiction.

While on a Boy scout camping trip there is an earthquake, as the boys struggle to regain their senses, they are struck by a tsunami. What if a bully, and your least favorite person was the only hope of rescue?. (191 pages with illustrations and author's notes based on true events).

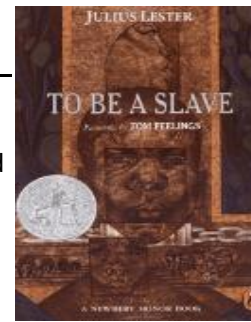


Diary of a Wimpy Kid : Greg Heffley's journal

by Jeff Kinney.

Genre: Humor.

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship. (217 pages).



To Be A Slave by Julius Lester. **Genre: Nonfiction.**

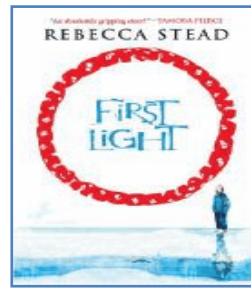
(2011 Nutmeg Nominee) Presents clear and moving accounts of what life was really like as a slave, but what may surprise readers is that their struggles and hardships truly began with their freedom. Paired with Mr. Lester's historical commentary and powerful and soulful paintings by Mr. Feelings. (160 pages).



The lemonade war by Jacqueline Davies.

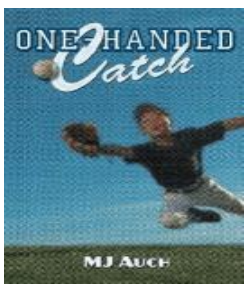
Genre: Realistic Fiction/Humor

(2011 Nutmeg Nominee) With a clever blend of humor and math fun, this funny, fresh, and poignant novel about competing lemonade stands captures the one-of-a-kind bond between brother and sister. A quick and easy read that is great for reluctant readers. (173 pages).



First Light by Stead Rebecca. **Genre:**

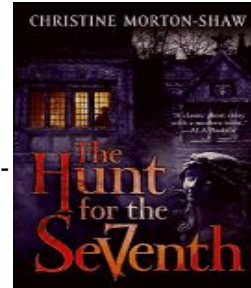
Adventure/Science Fiction (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) Generations ago, the people of Thea's community were hunted for possessing unusual abilities, so they fled beneath the ice. Filled with excitement and mystery, this novel is great discussion starter of issues ranging from global warming to shunning and building a new society. (328 pages).



One-Handed Catch by MJ Auch.

Genre: Sports/Historical Fiction/Humor.

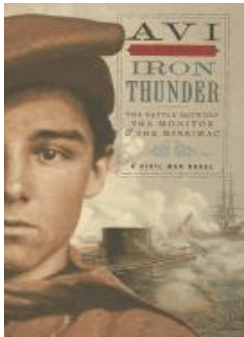
(2011 Nutmeg Nominee) A strong sense of purpose, leavened by generous doses of humor and post-World War II period detail, drives this story of a resilient middle-grader who demonstrates that having one hand is an opportunity rather than a handicap. (248 pages).



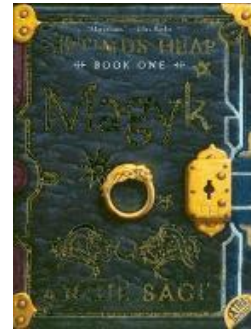
The Hunt for the Seventh by Christine Morton-Shaw.

Genre: Mystery/Ghost.

After their father takes a new job as head gardener at England's Minerva Hall, Jim and his sister, Sal, find themselves in the perfect setting for a ghost story. Then Jim discovers that Minerva children throughout the years have died in freakish accidents, and, assisted by a mysterious child named Einstein, he witnesses reenactments of their deaths. (273 pages).



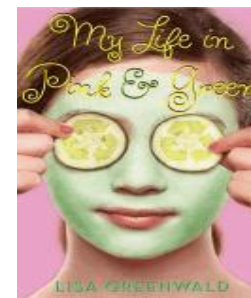
Iron thunder : the battle between the Monitor & the Merrimac : a Civil War novel by Avi .
Genre: Historical Fiction/War. (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) An action-packed account of a battle that changed the course of naval warfare. This fascinating adventure taken from U.S. history begins in Brooklyn in 1862, when Tom, 13, is hired as a iron worker. He refuses bribes from spies and they escalate to threats. Endnotes detail Avi's research at the Mariners' Museum in Virginia. (203 pages).



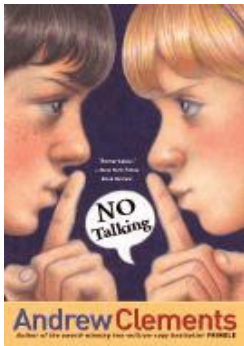
Magyk by Angie Sage. (book #1 in Septimus Heap)
Genre: Fantasy. A wide cast of characters battle the forces of Darke Magyk in a well-realized world of fantasy. At birth, Septimus Heap is carried away for dead, and his father, Silas Heap, is entrusted with a baby girl. When the villainous Supreme Custodian tries to assassinate the now 10-year-old Jenna, the girl flees along with some family members, the Extra Ordinary Wizard, and a young army guard known only as "Boy 412." (564 pages).



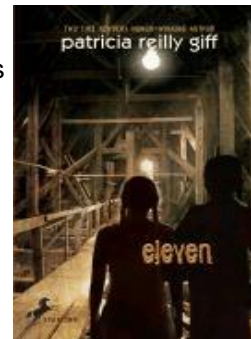
Zoobreak by Gordon Korman. (sequel to Swindle)
Genre: Adventure. When Cleo disappears from Savannah's backyard and is later spotted on a school field trip to a decrepit floating zoo, madcap plans and adventures ensue in this action-packed story. (230 pages).



My Life in Pink & Green by Lisa Greenwald.
Genre: Realistic Fiction. This novel takes an upbeat approach to serious issues-money struggles and impending foreclosure-underscoring the optimistic message that one individual can make a difference. (267 pages).



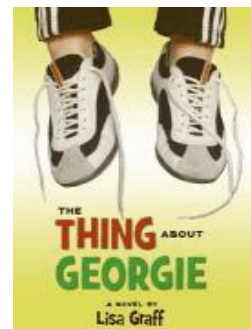
No Talking by Andrew Clements (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) **Genre: Realistic Fiction** "You have the right to remain silent." However...The 5th grade students don't get along very well and they are loud and disorderly. This funny and surprising book is about language and thought, about words unspoken, words spoken in anger, and especially about the power of words spoken in kindness...with or without a bullhorn. It's Andrew Clements at his best -- thought-provoking, true-to-life, and very entertaining. An easy and quick read. (146 pages).



Eleven by Patricia Reilly Giff (2011 Nutmeg Nominee)
Genre: Realistic Fiction Sam is almost 11 when he discovers evidence that he was kidnapped. He's desperate to find out who he is, and is haunted by dreams of a big castle and a terrifying escape on a boat. Who can he trust to help him solve the mystery? This intimate story realistically examines friendship, family secrets and the struggles of a learning-disabled child trying to make sense of the world. (164 pages).



Elephant Run by Roland Smith **Genre: War/Historical Fiction** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) Japanese soldiers invade Nick's village, and Nick's father is taken prisoner. Nick is stranded on the plantation, forced to work as a servant to the new rulers. As life in the village grows more dangerous for Nick and his young friend, Mya, they plan their daring escape. Setting off on elephant back, they will risk their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese POW camp. (318 pages).



The thing about Georgie : a novel by Lisa Graff (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) **Genre: Realistic Fiction** In this poignant story peppered with comedy, newcomer Lisa Graff creates an unforgettable character in nine-year-old Georgie Bishop, who struggles to grow up when he isn't getting any taller. This story about the trials of a fourth grader who is a dwarf will entertain and enlighten kids. (220 pages).

Haddam-Killingworth Middle School

Summer Reading Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

We encourage you to read many books this summer, both fiction and non-fiction. It is required that you read one fiction book and respond to it on this sheet. Your written response will be handed in next fall to your language arts teacher and will be your first language arts grade of the next school year. Students entering 5th or 6th grade must choose one of the attached questions to answer and students entering 7th or 8th grade must answer both.

1. Discuss which character in the story you would like to know and why. Elaborate with details and examples.

2. What could be another title for the story? Use information and details from the story to explain your answer.

