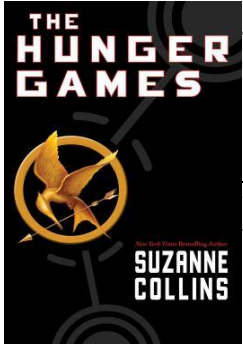


# 2010 HKMS Summer Reading List - Incoming 7th & 8th Grade

We encourage you to read many books this summer, both fiction and non-fiction. 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 book from this list and respond to the questions provided (bottom of page 3) on a separate sheet of paper. Students entering 7th or 8th grade must answer BOTH questions provided. Your written response will be handed in next fall to your language arts teacher and will be your first language arts grade for the next school year. What a great way to start out with an "A!"**



## **The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins.**

(Series: The Hunger Games; bk. 1)

**Genre: Science Fiction.** We have Fahrenheit 451, The Giver, The House of the Scorpion-and now The Hunger Games. A gripping story set in a post apocalyptic world where a replacement for the United States demands a tribute from each of its territories: two children to be used as gladiators in a televised fight to the death. You won't be able to put down. Catching Fire is book #2 and Mockingjay is book #3. (374 pages).



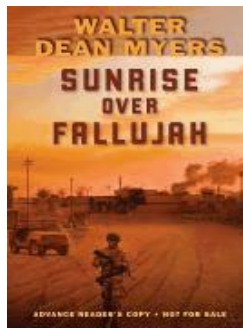
**Hex Hall by Rachel Hawkins. Genre: Fantasy.** 3 years ago, Sophie Mercer discovered that she was a witch. It's gotten her into a few scrapes. When Sophie attracts too much human attention for a prom-night spell gone horribly wrong, it's her dad who decides her punishment: exile to Hex Hall, an isolated reform school and gets three powerful enemies who look like supermodels, and gets a new roommate who happens to be the most hated person and only vampire on campus. (243 pages).



## **Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins.**

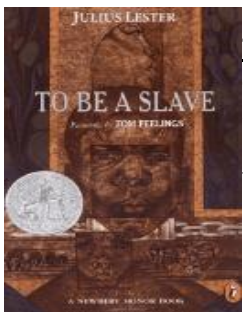
(Series: Hunger Games ; bk. 2)

**Genre: Science Fiction.** At the end of The Hunger Games (2008), breathless readers were left in the lurch with any number of questions. Will Katniss lead an uprising against the Capitol? Does she fancy Peeta or Gale? Both? Neither? The 2nd book in this trilogy matches, if not exceeds, the unfiltered adrenaline rush of the first book, The Hunger Games. The 3rd book that comes out in August is Mockingjay. (391 pages).



## **Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Meyers.**

**Genre: Historical Fiction/War.** A novel that will allow American teens to grapple intelligently and thoughtfully with the war in Iraq. Young civil affairs soldiers soon find their definition of "winning" ever more elusive and their good intentions being replaced by terms like "survival" and "despair." Caught in the crossfire, Myers' richly rendered characters are just beginning to understand the meaning of war in this powerful, realistic novel of our times. (290 pages).



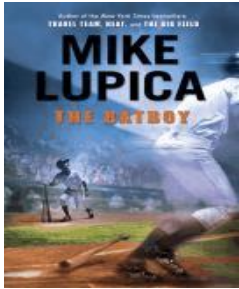
## **To Be A Slave by Julius Lester. Genre: Nonfiction.**

**(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).

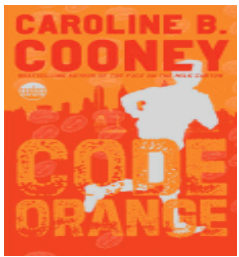


**Smiles to Go by Jerry Spinelli. Genre: Realistic Fiction.** What is stargazer, skateboarder, chess champ, pepperoni pizza eater, older brother, sister hater, best friend, first kisser, science geek, control freak Will Tuppence so afraid of in this great big universe? Jerry Spinelli knows. With narrative that is fast moving and often laugh-out-loud funny, this book also has short sentences and brief chapters that makes it a good pick for even reluctant readers. (248 pages).

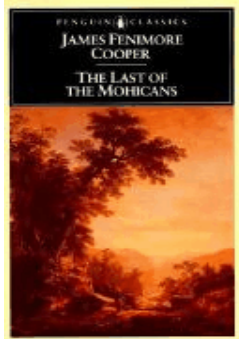
# 2010 Haddam-Killingworth 7th & 8th Grade Summer Reading List



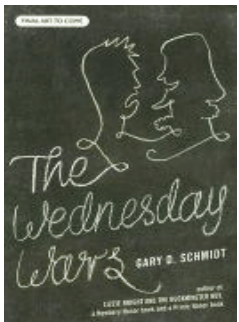
**The Batboy** by Mike Lupica. **Genre: Sports Fiction.**  
This story will give readers a behind-the-scenes look at major league sports and the real life of a major league batboy. Though this novel will appeal to those who equate summer with baseball, it should also win over readers who appreciate finely crafted storytelling and engaging characters who give genuine insights into family dynamics. (237 pages).



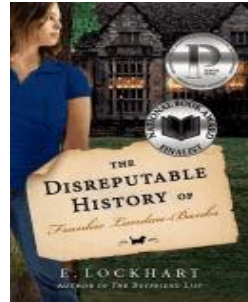
**Code Orange** by Caroline B. Cooney.  
**Genre: Realistic & Historical Fiction.**  
While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City. (200 pages).



**The last of the Mohicans** by James Fenimore Cooper.  
**Genre: Classic/Adventure/Historical Fiction.**  
Tragic, fast-paced, and stocked with the elements of a classic frontier adventure-massacres and raids, innocent settlers, hardened soldiers, renegade Indians, and a doomed love affair-the novel's enduring value lies in its contributions to the American frontier mythos, and its insights into the friendship between two men at odds with their own people. ~ Book jacket. (352 pages).



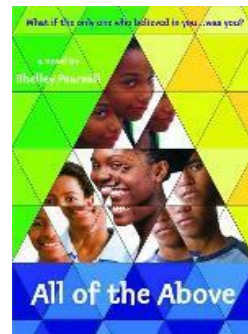
**The Wednesday Wars** by Gary D. Schmidt.  
**Genre: Realistic Fiction** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee)  
A wonderfully witty and compelling novel about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures who is an unforgettable antihero. While the rest of the seventh graders at Camillo Junior High attend Hebrew school or catechism classes on Wednesday afternoons, Holling Hood, a Presbyterian, must stay with his teacher, Mrs. Baker. The Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement form the background for this powerful novel by Gary Schmidt. (440 pages)



**The disreputable history of Frankie Landau-Banks : a novel** by E. Lockhart (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) **Genre: Realistic Fiction.** Frankie transforms from a scrawny, awkward girl to a beauty before entering an elite private high school. While there, Frankie concocts a plan to infiltrate an all-male secret society to which her dad had once belonged. She is the ultimate feminist role model for teens: a girl with guts and imagination who's brave enough to take on the "old boy's club." (345 pages).



**Home of the Brave** by Katherine Applegate **Genre: Realistic Fiction.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) "Kek, a young Sudanese refugee, is haunted by guilt that he survived. He saw his father and brother killed, and he left his mother behind when he joined his aunt's family in Minnesota.--"Rochman, Hazel" 2007 Booklist (249 pages).

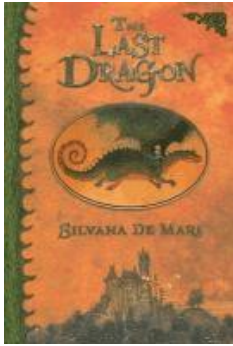


**All of the above : a novel** by Shelley Pearsall.  
**Genre: Historical Fiction.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) Exhausted by his efforts to teach math to apathetic middle schoolers', Mr. Collins proposes that his class attempt to build the world's largest tetrahedron structure. This novel is based on the true story of a Cleveland middle school tetrahedron built in 2002. it is a feel-good read (234 pages).

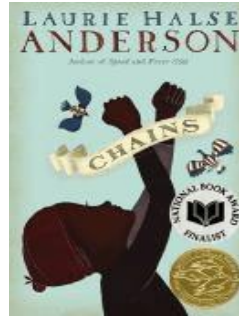


**Unwind** by Neal Shusterman. **Genre: Science Fiction.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system that would "unwind" them. Risa has no parents and is being unwound to cut orphanage costs. Lev's unwinding has been planned since his birth. Connor's parents want to be rid of him because he's a troublemaker. If they can survive until their eighteenth birthday, they can't be harmed -- but when every piece of them, from their hands to their hearts, are wanted by a world gone mad, eighteen seems far away. (335 pages).

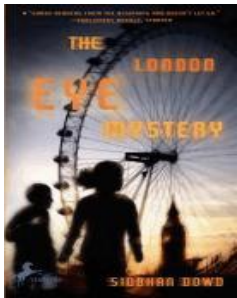
# 2010 Haddam-Killingworth 7th & 8th Grade Summer Reading List



**The Last Dragon** by Silvana de Mari.  
**Genre: Fantasy/Humor.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee)  
 At times hilarious, at times poignant, and always entertaining, the story will grip young fantasy fans with its clever and humane humor. In a post-apocalyptic world, Yorsh struggles to survive as the earth's last elf. Soon Yorsh discovers he is part of a powerful prophecy: when the last dragon and the last elf break the circle --Sally Estes Copyright 2006 Booklist (361 pages).



**Chains** by Laurie Halse Anderson. **Genre: Historical Fiction.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee)  
 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. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple. (316 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)



**Waiting for normal** Leslie Connor..  
**Genre: Realistic Fiction.** (2011 Nutmeg Nominee) A story centered around loss, heartbreak, abandonment, and new beginnings. Connor has created a winning and positive father-figure/daughter relationship between Dwight and Addie. She introduces serious topics such as cancer, neglect, and learning disabilities without sensationalizing or trivializing the subjects. (290 pages).

Summer Reading Questions are on page #4

# Haddam-Killingworth Middle School

## Summer Reading Questions

Student's 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.

