



The Study

April 30, 2017

Summer Reading Lists 2017 Students Entering Grade Eight

Dear Parents of Grade Seven Students,

It is our pleasure to supply you with the Summer Reading List for students entering grade eight in September, 2017. Your daughter is required to read two books over the summer vacation. All students are required to read *Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt and one other book of their choice from the list provided. Students are also required to keep a reader response journal for each book. Instructions and expectations are included at the end of this document.

We urge you to discuss the books with your daughter. Your fondness for a particular text will have an impact on her choices and if you are intrigued by the list, your excitement will inspire her even more.

During the month of May, The Study School will hold its annual Summer Reading Book Fair in conjunction with Paragraphe Books. Our school librarian, Ms. Papini, and the knowledgeable bookstore staff will be available to help you and your daughter make interesting purchases for a summer of good books.

When we come back in early September, your daughter will be required to turn in her reader response journals for each of her texts, so her reading must be completed before we return. We will also be working with the texts in class. Should you or your daughter require additional information, we would be most happy to speak with you. We are readily available via e-mail.

We look forward to sharing these interesting books with your daughter, and we anticipate a most exciting, intellectually rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

The English Department

cc: Nancy Sweer, Head of School
Patricia Briand, Senior School Director
Tracy Woodward, English Teacher
Jennifer Rosenbaum, English Teacher
Edna Reingewirtz, English Teacher
Susan Papini, Librarian

**Summer Reading List 2017
Grade 7 into Grade 8**

You are asked to read the book *Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt and to choose a second book of your choice from the list. Both must be finished before the first day of school.

Students should keep a list of new vocabulary words in a notebook that they will bring to class.

They should also note the following for each piece: title, author, and genre. For each of the following categories, students should write a maximum of 100 words where they share their ideas: central character, one other main character, main conflict, important setting, theme or lesson, and observations about author's writing style. These notes should be handwritten OR typed and will be submitted upon returning to school.

We will begin the year with the compulsory read; your daughter is requested to bring a hard copy of the novel with her upon her return to school.

Compulsory Book:

***Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt**

The two-time Newbery Honor winner Gary D. Schmidt delivers the shattering story of Joseph, a father at thirteen, who has never seen his daughter, Jupiter. After spending time in a juvenile facility, he's placed with a foster family on a farm in rural Maine. Here Joseph, damaged and withdrawn, meets twelve-year-old Jack, who narrates the account of troubled, Joseph who wants to find his baby at any cost. In this riveting novel, two boys discover the true meaning of family and the sacrifices it requires. Like "Romeo and Juliet", Joseph and his beloved find safety and meaning in love, despite their young years.

Please Make One Selection from one of the following:

***Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis (Realistic Fiction)**

Master storyteller Christopher Paul Curtis lends his trademark humour and vibrant narrative style to the gripping tale of eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman. The first child born into freedom in Buxton, Ontario, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit, Elijah is best known in his hometown as the boy who threw up on Frederick Douglass. Not on purpose, of course, he was just a baby then! But

things change when a former slave calling himself the Right Reverend Zephariah W. Connerly the Third steals money from Elijah's friend Mr. Leroy, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Elijah joins Mr. Leroy on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of the disreputable preacher, and he discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of the life his parents have fled; a life from which he'll always be free if he can find the courage to get back home. Exciting yet evocative, heart-wrenching yet hilarious, *Elijah of Buxton* is an unforgettable testament to the power of hope. This book is easy to read and an important introduction to a little known part of Canadian history.

***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (Non-fiction memoir)**

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become. This book is written in poetry and is challenging. President Obama is one of its fans.

***Counting By 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan (Realistic Fiction)**

In the tradition of *Out of My Mind*, *Wonder*, and *Mockingbird*, this is an intensely moving middle grade novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

***Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper (Realistic Fiction)**

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

In this breakthrough story—reminiscent of *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*—from multiple Coretta Scott King Award-winner Sharon Draper, readers will come to know a brilliant mind and a brave spirit who will change forever how they look at anyone with a disability.

***Fatty Legs* by Christy Jordan-Fenton (Non-fiction memoir)**

This is a moving memoir of an Inuit girl who emerges from a residential school with her spirit intact. Eight-year-old Margaret Pokiak has set her sights on learning to read, even though it means leaving her village in the high Arctic. Faced with unceasing pressure, her father finally agrees to let her make the five-day journey to attend school, but he warns Margaret of the terrors of residential schools.

At school Margaret soon encounters the Raven, a black-cloaked nun with a hooked nose and bony fingers that resemble claws. She immediately dislikes the strong-willed young Margaret. Intending to humiliate her, the heartless Raven gives gray stockings to all the girls -- all except Margaret, who gets red ones. In an instant Margaret is the laughingstock of the entire school.

In the face of such cruelty, Margaret refuses to be intimidated and bravely gets rid of the stockings. Although a sympathetic nun stands up for Margaret, in the end it is this brave young girl who gives the Raven a lesson in the power of human dignity.

***The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall (Realistic Fiction)**

One kid. One crime. One chance to make things right. It was a bitterly cold day when Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge—he is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him.

Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart and a list of the Seven Most Important Things: glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, light bulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. He can't believe it—is he really supposed to rummage through people's trash? But it isn't long before Arthur realizes there's more to the Junk Man than meets the eye, and the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine. . . .

Inspired by the work of American folk artist James Hampton, award-winning author Shelley Pearsall has crafted an affecting and redemptive novel about discovering what shines within us all, even when life seems full of darkness.