

Summer Reading Suggestions

Students Entering Grade 6, September 2017

April 30, 2017

Dear Parents,

During the summer holidays, we recommend that students read regularly in French and English. Below you will find some suggestions categorized by level of difficulty. Level of difficulty is determined either by literary features (vocabulary, figurative language, etc.) or maturity of themes.

While reading, please ask your daughter some of the questions (see below); this will promote inferencing skills and understanding. In addition, it will allow them to share their reactions with you and will be more likely to appreciate the novel. After the holidays we will continue the discussion in class. No summary or report shall be required at the beginning of the year.

For your choice of a summer reading book, feel free to choose among the titles listed below or any other book that you consider interesting. One of the pleasures of reading is that it can be done anywhere! Happy summer reading!

Why Read? The Benefits of Daily Reading:

Studies show that “the more students read, the better readers they become” (Mraz, 2007).

Reading over the summer allows students to maintain or further develop their reading skills.

Reading brings the world to your child on many levels, allowing students to develop their imaginations and vocabulary, learn about other people and places.

Reading as a family, on a daily basis, gives families different opportunities to discuss ideas, share opinions and enjoy quality time together.

Source: Mraz, 2007, *Summer Reading Loss, Issues and Trends in Literacy*

Suggested Questions for parents/Suggestions de questions pour les parents

1. Where is the setting of the story? Use adjectives to describe where the story took place.

Où l'histoire se déroule-t-elle? Utilise des adjectifs afin de décrire l'un des lieux principaux de l'histoire.

2. Who are the characters in the story? Name them and describe their personality traits. Use examples to support your answer.

Qui sont les principaux personnages du récit? Nomme-les et décris quelques-unes de leurs caractéristiques physiques et morales. Utilise des exemples du texte.

3. What is one of the themes or one of the lessons learned in the story? Explain how you know.

Selon toi, quel est l'un des thèmes de l'histoire ou l'une des leçons? Donne un exemple qui le démontre.

4. What is the solution to the problem in the story? Can you think of another ending to the story? What would you do differently if you were in the story?

Quelle solution vient régler ce problème dans le récit? Quelle autre solution pourrais-tu proposer? Que ferais-tu si tu te retrouvais dans l'histoire?

5. How does the main character change from the beginning to the end of the story? Be specific.

Comment le personnage principal a-t-il évolué ou changé du début à la fin de l'histoire? Nomme ces différences et explique-les. (Le personnage est devenu...)

6. Find a passage in the story and relate it to your personal experiences or to another novel.

Trouve un passage de l'histoire qui te rappelle tes propres expériences (à l'école, dans ta famille, en vacances, etc.) ou une autre histoire?

7. How did the author capture your interest (e.g. dialogue, humour, interesting vocabulary, etc.)? Be specific and give examples.

Quelles sont les qualités du travail de l'auteur qui te font apprécier l'histoire? Donne des exemples. (dialogues, vocabulaire, humour, etc.)

8. Why do you think the author wrote the book? How do you know?

Quelle était l'intention de l'auteur en écrivant ce livre? Pourquoi, selon toi, a-t-il écrit ce livre?

Suggested Titles

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Author	Title	Genre
Margaret Peterson Haddix	<u>Found*</u>	Science Fiction
<p>Thirteen-year-old Jonah has always known that he was adopted, and he's never thought it was any big deal. Then he and a new friend, Chip, who's also adopted, begin receiving mysterious letters. The first one says, "You are one of the missing." The second one says, "Beware! They're coming back to get you." Jonah, Chip, and Jonah's sister, Katherine, are plunged into a mystery that involves the FBI, a vast smuggling operation, an airplane that appeared out of nowhere - and people who seem to appear and disappear at will. The kids discover they are caught in a battle between two opposing forces that want very different things for Jonah and Chip's lives. Do Jonah and Chip have any choice in the matter? And what should they choose when both alternatives are horrifying?</p>		
Louis Sachar	<u>Holes</u>	Realistic Fiction
<p>Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck going back generations, so he is not too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre. Nor is he very surprised when he is told that his daily labour at the camp is to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, and report anything that he finds in that hole. The warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth. In this wonderfully inventive, compelling novel that is both serious and funny, Louis Sachar has created a masterpiece that will leave all readers amazed and delighted by the author's narrative flair and brilliantly handled plot.</p>		
Eric Walters	<u>Elixir</u>	Historical Fiction
<p>Twelve-year-old Ruth must spend her summer at the University of Toronto, where her mother is hired to clean the Institute of Biological Research. There, the lonely girl is befriended by Dr. Banting and his assistant Mr. Best, who are in search of a cure for diabetes. But much to Ruth's dismay, the research they are doing involves testing on animals. She's not the only one concerned about the dogs: a group of animal rights protestors become a regular fixture outside the institute. When the group leader tries to enlist Ruth's support, she is torn between her sympathy for animals and her loyalty to Dr. Banting and Mr. Best.</p>		
Lisa Yee	<u>Millicent Min : Girl Genius</u>	Realistic fiction
<p>Certified genius Millicent Min has problems. Sure, her parents have <i>finally</i> consented to let her take a college poetry class over the summer (even though Millie is not yet 12). But it turns out college kids aren't her peers--they're as dumb and lazy as her nemesis, Stanford. If Millie can just keep her brilliance a secret from Emily, Millie's first real friend, and manage to keep Emily and Stanford from smooching (ick!), things might turn out OK. Yee's first novel examines child prodigies from a refreshing angle, allowing non-geniuses to laugh appreciatively at the ups and downs of being a whiz kid. Millie's pretentious voice grows tiresome after a while, but Yee does an excellent job of showing both Millie's grown-up brain and her decidedly middle-school problems. Even if they can't relate to her mastery of Latin, most kids will readily follow as Millie struggles through a world where she's smarter than everyone but still sometimes clueless.</p>		

Level of Difficulty: Average

Author	Title	Genre
Deborah Ellis	<u>The Breadwinner*</u>	Realistic Fiction
<p>Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, 11-year-old Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Barred from attending school, shopping at the market, or even playing in the streets of Kabul, the heroine of Deborah Ellis's engrossing children's novel <i>The Breadwinner</i> is trapped inside her family's one-room home. That is, until the Taliban hauls away her father and Parvana realizes that it's up to her to become the "breadwinner" and disguise herself as a boy to support her mother, two sisters, and baby brother. Set in the early years of the Taliban regime, this topical novel for middle readers explores the harsh realities of life for girls and women in modern-day Afghanistan.</p>		
Kit Pearson	<u>The Whole Truth</u>	Realistic Fiction
<p>Newly orphaned Polly and Maud travel by train from Winnipeg to British Columbia to live with relatives on an island situated between Vancouver and Victoria. Although Polly and Maud have never met them, their new family welcomes them with open arms but the girls have a terrible secret...</p>		
Tamora Pierce	<u>Alanna: The First Adventure*</u>	Fantasy
<p>"From now on I'm Alan of Trebond, the younger twin. I'll be a knight." And so young Alanna of Trebond begins the journey to knighthood. Though a girl, Alanna has always craved the adventure and daring allowed only for boys; her twin brother, Thom, yearns to learn the art of magic. So one day they decide to switch places: Disguised as a girl, Thom heads for the convent to learn magic; Alanna, pretending to be a boy, is on her way to the castle of King Roald to begin her training as a page. But the road to knighthood is not an easy one. As Alanna masters the skills necessary for battle, she must also learn to control her heart and to discern her enemies from her allies. Filled with swords and sorcery, adventure and intrigue, good and evil, Alanna's first adventure begins -- one that will lead to the fulfillment of her dreams and the magical destiny that will make her a legend in her land.</p>		
J.K. Rowling	<u>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (Book 2)*</u>	Fantasy/Adventure
<p>The Dursleys were so mean and hideous that summer that all Harry Potter wanted was to get back to the Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. But just as he's packing his bags, Harry receives a warning from a strange, impish creature named Dobby who says that if Harry Potter returns to Hogwarts, disaster will strike. And strike it does. For in Harry's second year at Hogwarts, fresh torments and horrors arise, including an outrageously stuck-up new professor, Gilderoy Lockheart, a spirit named Moaning Myrtle who haunts the girl's bathroom, and the unwanted attentions of Ron Weasley's younger sister, Ginny. But each of these seem minor annoyances when the real trouble beings, and someone--or something--starts turning Hogwarts students to stone. Could it be Draco Malfoy, a more poisonous rival than ever? Could it possibly be Hagrid, whose mysterious past is finally told? Or could it be the one everyone at Hogwarts most suspects...Harry Potter himself.</p> <p><i>N.B.: Please be advised that sensitive children might find some scenes frightening.</i></p>		

* = Not available in paperback

Level of Difficulty: Advanced

Author	Title	Genre
Norton Juster	<u>The Phantom Tollbooth</u>	Fantasy
<p>Milo mopes in black ink sketches, until he assembles a tollbooth and drives through. He jumps to the island of Conclusions. But brothers King Azaz of Dictionopolis and the Mathemagician of Digitopolis war over words and numbers. Joined by ticking watchdog Tock and adult-size Humbug, Milo rescues the Princesses of Rhyme and Reason, and learns to enjoy life.</p>		
Anita Lobel	<u>No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War</u>	Historical Fiction
<p>The beloved Caldecott Honor artist now recounts a tale of vastly different kind -- her own achingly potent memoir of a childhood of flight, imprisonment, and uncommon bravery in Nazi-occupied Poland. Anita Lobel was barely five when the war began and sixteen by the time she came to America from Sweden, where she had been sent to recover at the end of the war. This haunting book, illustrated with the author's archival photographs, is the remarkable account of her life during those years. Poised, forthright, and always ready to embrace life, Anita Lobel is the main character in the most personal story she will ever tell. <i>N.B. Please be advised that sensitive children might find some scenes frightening.</i></p>		
Lucy Maud Montgomery	<u>Anne of Green Gables*</u>	Historical Fiction
<p>Everyone's favorite redhead, the spunky Anne Shirley, begins her adventures at Green Gables, a farm outside Avonlea, Prince Edward Island. When the freckled girl realizes that the elderly Cuthberts wanted to adopt a boy instead, she begins to try to win them and, consequently, the reader, over.</p>		
Marcus Zusak	<u>The Book Thief</u>	Historical Fiction/Fantasy
<p>It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist – books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. <i>N.B. Please be advised that sensitive children might find some scenes frightening.</i></p>		

**or any book from the series*