

FOXBOROUGH REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL

MANDATORY SUMMER READING

Below is the list of summer reading by grades and courses. Please refer to the list for the grade you are entering. For example, if you just finished 5th grade and are going into 6th, you would choose from the 6th grade list. Some classes have specific assigned reading, while others have a bit of a choice. If your grade has a choice, pick one novel for summer reading, but feel free to read more. All students should complete summer reading journals (assignment attached) for his or her summer reading.

Assessment on summer reading will begin on the first day of school. Each class will complete a project, written assessment, or both, on the summer reading. Students who have not read will receive zeros for any projects or assessments, and a note of explanation will be sent home. No excuses will be accepted.

Grades 6-8

6th Grade:

Catalyst

by Laurie Halse

Anderson

*Meet Kate Malone -- straight-A science and math geek, minister's daughter, ace long-distance runner, new girlfriend (to Mitchell "Early Decision Harvard" Pangborn III), unwilling family caretaker, and emotional avoidance champion. Kate manages her life by organizing it as logically as the periodic table. She can handle it all -- or so she thinks. Then, things change as suddenly as a string of chemical reactions; first, the Malones' neighbors get burned out of their own home and move in. Kate has to share her room with her nemesis, Teri Litch, and Teri's little brother. The days are ticking down and she's still waiting to hear from the only college she applied to: MIT. Kate feels that her life is spinning out of her control -- and then, something happens that truly blows it all apart. Set in the same community as the remarkable *Speak*, *Catalyst* is a novel that will change the way you look at the world.*

Tangerine

by Edward Bloor

Though legally blind, Paul Fisher can see what others cannot. He can see that his parents' constant praise of his brother, Erik, the football star, is to cover up something that is terribly wrong. But no one listens to Paul -- until his family moves to Tangerine. In this Florida town, weird is normal: Lightning strikes at the same time every day, a sinkhole swallows a local school, and Paul the geek finds himself adopted into the

toughest group around: the soccer team at his middle school. Maybe this new start in Tangerine will help Paul finally see the truth about his past -- and will give him the courage to face up to his terrifying older brother

Where the Red Fern Grows

by Wilson Rawls

Billy, Old Dan, and Little Ann—a boy and his two dogs. A loving threesome, they range the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan has the brawn, Little Ann has the brains, and Billy has the will to make them the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory are coming to them, but sadness awaits, too.

A Wrinkle in Time

by Madelaine L'Engle

It is a dark and stormy night. Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and their mother are in the kitchen for a midnight snack when a most disturbing visitor arrives.....Meg's father had been experimenting with this fifth dimension of time travel when he mysteriously disappeared. Now, the time has come for Meg, her friend Calvin, and Charles Wallace to rescue him. But can they outwit the forces of evil they will encounter on their heart-stopping journey through space?

The Moves Make the Man

by Bruce Brooks

Reverse spin, triple pump, reverse dribble, stutter step with twist to the left, stutter into jumper, blind pass. These are me. The moves make the man. The moves make me. Jerome Foxworthy -- the Jayfox to his friends -- likes to think he can handle anything. He handled growing up without a father. He handled being the first black kid in school. And he sure can handle a basketball...Then Jerome meets Bix Rivers -- mysterious and moody, but a great athlete. So Jerome decides to teach Bix his game. He can tell that Bix has the talent. All he's got to do is learn the right moves...

The Pushcart War

by Jean Merrill

The pushcarts have declared war! New York City's streets are clogged with huge, rude trucks that park where they want, hold up traffic, and bulldoze into anything that is in their way, and the pushcart peddlers are determined to get rid of them. But the trucks are just as determined to get rid of the pushcarts, and chaos results in the city...The pushcarts have come up with a brilliant strategy that will surely let the hot air out of their enemies. But do they have what it takes to beat the trucks once and for all?

7th Grade:

Peppermints in the Parlor

by Barbara Brooks Wallace

Orphaned Emily Luccock, who arrives at her aunt and uncle's once-happy San Francisco home, find unimaginable horrors. She remembers her aunt and uncle's grand old mansion well, with its enormous, elegant parlor, marble fireplace, and white china cups filled with hot chocolate. But this time things are different. Her aunt's once bright and lively home is now dead with silence. Evil lurks in every corner, and the dark, shadowed walls watch and whisper late at night. And no one ever speaks.

Slam! **by Walter Dean Myers**

Sixteen year old “Slam” Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle **by Avi**

As the lone young lady on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious. But a mere girl couldn’t do anything about that, could she?

The Lost Years of Merlin **by TA Barron**

A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

Inkheart **by Cornelia Funke**

Meggie learns that her bookbinder father can read fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel “Inkheart” years earlier, tries to force her dad to release an immortal monster from the story.

Jazmin’s Notebook **by Nikki Grimes**

Jazmin, a teenager who lives with her older sister in a small Harlem apartment in the 1960s, finds strength in writing poetry and keeping a record of the events in her sometimes difficult life.

The Messenger **by Lois Lowry**

Sixteen year old “Slam” Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently

Gathering Blue **by Lois Lowry**

As the lone young lady on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious. But a mere girl couldn’t do anything about that, could she?

The Bluford High Series **by Ben Alirez**

8th Grade:

Milkweed **by Jerry Spinelli**

An unusual, fresh view of the Holocaust as seen through the eyes of a child who struggles to understand the world around him. In Warsaw in 1939, a boy wanders the streets and survives by stealing what food he can. He knows nothing of his background; Is he a Jew? A Gypsy? Befriended by a band of orphaned Jewish boys, he understands very little of what is happening when the Nazi “jackboots” march into town.

Monster **by Walter Dean Myers**

“Monster” is what the prosecutor called 16 year old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the “all clear” to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? In this novel, the reader becomes both juror and witness during the trial of Steve’s life.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants **by Ann Brashares**

Carmen decides to discard an old pair of jeans, but Tibby, Lena, and Bridget think they are great and decide that whoever the pants fit best will get them. When the jeans fit everyone perfectly, a sisterhood and a memorable summer begin.

Speak **by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Melinda busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. Now her old friends won't talk to her and people she doesn't even know hate her from a distance. The safest place to be is alone, inside her own head. But even that's not safe because there's something she's trying not to think about, something about the night of the party that, if she let it in, would blow her carefully constructed disguise to smithereens. And then she would have to speak the truth.

Taking Sides

by Gary Soto

8th grader Lincoln and his mother have just moved from a San Francisco barrio to a wealthy, predominantly white suburb. He misses his old friends and neighborhood. Having made first string on the basketball team, he finds that the coach dislikes him for no good reason. Lincoln must decide where his loyalty lies as an upcoming game between his new school and old one approaches.

The Hobbit

by J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit who only wanted to be left alone, is drawn by a wizard and a band of homeless dwarves into a quest where he confronts evil orcs, savage wolves, and the great dragon, Smaug the Magnificent .

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

by Mark Haddon

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic 15 year old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Alive

by Piers Paul Read

Time has not diminished the drama of the tale of the Uruguayan rugby team whose plane crashed in the Andes mountains. Of the forty five people on the plane at the time of the crash, sixteen came down from the mountain about seventy days later with a saga of survival not easily forgotten.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

by Stephen Chbosky

Freshman Charlie's collection of letters to an unspecified recipient details the humorous trials and tribulations of trying to discover who he is and who he might become.

Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths

by Bruce Feiler

This is a biography of Abraham, the father of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity as seen through the beliefs of each religion.

Kaffir Boy: the True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa

by Mark Mathabane

Against overwhelming odds a young boy triumphs over dire poverty and racism in this inspiring autobiography.

Tituba

by Ann Petry

This novel concerns a girl brought from her native Barbados to be a slave in 17th Century Salem. She is suspected by her villagers of practicing witchcraft.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

by Elizabeth George Speare

Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados.

SUMMER READING JOURNAL

ASSIGNMENT

Grades 6-8

- **Keep a journal as you read. Include:**
 - **Your impressions**
 - **Things you wonder about**
 - **Things you find interesting**
 - **Things that surprise you**
 - **Things that confuse you**
 - **Things that you think might be important**
 - **Foreshadowing (*hints at what is to come later*)**
 - **Conflicts**
 - **Interesting use of language**
 - **What connections can be made between the author and the novel?**
 - **Was there a character that you particularly connected with? Which one? Why?**
 - **Vocabulary—keep a running record of words you encounter that you did not know before.**
 - **Etc.**

Grades 9-12

9th Grade Composition:

The Alchemist

by Paulo Coelho

A hero's journey about finding ones destiny.

9th Grade Literature and Composition:

The Alchemist

by Paulo Coelho

A hero's journey about finding ones destiny.

10th Grade American Literature and Composition:

A Separate Peace

by John Knowles

Brave New World

by Aldous Huxley

Death of a Salesman

by Arthur Miller

10th Grade Pre-AP Literature and Composition: *must read both books*

The Jungle

by Upton Sinclair

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay

by Michael Chabon

European Literature:

Fathers and Sons

by Ivan Turgenev

British Literature I:

Gulliver's Travels

by Jonathan Swift

Bible as Literature:

Reading packet provided by teacher

AP English Language and Composition: *must read all four books*

Song of Solomon

by Toni Morrison

Their Eyes Were Watching God

by Zora Neale Hurston

Man's Search for Meaning

by Victor Frankl

Elements of Style 4th edition

by Strunk and Wagnall

Selected Essays—packet to be distributed to the students

SUMMER READING JOURNAL

ASSIGNMENT

Grades 9-12

- Start by looking up background information on the author. This should go beyond what you find on the book jacket and should be done BEFORE you read the novel. What is important or interesting about this author? What might have influenced his or her writing? Make sure to cite your sources.

- Keep a journal as you read. Include:
 - Your impressions
 - Things you wonder about
 - Things you find interesting
 - Things that surprise you
 - Things that confuse you
 - Things that you think might be important
 - Foreshadowing (*hints at what is to come later*)
 - Symbolism
 - Conflicts
 - Motifs (*reoccurring image or theme*)
 - Interesting use of language
 - What connections can be made between the author and the novel?
 - Was there a character that you particularly connected with? Which one? Why?
 - Vocabulary—keep a running list of new words that you encounter.
 - Etc.