

FOXBOROUGH REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL
MANDATORY SUMMER READING
2009-2010

Below is the list of summer reading by grades and courses. Please refer to the list for the grade you are entering. For example, incoming 6th graders should 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) in addition to the whole school novel, *Three Cups of Tea*. All students should complete summer reading journals (assignment attached) for his or her summer reading.

All grades are reading *Three Cups of Tea* as part of our September Pennies for Peace service project.

Three Cups of Tea is one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time. Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only a thrilling read, it's proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world.' -**Tom Brokaw**

Students in grades 6 and 7 may choose between the adult edition of the book or the young adult version. The essential story is the same.

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.

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 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

“Paul Fisher's family is moving from Texas to Florida for a number of reasons. The most important one seems to be so that Paul's older brother Erik can impress the football scouts at some major universities. Indeed, most of what his parents do seems to be part of what Paul calls "The Great Erik Fisher Football Dream." It is not that Paul is jealous. He, too, possesses some tremendous athletic ability on the soccer field despite being legally blind. But Erik is the favored son, indulged by parents, teachers, coaches, and friends, even though Paul knows that Erik's behavior is less than perfect. The move to Tangerine, Florida, might just open the eyes of everyone in the Fisher family.”

Where the Red Fern Grows

By: Wilson Rawls

"Billy Colman roams the Ozarks of northeastern Oklahoma with his bluetick hound and his precious coonhound pup trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. When the victory over the mountain lion turns to tragedy, Billy grieves, but learns the beautiful old Native American legend of the sacred red fern that grows over the graves of his dogs."

A Wrinkle in Time

By: Madeleine L'Engle

"Everything is wrong in Meg Murray's life. In school, she's been dropped down to the lowest section of her grade. She's teased about her five-year-old brother, Charles Wallace, who everyone mistakenly thinks is dumb. Not to mention that Meg wears braces and glasses and has mouse-brown hair. Much will be better in her miserable life when her father gets back. But gets back from where? Meg's physicist father had been experimenting with the fifth dimension of time travel when he mysteriously disappeared. One dark and stormy night, the family is visited by a disheveled heap of a woman named Mrs. Whatsit. Eccentric and brilliant, she will turn out to be the force who spurs on Meg, Charles Wallace, and their new friend, Calvin O'Keefe, to embark on a dangerous quest through space to find their father. In doing so, they must travel behind the shadow of an evil power that is darkening the cosmos. Before long, the trio discovers that Meg's and Charles Wallace's father is being held prisoner by evil forces on the planet of Camazotz, an eerie place where complete conformity is expected in exchange for personal freedom. There they engage in the fight of their lives against a giant disembodied brain named "It." And soon, Charles Wallace must be rescued, too."

The Moves Make the Man

By: Bruce Brooks

"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 — and still the only — black kid in his newly integrated North Carolina school. And he sure can handle a basketball. He's still an outsider in the seventh grade, though. So is Bix Rivers, a white kid who has a reputation as a great athlete, but who remains mysterious and moody because of troubles at home. The two boys form an unlikely, and sometimes precarious friendship centered on the basketball court, as Jerome sets out to teach Bix his game. Evening after evening, the boys play alone on an outdoor court, and while Bix improves, he refuses to do any faking — to make any moves. Then he finds his motivation: if he can beat his stepfather at basketball, he will be allowed to visit his mother, who is in a mental institution."

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. The secret weapon – a peashooter armed with a pin; the target – the vulnerable truck tires. Once the source of the flat tires is discovered, the children of the city joyfully join in with their own pin peashooters. The pushcarts have won one battle, but can they win the war against a corrupt mayor who taxes the pins and prohibits the sale of dried peas?”

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.

Esperanza Rising

By: Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza Ortega possesses all the treasures a young girl could want: fancy dresses; a beautiful home filled with servants in region of Aguascalientes, Mexico. But a sudden tragedy shatters that dream, forcing Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. There they confront the challenges of hard work, acceptance by their own people, and economic difficulties brought on by the Great Depression.

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 Boy in the Striped Pajamas

by John Boyne

When Bruno returns home from school one day; he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

Gathering Blue

by Lois Lowry

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her village to live with the Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-

powerful Guardians. As the story unfolds, Kira finds that her community has hidden secrets, including what really happened to her parents.

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, Smaugh 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 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.

Grades 9-12

9th Grade English Literature and Composition:

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

A hero's journey about finding one's destiny.

10th Grade American Literature and Composition: *choose two*

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

10th Grade Pre-AP Literature and Composition: *must read all three*

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

European Literature and Composition:

Mother Courage by Bertolt Brecht

African American Literature and Composition:

Makes Me Wanna Holler by Nathan McCall

AP teachers will distribute specific summer assignments to perspective students. These assignments are due the first day of the school year.

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

AP English Literature and Composition:

*Summer reading and assignments will be e-mailed to students at the beginning of the summer.