

William Annin Middle School Library Media Center Summer Reading Suggestions

Read any book written by FAVORITE AUTHORS selected by WAMS students:

**Avi, Sharon Creech, Kate DiCamillo, Dan Gutman, Anthony Horowitz, Brian Jacques,
David Lubar, Gary Paulsen, Phillip Pullman, J. K. Rowling, Louis Sachar, Lemony Snicket,
Jerry Spinelli, J.R.R. Tolkien, or Wendelin VanDraanen**

2007 GARDEN STATE BOOK AWARD NOMINEES

Why not read some of the books nominated for our own state award?

You can **vote** for all your favorites in the fall. Pick up a ballot in your school or public library next September.

Fiction Nominees:

Airborn. Kenneth Oppel.

Matt, a cabin boy aboard a luxury airship, falls for wealthy Kate and agrees to help her prove her grandfather's claim that mysterious flying creatures exist in this Edwardian adventure. Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award, which recognizes literary excellence in young adult literature.

Al Capone Does My Shirts. Gennifer Choldenko.

Moose's family moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 so his autistic sister can attend a special school in San Francisco. He quickly learns that life on prison grounds isn't quite what he expected. A Newbery Honor Book.

Bindi Babes. Narinder Dhani.

Three sisters, who have their dad wrapped around their fingers, get a dose of reality when their maternal aunt comes from India to help out after their mother's death. Comedy ensues as the sisters try one scheme after another to marry her off!

Blood Secret. Kathryn Lasky.

Jerry Luna hasn't spoken since her mother disappeared years ago. When she moves from a group home to her great-great aunt's house in New Mexico, Jerry is drawn into the time of the Spanish Inquisition and her ancestors' past.

B for Buster. Iain Lawrence.

Sixteen-year-old Kak illegally enlists in the Canadian Air Force in 1943 and experiences the horror of war as he battles his fear of flying in bombing raids over Germany.

Emako Blue. Brenda Woods.

Everyone knew that Emako was destined for greatness - but the novel begins with her funeral. Four friends who were touched by Emako's life tell her story.

The Fire-Eaters. David Almond.

Bobby Brown and his family find hope and love despite the suffering and fear they feel as they cope with his father's illness and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Game of Sunken Places. M.T Anderson.

When best friends Gregory and Brian spend their vacation with Gregory's eccentric Uncle Max, they discover a mysterious old board game that quickly ensnares them in a real-life, high-stakes adventure game.

Kira-Kira. Cynthia Kadohata.

In post-WWII America, a Japanese-American family moves from Iowa to Georgia in search of a better life. But Katie's beloved older sister, Lynn, develops lymphoma, and Katie and her parents must struggle to find beauty in the world. Winner of the Newbery Medal, which recognizes the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

Indigo's Star. Hilary McKay.

Twelve-year-old Indigo returns to school after an illness - dreading the daily bullying he faces. Newcomer Tom deflects attention from Indigo and becomes fast friends with Indigo and his sister Rose. Through reflection and humor the three friends deal with the daily pressures of life.

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy. Gary D. Schmidt.

No one in town will let Turner Buckminster forget that he is a minister's son. Then he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin and enters a whole new world. A Newbery Honor Book.

Millions. Frank Cottrell Boyce.

When a big bag of money almost literally lands at Damian's feet, he and his brother have only seventeen days to spend their loot before the English pounds they found become obsolete. Winner of the Carnegie Medal for outstanding books for children written in English and published in the United Kingdom.

The Oracle Betrayed. Catherine Fisher.

Mirany and Seth set out to discover the truth behind their religion in this novel in two voices set in an alternate history that blends Greek and Egyptian cultures. The teens' very different perspectives, Mirany as a believer and Seth as a doubter, add tension to the tale.

Summer 2006

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Piratica: Being A Daring Tale of a Singular Girl's Adventure Upon the High Seas. Tanith Lee.

Artemesia Fitz-Willoughby, a.k.a. Art Blastsides, wants to relive the adventures of her mother. But what if her mother's "adventures" were those of an actress, not of a seafaring, swashbuckling pirate? Undaunted, Artemesia sets off for the high seas.

The Schwa Was Here. Neil Shusterman.

Antsy is one of the few people that can see Calvin Schwa. A failed dare involving Calvin's invisibility turns Antsy into an indentured dog-walker and Calvin searching for a missing link in his family history.

The Shamer's Daughter. Lene Kaaberbol.

Dina and her mother can look into a person's eyes and see all their shameful deeds. Unwilling to lie when summoned to confirm the guilt of an innocent man accused of murder, Dina's mother is condemned to death and Dina must rescue her.

Sign of the Qin. L.G. Bass.

Prince Zong joins with two criminals to fight evil in this action-packed epic fantasy. Inspired by Chinese culture and history, this novel is filled with martial arts, mythic creatures, folklore, and religion.

So B. It: A Novel. Sarah Weeks.

Heidi and her mentally challenged mom have managed to get by with the help of their kind but agoraphobic neighbor. But when Heidi finds clues about her identity she feels compelled to take a cross-country trip to learn more.

Nonfiction Nominees:

George Washington, Spymaster: How America Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War. Thomas B. Allen.

Did you know that George Washington was the ringleader of a secret band of spies? This true account uncovers the little known and exciting world of espionage during the Revolutionary War.

Gothic! : Ten Original Dark Tales. Deborah Noyes, ed.

Ten delightfully shivery, supernatural, and surreal short stories by noted authors including M. T. Anderson, Neil Gaiman, Garth Nix and Vivian Vande Velde

Harlem Stomp! : A Cultural History of the Harlem Renaissance. Laban Carrick Hill.

This beautifully illustrated overview of the Harlem Renaissance highlights the history of the era as well as the contributions of many notable writers, poets, artists and musicians.

Have Board, Will Travel: The Definitive History of Surf, Skate, and Snow. Jamie Brisick.

Filled with glossy photos, this book traces the history and development of board sports.

Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America. Sharon Robinson.

Told by the baseball icon's daughter, this story introduces readers to the first African-American in the major leagues through family stories, historical information, and never-before-seen photos.

The Race to Save the Lord God Bird. Phillip Hoose.

Over the course of two hundred years, this story follows the saga of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the road it traveled to near-extinction.

Swifter, Higher, Stronger: A Photographic History of the Summer Olympics. Sue Macy.

Photographs and quotations highlight prominent individuals and events that have made the games an important part of our social and political history from their revival in 1896 to the present.

The Tarantula Scientist. Sy Montgomery.

Travel with Sam Marshall to French Guiana, where he continues to research tarantulas. Filled with facts and myths about tarantulas, this book is not for the squeamish!

The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights. Russell Freedman.

In 1939, Marian Anderson was denied the right to sing at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC because she was black. So she sang from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for over 75,000 people. Her talent and courage made her a symbol for black artists seeking equality and a prominent civil rights activist.

With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote. Ann Bausum.

Lavishly illustrated text vividly recounts the story of the women's suffrage movement in this history that focuses on women like Alice Paul who were totally devoted to the cause. Winner of the Jane Addams Book Award, which seeks to honor books of excellence that further the causes of peace, social justice, world community and equality between men and women.

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“WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES” (song recorded by Joe South)

“Walk a mile in my shoes, walk a mile in my shoes
And before you abuse, criticize and accuse
Walk a mile in my shoes.”

Students in seventh grade will study world geography. Eighth graders will read novels with multicultural themes that explore themes of prejudice and tolerance. The following novels reflect the experiences of people in diverse countries all over the world. As you read these stories, you will learn about lives very different from our own.

Alvarez, Julia. ***Before we were Free.***

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo. Winner of the Pura Belpre Award, which celebrates the Latino cultural experience.

Baillie, Allan. ***Little Brother.***

In Cambodia after the Vietnamese War, Vithy learns to overcome social upheaval, a hostile jungle, and his own inability to trust, in order to rescue his older brother.

Clinton, Cathryn. ***A Stone in my Hand.***

Eleven-year-old Malaak and her family are touched by the violence in Gaza between Jews and Palestinians when first her father disappears and then her older brother is drawn to the Islamic Jihad.

Crew, Linda. ***Children of the River.***

Having fled Cambodia four years earlier to escape the Khmer Rouge army, seventeen-year-old Sundara is torn between remaining faithful to her own people and enjoying life in her Oregon high school as a "regular" American.

D'Adamo, Francesco. ***Iqbal : a novel.***

A fictionalized account of the Pakistani child who escaped from bondage in a carpet factory and went on to help liberate other children like him.

DeFelice, Cynthia C. ***Under the Same Sky.***

While trying to earn money for a motorbike, fourteen-year-old Joe Pederson becomes involved with the Mexican migrants who work on his family's farm and develops a better relationship with his father.

Dickinson, Peter. ***AK.***

When a military coup occurs in the constantly war-torn African country of Nagala, teenage Paul is forced to flee into the open countryside to avoid enemy soldiers who seek his life. Winner of the Whitbread Award for best British children's literature.

Ellis, Deborah. ***The Breadwinner.***

Eleven-year-old Parvana struggles to support her family in Afghanistan. Read the sequel, ***Parvana's Journey***, about Parvana dressing as a boy as she searches for her family. It is the winner of the Jane Addams Book Award, which seeks to honor books of excellence that further the causes of peace, social justice, world community and equality between men and women.

Hicylmaz, Gaye. ***Against the Storm.***

Twelve-year-old Mehmet's move from his Turkish village with flowers everywhere to a shanty-town existence in the city of Ankara brings him almost unbearable misery, but his desire to create a life for himself helps him to survive.

Ho, Minfong. ***The Clay Marble.***

In the late 1970s twelve-year-old Dara joins a refugee camp in war-torn Cambodia and becomes separated from her family.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***Keeper of the Night.***

Isabel, a thirteen-year-old girl living on the island of Guam, and her family try to cope with the death of Isabel's mother.

Johnston, Tony and Colón, Raúl. ***Any Small Goodness: a novel of the Barrio.***

Arturo and his family and friends share all kinds of experiences living in the barrio of East Los Angeles—reclaiming their names, playing basketball, championing the school librarian, and even starting their own gang.

Joseph, Lynn. ***The Color of my Words.***

When life gets difficult for Ana Rosa, a twelve-year-old would-be writer living in a small village in the Dominican Republic, she can depend on her older brother to make her feel better—until the life-changing events on her thirteenth birthday.

Laird, Elizabeth. ***Kiss the Dust.***

Her father's involvement with the Kurdish resistance movement in Iraq forces thirteen-year-old Tara to flee with her family over the border into Iran, where they face an unknown future.

Maartens, Maretha. ***Paper Bird : a novel of South Africa.***

Because he is responsible for keeping his mother and brothers and sisters from starving, young Adam travels daily from his small black South African township to sell newspapers in the city.

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Mikaelsen, Ben. ***Red Midnight***.

Twelve-year-old Santiago and his four-year old sister flee Guatemala in a kayak and try to reach the United States. Also by Mikaelsen is ***Tree Girl***, about Gabriela who witnesses the destruction of her Mayan village from the branches of one of the trees she loves to climb. Gabriela vows never to climb again until, after she and her sister find safety in a Mexican refugee camp, she realizes that only by climbing and facing their fears can she and her sister hope to have a future.

Na, An. ***A Step from Heaven***

A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.

Naidoo, Beverley. ***The Other Side of Truth***.

Smuggled out of Nigeria, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London when their uncle fails to meet them at the airport and they are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria. Winner of both the Jane Addams Award and the Carnegie Medal (which recognizes an outstanding book for children written in English and published in the United Kingdom.)

Nye, Naomi Shihab. ***Habibi***.

When a fourteen-year-old girl, her younger brother, and her parents move from St. Louis to a new home between Jerusalem and the Palestinian village where her father was born, they face many changes and must deal with the tensions between Jews and Palestinians. Winner of the Jane Addams Award.

Park, Linda Sue. ***When my Name was Keoko***.

With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

Quintana, Anton and Nieuwenhuizen, John. ***The Baboon King***.

Son of a Kikuyu mother and a Masai herdsman father, Morengáru the hunter lives on the edges of tribal society until an actual banishment forces him to make a life for himself among a troop of baboons. Winner of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award, which is given annually to an American publisher for the most outstanding book published in the U.S. that was originally published in a foreign language and a foreign country.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. ***Esperanza Rising***.

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. Winner of both the Pura Belpre Award and the Jane Addams Award.

Shea, Pegi Deitz. ***Tangled Threads : a Hmong girl's story***.

After ten years in a refugee camp in Thailand, thirteen-year-old Mai Yang travels to Providence, Rhode Island, where her Americanized cousins introduce her to pizza, shopping, and beer, while her grandmother and new friends keep her connected to her Hmong heritage.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. ***Under the Persimmon Tree***.

A young Afghan girl, Najmah, befriends an American woman in Pakistan after Najmah flees her native Afghanistan during the 2001 war. Together, they begin a long journey to locate their missing loved ones after the war ends. Winner of the Parents' Choice Book Award, which seeks to recognize titles of excellence that teach, inspire, and otherwise contribute to a child's growth. The Foundation's awarding committee also searches for titles without racial or gender biases, and without glorification of violence.

Temple, Frances. ***Tonight, by Sea : a novel***.

As governmental brutality and poverty become unbearable, Paulie joins with others in her small Haitian village to help her uncle secretly build a boat they will use to try to escape to the United States. Also by the same author is ***Taste of Salt***, which describes the impoverished life of a seventeen-year-old boy in Haiti. Winner of the Jane Addams Award.

Whelan, Gloria. ***Homeless Bird***.

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it. Winner of the National Book Award, which recognizes American literary works of exceptional merit.

Whitesel, Cheryl Aylward. ***Rebel : a Tibetan odyssey***.

Although he rebels against life in the Tibetan Buddhist monastery where he had been sent, fourteen-year-old Thunder comes to some amazing realizations about himself.

Yep, Laurence. ***Child of the Owl***.

Growing up in San Francisco in the '60s, young Casey hears of her Chinese heritage and the mother she never knew from her grandmother, Paw Paw. Winner of the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award (which honors excellence in children's and young adult literature) and the Jane Addams Book Award (for excellence that further the causes of peace, social justice, world community and equality between men and women.) Read the sequel, ***Thief of Hearts***, about Casey's daughter Stacy coming to terms with her own Chinese and American heritage.

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WHY READ IN THE SUMMER?

(We know the answer! Those who read...SUCCEED!)

“**Reading Can Make You Smarter!**” In an article by Anne Cunningham and Keith Stanovich (*Principal* November/December 2003: 34-39) the authors report that the more children read, the greater their vocabulary and the better their cognitive skills.

“In *Summer Learning and the Effects of Schooling* (Academic Press, 1978), Barbara Heyns followed sixth and seventh graders in the Atlanta public schools through two school years and one summer. Among the findings of her research:

- The number of books read during the summer is consistently related to academic gains.
- Children in every income group who read six or more books over the summer gained more in reading achievement than children who did not.
- The use of the public library during the summer is more predictive of vocabulary gains than attending summer school is.”

In Stephen Krashen’s book, *The Power of Reading*, (Libraries Unlimited, 1993) the value of **free voluntary reading** in the development of reading, writing and spelling skills is demonstrated. Studies are reviewed that illustrate how free voluntary reading benefits student achievement, including these highlights:

- People who read more, write better.
- Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed.
- Outstanding high school writers reported extensive summer reading.

We hope that you choose to READ this summer!

These book suggestions were compiled by Kathleen Hedden, Media Specialist at William Annin Middle School and Kate Warhaftig, Young Adult Services Librarian at Bernards Township Library.

Copies of these and other great books are available at the township library.

This list, and many other lists of books to read, can be found online at:
<http://www.bernardsboe.com/wams/cybrary/ReadingList/ReadingHomePage.htm>