

MEDFORD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Medford, New Jersey

**REQUIRED SUMMER 2008 READING
GRADE EIGHT**



Attention Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Seventh Grade Students:

Reading, like any skill, improves with practice. Your child has been reading different types of materials throughout the school year, and we would like to continue this momentum during the summer months to maintain your child's reading skills. Therefore, we are requiring that all students entering Grade Eight read

DUNK, by David Lubar.

By reading the same book over the summer, students will enter their eighth grade language arts literacy class on common ground. Having read the same book and sharing ideas about it enable students to transition more easily at the beginning of the school year. Teachers can immediately begin building on reading strategies using this book, which is also referenced throughout the year. In addition, your child will be participating in activities related to it. Success in these activities will depend on completing this book before school begins in September.

To guide students during their reading, they will receive a bookmark. One side of the bookmark contains essential vocabulary with definitions; the other side contains focus questions to direct reading. We encourage you to use the focus questions to discuss different aspects of the book with your child. These questions will foster conversation and maximize comprehension.

DUNK will be available at the Barnes & Noble in Marlton and Moorestown or at the Borders in Marlton. If necessary, you may borrow this book by contacting your school's administrative office. The book is to be returned to the office upon completion.

According to Dr. Richard Allington and other researchers, students should read at least four to five books over the summer months in order to keep their reading skills strong. Suggestions of books, authors, and websites are listed on the reverse side. Please keep in mind that children have varying reading abilities and interests that should be taken into consideration when selecting books. It is best that your child reads a couple of pages from a book to determine whether it's the right fit. More than five unknown words on one page usually indicates that the book is too difficult. To develop lifelong readers, reading must be a pleasurable experience; hence, books should be on a level where they can be read independently for enjoyment. We encourage you to utilize this list as well as books available at the Pinelands Branch of the Burlington County Library.

Reading throughout the summer months is beneficial for your child. Your continued support at home is greatly appreciated. Have a safe and enjoyable summer—HAPPY and ENJOYABLE READING!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Curriculum Office at 609-654-6416.

SUMMER 2008 READING SUGGESTIONS MOVING UP TO GRADE EIGHT



Dacey's Song by Cynthia Voigt
The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom
Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
Last Shot by John Feinstein
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
So B. It by Sarah Weeks
Son of the Mob by Gordon Korman
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
That was Then, This is Now by S.E. Hinton
Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson
Uglies by Scott Westerfield

SUGGESTED SERIES

Alex Rider Adventures by Anthony Horowitz
The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Keys to the Kingdom by Garth Nix
The Redwall Series by Brian Jacques
The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares
The Warriors Series by Erin Hunter

SUGGESTED AUTHORS

Meg Cabot
Sharon Creech
Cornelia Funke
C.S. Lewis
Mike Lupica (sports novels)
Walter Dean Myers
Donna Jo Napoli
Joan Lowery Nixon

SUGGESTED WEBSITES

As you explore the below sites, you will undoubtedly find interesting titles to keep reading alive during the summer months.

www.ala.org – American Library Association
Children's Notable titles, Newbery Awards

www.reading.org – International Reading Association
Teaching Tools – Choices Booklists

www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer
Click onto the applicable grade level

www.rif.org – Reading Is Fundamental
Nation's largest children's literacy organization