

MEDFORD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Medford, New Jersey

**REQUIRED SUMMER 2008 READING
GRADE SEVEN**



Attention Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Sixth 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 Seven read

WHEN ZACHARY BEAVER CAME TO TOWN, by Kimberly Willis Holt.

By reading the same book over the summer, students will enter their seventh 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 them 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.

WHEN ZACHARY BEAVER CAME TO TOWN 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 SEVEN



Among the Enemy by Margaret Peterson Haddix

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Eragon Christopher Paolini

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline B. Cooney

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Jade Green by Phyllis Reynolds

Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

SUGGESTED SERIES

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

The Hatchet Series by Gary Paulsen

The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis

A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket

SUGGESTED AUTHORS

Caroline B. Cooney

Anthony Horowitz

Mike Lupica (sports novels)

Christopher Paolini

Gary Paulsen

Louis Sachar

Jerry Spinelli

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