

# **Briscoe Middle School Summer Reading 2007**

## **Summary**

Briscoe Middle School has re-vamped the summer reading program for 2007. The new program will give students greater choice and encourage them to return to school in the fall prepared to share their reading experiences in a group discussion with others who have read the same book. The list has been prepared with input from teachers, administrators, students, school and public librarians, and others knowledgeable about young adult literature. We hope that students will find a book they can “connect” with; our goal is to foster a lifelong love of reading and learning.

We encourage students and their families to set aside time in the summer to read regularly, and to enjoy several more good books of their own choosing *beyond* the required summer reading, and to share those books with one another.

The Beverly Public Library and area stores have a wonderful selection of books, often provide printed suggestions for titles, and have knowledgeable staff members who love to match readers with the right book. The middle school years are a time for students to find their own interests and follow them -- summertime reading is a great way to do this!

## **Briscoe Middle School Summer Reading Program Steps**

### **1. Select Your Book**

**Every student is required to pick one book from the middle school list** to read over the summer. There is one list for all middle school students. This selection must be made in May, although students will be given an opportunity until mid-June to change this selection. They must choose a book they have not previously read, either on their own or in school! Students will be given further instructions in class, and will have an opportunity to hear about the books and look at them before they make their choice. Once the final selection is made, this is the book for which the student must prepare a response, and be ready to discuss in September.

A list of each student's choices will be maintained by the Briscoe Library Media Specialist, Ms. Woznick and will be available in the Briscoe office over the summer.

### **2. Get Your Book**

**We strongly recommend that students purchase their summer reading book**, if at all possible. This will ensure that they have access to the book at any time during the summer and while they are preparing their response, and will also easily allow other family members to read the book as well. **All titles are available in paperback at a reasonable price.**

Summer reading books will be available through the Banbury Cross/Briscoe Book Fair, to be held June 12-14 in the Briscoe Library, and a portion of proceeds from these sales will go to the Briscoe Library to purchase materials for students. Students will be given pre-order forms in May and will pick the books up in June at the fair (for entering 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders), or they will be delivered to their elementary school (for entering 6<sup>th</sup> graders).

If you do not purchase your book through the Briscoe Book Fair, you can buy it at Banbury Cross in Wenham, other local bookstores, or through amazon.com.

The public library will have some copies, but they will be in the regular circulating collection with a loan period of three weeks -- **you will not be able to keep library copies out for the entire summer.** In order to put a program in place with more current titles, more choice for students, and to change these titles from year to year, **there will be fewer library copies of books than in the past.** Please plan accordingly!

### 3. Prepare a Book Response

In early September, there will be an assigned period where students will discuss their books with a small group of others who have also read the same book. To help you remember your impressions of the book you read, **students are required to complete a reading response piece**, chosen from the list below, and have it with them on the day of their discussion group.

The response may take the form of a written/verbal piece or a visual/performing arts piece. Students are free to select from the list below whichever response they are most interested in and which seems appropriate to the book they have read. They should be prepared to explain in the discussion group how their piece is connected to the book. The piece that is brought should be able to be displayed or read without any technology (computers, audioplayers, TVs, etc.)

Your response must be:

- of your own creation
- legible
- have your name and the title of the book written on it
- be ready on or before the day of your discussion group
- reflective of, a response to, or an extension of characters, settings, and/or events in the book. Students must be ready to explain the connection between their piece and the book during the discussion group meeting.

#### Written/Verbal Choices

- Write a poem or song lyrics
- Write a story – maybe it's a missing chapter from the book!
- Write a Letter to a friend –say what you liked, why you think he/she should read it (or not!)
- Letter from one character to another – write a letter as though you were one of the characters in the book writing to another
- Create a timeline of key events
- Make a quiz about the book – create a list of questions and answers

#### Visual/Performing Arts Choices

- Create a drawing or painting
- Take a photograph or series of photos
- Make a 3-D model
- Dress up as a character and explain the significance of the outfit
- Make a gift for a character and talk about why this character would need/appreciate it.

**Briscoe Middle School  
SUMMER READING BOOK LIST FOR 2007**

***The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken**

Surrounded by villains of the first order, brave Bonnie and gentle cousin Sylvia conquer all obstacles in this Victorian melodrama. (Fiction)

***City of the Beasts* by Isabel Allende**

When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians. (Fiction)

***Shipwreck at the bottom of the world : the extraordinary true story of Shackleton and the Endurance* by Jennifer Armstrong**

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey to reach inhabited land. (Nonfiction)

***Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett**

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. (Fiction)

***Tangerine* by Edward Bloor**

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight. (Fiction)

***Code Talker : a novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac**

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue. (Fiction)

***Al Capone does my shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko**

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. (Fiction)

***Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings**

Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy that tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong. (Fiction)

***Iqbal* : a novel by Francesco D'Adamo**

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 before being gunned down at the age of thirteen. (Fictionalized biography)

***The Twenty-One Balloons* by William Pene Du Bois**

Three weeks after leaving San Francisco in a balloon to fly across the Pacific, Professor Sherman is picked up in the Atlantic clinging to wreckage. A fanciful tale set on the island of Krakatoa around the time of the historic 1883 volcanic explosion. (Fiction)

***The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau**

In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. (Fiction)

***Last Shot* by John Feinstein**

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game. (Fiction)

***Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman**

While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he causes, sixteen-year-old Brent finds forgiveness and atonement. (Fiction)

***The Goose Girl* by Shannon Hale**

Princess Anidori, on her way to marry a prince she has never met, is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers. (Fiction)

***Jackie's Wild Seattle* by Will Hobbs**

Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother, Cody, spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle. (Fiction)

***The Misfits* by James Howe**

Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names. (Fiction)

***No More Dead Dogs* by Gordon Korman**

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well. (Fiction)

***Gold Dust* by Chris Lynch**

In 1975, twelve-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school, hoping that Napoleon will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston school. (Fiction)

***Bad Boy: A Memoir* by Walter Dean Myers**

Author Walter Dean Myers describes his childhood in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s, discussing his loving stepmother, his problems in school, his reasons for leaving home, and his beginnings as a writer. (Biography)

***Sabriel* by Garth Nix**

Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead. (Fiction)

***Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel**

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface. (Fiction)

***Cuba 15* by Nancy Osa**

Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming "quince," a Spanish nickname for the celebration of an Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday. (Fiction)

***The Young Man and the Sea* by Rodman Philbrick**

After his mother's death, twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman decides that it is up to him to earn money to take care of himself and his father, so he undertakes a dangerous trip alone out on the ocean off the coast of Maine to try to catch a huge bluefin tuna. (Fiction)

***The Body of Christopher Creed* by Carol Plum-Ucci**

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast. (Fiction)

***The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan**

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war. (Fiction)

***Chew on This: Everything you don't want to know about fast food* by Eric Schlosser**

*Chew on This* covers the history of the fast-food industry and delves into the agribusiness and animal husbandry methods that support it. By the author of *Fast Food Nation*, this was written for teens. (Nonfiction)

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli**

Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform. (Fiction)

***Montmorency : thief, liar, gentleman?* by Eleanor Updale**

In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself. (Fiction)

***Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen**

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years. (Fiction)

***So B. It : a novel* by Sarah Weeks**

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is. (Fiction)