

## 2009 SUMMER FAVORITES

These titles have been suggested by the WMS Summer Reading committee that consists of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers. **The goal of the committee is to have every WMS student and teacher commit to reading at least one of the books listed below.** There will be small discussion groups held in the fall to share your thoughts about one of these books. Descriptions of these books are on the next sheet. (Scroll down)

Additional titles by grade levels for further reading can be found on our school website. The more book summaries you complete including the one from the list, the more extra 5 credit points you earn per class, to start the school year off with!

\*\* A NOTE TO PARENTS: Maturity & reading ability of middle school children varies tremendously. As parents, you are the best judge of your child's emotional development. Please help your child select titles for his/her reading enjoyment. Many of these titles are available on audio tapes at the public library. Some of these titles are the same as the 2008 List, some were deleted and three new titles (\*\*) have been added. You may not sign up for the same summer book that you read last year. Yes, Ms. Conley still has that list!

### *Life Lessons:*

- Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins
- The Misfits by James Howe

### *Competition:*

- Travel Team by Mike Lupica
- The Big Field by Mike Lupica

### *Acceptance & Diversity:*

- Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko
- Rules by Cynthia Lord
- A Friendship for Today by Patricia C. McKissack

### *Fantasy:*

- The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke
- Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke \*\*

### *Suspense:*

- Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings \*\*
- Silverfin by Charlie Higson \*\*

### *Global Warming:* Recommended by members of our new "Go Green Club"

- An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming  
by Al Gore
- The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming  
by Laurie David and Cambia Gordon

\*\*\*\* If you have any of these titles at home and would like to donate to WMS, feel free to have your child bring them to the main office before the end of the school year. This would allow any student who wanted to borrow a book from the office over the summer, the opportunity to do so.

# Summaries

**Criss Cross**  
**Grades 4-8**

by Lynne Rae Perkins

**Book Description | Ages 9-13 |**

Teenagers in a small town in the 1960's experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.

**The Misfits**  
**Grades 5-8**

by James Howe

**Book Description | Ages 10-13 |**

Skeezie, Addie, Joe, and Bobby call themselves the Gang of Five. Wonder why? Their name is a welcoming to any other kid out there who may find him/herself to be a misfit. Together, they want to survive the seventh grade and the one-word jokes their classmates have tried to reduce them to. Read and discover how they survive the school year.

**Travel Team**  
**Grades 5-8**

by Mike Lupica

**Book Description | Ages 10-13 |**

After he is cut from his travel basketball team, the very same team that his father once lead to national prominence, twelve-year-old Danny Walker wants his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

**The Big Field**  
**Grades 5-8**

by Mike Lupica

**Book Description | Ages 10-13 |**

The team's new star player steals Hitch's shortstop position and his father's attention! How will Hitch handle it all?

**Al Capone Does My Shirts**  
**adult**

by Gennifer Choldenko

**Book Description | Ages 10-18 | Grades 5-**

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.

**Rules**

by Cynthia Lord

**Book Description | Ages 9-12 | Grades 4-7**

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability.

**A Friendship for Today**  
**Grades 4-7**

by Patricia McKissack

**Book Description | Ages 9-12 |**

The year is 1954, the place is Missouri, and twelve-year-old Rosemary Patterson is about to make history. She is one of the first African American students to enter the white school in her town. Rosemary must face all the stares and whispers alone. But when the girl who has shown her the most cruelty becomes an unlikely confidante, Rosemary learns important truths about the power of friendship to overcome prejudice.

**The Thief Lord**  
**Grades 4-8**

by Cornelia Funke

**Book Description | Ages 9-13 |**

Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious thirteen-year-old boy who calls himself the "Thief Lord" and leads street children in petty crimes. Prosper and Bo delight in being part of this new family but the Thief Lord has secrets of his own.

**\*\* Dragon Rider**  
**Grades 4-8**

by Cornelia Funke

**Book Description | Ages 9-13 |**

When they are forced to leave their secret home in a Scottish village, a dragon name Firedrake and his pal Sorrel go in search of the "Rim of Heaven," a magical place said to be the last safe haven of the dragons. Although aided by a human orphan named Ben, Firedrake and Sorrel are also being hunted by a dangerous, and very determined, dragon slayer named Nettlebrand.

**\*\* Red Kayak**

by Priscilla Cummings

**Book Description | Ages 10-13 | Grades 5-8**

As developer and rich families move into the Chesapeake Bay area, Brady befriends some of them, while his parents and friends are bitter about the changes. When tragedy strikes, Brady discovers the truth behind the "accident," which will change the lives of those he loves forever.

**\*\* Silverfin**

by Charlie Higson

**Book Description | Ages 10-13 | Grades 5-8**

What does it take to become the greatest secret agent the world has ever known? In this thrilling prequel to the adventure of James Bond 007, readers meet a young boy whose inquisitive mind and determination set him on a path that will someday take him across the globe, in pursuit of the dangerous criminals of all time. This is the first in a series of three books.

**An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming** by Al Gore **Book Description | Ages 10-13 | Grades 5-8**

A former vice president and Noble Peace Prize winner reveals how global warming is threatening our world and what we can do to stop it!

**The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming** by Laurie David; Cambria Gordon **Grades 4-8**

**Book Description | Ages 9-13 |**

Irreverent and entertaining, DOWN TO EARTH is filled with facts about global warming and its disastrous consequences, loads of photos and illustrations, as well as suggestions for how kids can help combat global warming in their homes, schools, and communities. Engagingly designed, DOWN TO EARTH will educate and empower, leaving readers with the knowledge they need to understand this problem and a sense of hope to inspire them into action.

**WESTLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING BOOK REVIEW FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Pages \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did you choose this book?

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2. What is the setting of this book? State the location and time period where and when most of the action within this book takes place.

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**3. On the reverse side of this sheet, summarize the story. If you need more room, or prefer lined paper, attach a separate sheet.**

4. How do you rate this book? Excellent \_\_\_ Very Good \_\_\_ Good \_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_

5. Would you recommend this book for next year? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why did you give this book the above rating?

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7. Who was your favorite character in the book, and why?

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8. If you could have been present in any of the scenes in the book, which one would it have been, and what would you have done?

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Teacher reviewing form: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WESTLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL ~ Grade 6 SUMMER READING 2009



Dear Parents of Middle School Students Entering Grade 6 in the Fall:

Reading has been and will continue to be a significant factor in your child's academic success. Acquiring the habit of reading for enjoyment may well separate tomorrow's leaders from their followers.

In an effort to model good reading habits, our summer reading program includes faculty/staff participation. In order to accomplish this goal, I have asked faculty and staff members to volunteer to read a book over the summer and then lead a discussion group in September with students who have read the same book. In order to facilitate these discussion groups, I have attached a list of books for your child to choose from. The 5th grade teachers will explain the program to students and answer any questions they have. We offer you the following suggestions to help your child to participate this summer:

- Together, select **any** book from the attached list of WMS **Summer Favorites**. This multi-grade list was created by the WMS Summer Reading committee consisting of both students and teachers. Discussion groups will be formed based on the 2009 Summer Reading list.
- On our WMS website, there are grade level lists of suggested titles for additional reading pleasure.
- Students will complete the attached Book Review form for the 2009 Favorites title they read and submit it to **any** teacher they choose on grade level by the second week of school.
- After the teacher signs the Book Review form, the student can apply 5 points to **any** assessment of their choice in that particular subject area during the 1st marking period **only**.

Students who decide to read more than one book will fill out an additional Book Review form for each book they read and submit the form to a different teacher of their choice (same point system applies). Additional forms and a list of suggested authors can be found on the Middle School Website.

Please pick out one book from the 2009 Favorites list to be read over the summer for the discussion group, fill out the form below, and return it to your child's current Homeroom Teacher by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This summer become an active partner in helping your child become a better reader. At Westlake Middle School, readers are leaders!

Sincerely,

Sheila Conley, Asst. Principal  
Jerome S. Schulman, Principal

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**SUMMER READING BOOK CHOICE**  
**(From Summer Favorites List)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade 6

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO Homeroom TEACHER BY Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

\*\*\*\* If you have any of the Summer Favorites titles at home and would like to donate them to WMS, feel free to have your child bring them to the main office at Columbus before the end of the school year. The box of books will be delivered to WMS the last day of school. This would allow any student who wanted to borrow a book from the WMS office, the opportunity to stop by over the summer and do so.

## WESTLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL ~ Grades 7 or 8 SUMMER READING 2009



Dear Parents of Middle School Students Entering Grades 7 or 8 in the Fall:

Reading has been and will continue to be a significant factor in your child's academic success. Acquiring the habit of reading for enjoyment may well separate tomorrow's leaders from their followers.

In an effort to model good reading habits, our summer reading program includes faculty/staff participation. In order to accomplish this goal, I have asked faculty and staff members to volunteer to read a book over the summer and then lead a discussion group in September with students who have read the same book. In order to facilitate these discussion groups, I have attached a list of books for your child to choose from. The Summer Reading committee members will explain the program to students and answer any questions they have. We offer you the following suggestions to help your child to participate this summer:

- Together, select any book from the attached list of WMS **Summer Favorites**. This multi-grade list was created by the WMS Summer Reading committee consisting of both students and teachers. Discussion groups will be formed based on these selections.
- The attached grade level list is a collection of titles for additional reading pleasure.
- Students will complete the attached Book Review form and submit it to any teacher they choose on grade level by the first week of school.
- After the teacher signs the Book Review form, the student can apply 5 points to any assessment of their choice in that particular subject area during the 1st marking period only.

Students who decide to read more than one book will fill out an additional Book Review form for each book they read and submit the form to a different teacher of their choice (same point system applies). Additional forms and a list of suggested authors can be found on the Middle School Website.

Please pick out one book to be read over the summer for the discussion group, fill out the form below, and return it to your child's current **ELA** Teacher by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This summer become an active partner in helping your child become a better reader. At Westlake Middle School, readers are leaders!

Sincerely,

Sheila Conley, Asst. Principal  
Jerome S. Schulman, Principal

**\*\* Book selections were made in ELA classes and submitted to their teachers by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.**