

Converse Middle School
Students Entering Grade 5
2009 Summer Reading List
Guidelines



What do I need to do?



- (1) Read one book from the attached “Theme” List, complete “Story Map” worksheet and be prepared to discuss the book in class.
- (2) Read one book from the attached “Reading for Fun” List and write a friendly letter to your 5th Grade Reading Teacher.

When do the worksheet and letter need to be turned in?

Both assignments are due on the first day of school, **Tuesday, August 25th**.



Where can I get a copy of the books I want?

Books are available at the Palmer Public Library, local booksellers or online.



What if I don't find a book that I like on the list?

Talk to one of the librarians at the Palmer Public Library. They might have other great books in mind to spark your interest!

What if I lose my reading list?



Extra copies of the reading list will be available at the Palmer Public Library, the Converse Middle School office, or online at www.palmerschools.org throughout the summer.

Reading Bonuses!

Read 15 minutes a day and qualify for prizes at the Palmer Public Library, as well as our Summer Reading T-Shirt Celebration at Converse in September.



Read 5 or more MCBA's by the first week of school and qualify for a special drawing in next year's MCBA Challenge.

Impress your friends (and your 5th Grade Reading Teacher) by being able to talk about all of the great books you've been reading!

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Dear Fifth Grade Reader,

In September you will begin the new school year with the theme of Friendship and Fitting-In. In order to be prepared to take part in this unit, you must read at least one book from the following “Theme” list.

“Theme List”

Avi – *Poppy*

A hoot owl, Ocax, rules Dimwood Forest and promises to protect the mice as long as they ask his permission to move about. Poppy is a deer mouse under the owl's protection, but when her fiancé is killed by Ocax she defies the owl and begins a journey to a new place. Poppy wants to find a place where her family can live away from Ocax, but she has to do it without Ocax catching her.

Banks, Lynne Reid – *The Indian in the Cupboard*

A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.

Birney, Betty G. – *Friendship According to Humphrey*

When Humphrey the hamster returns to Mrs. Brisbane's class after the winter break, a new class pet and some other surprises give him an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of friendship.

Bloom, Edward – *Tangerine*

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.

Estes, Eleanor - *The Hundred Dresses*

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson

Fitzhugh, Louise – *Harriet the Spy*

Eleven year old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her after school spy route, but when some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge.

Kinney, Jeff – *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules*

Greg Heffley tells about his summer vacation and his attempts to steer clear of trouble when he returns to middle school and tries to keep his older brother Roderick from telling everyone about Greg's most humiliating experience of the summer.

Konigsburg, E.L. – *The View from Saturday*

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Mass, Wendy – *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

Spinelli, Jerry – *Crash*

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

Van Draanen, Wendelin - *Shredderman: Secret Identity*

Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity--Shredderman!

White, E.B. – *Charlotte's Web*

Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.

While reading, fill out the Story Map worksheet. Remember the Story Map counts as your first quiz grade for Reading, in the fall, so make sure you complete the assignment.

In addition to reading at least one book from the “Theme” list, you must choose at least one book from the “Reading for Fun” list:

“Reading for Fun List”

Alcott, Louisa May – *Eight Cousins*

Babbit, Natalie – *Tuck Everlasting*

Birdsall, Jeanne – *The Penderwicks or The Penderwicks on Gardam Street*

Burnett, Frances Hodgson – *The Secret Garden*

Duprau, Jeanne – *City of Ember (and its sequels, People of Sparks, and Prophet of Yonwood)*

Grahame, Kenneth – *Wind in the Willows*

Konigsburg, E.L. – *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

Lewis, C.S. – *Chronicles of Narnia Series*

Nesbit, Edith – *The Railway Children or The Magic City*

Norton, Mary – *The Borrowers*

Riordan, Rick – *The Lightning Thief (and any of the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series)*

Scieszka, Jon – *Summer Reading is Killing Me (Time Warp Trio)*

or any of the 25 nominees for the 2009-2010 Massachusetts Children’s Book Award

Creech, Sharon. *The Castle Corona*.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Elijah of Buxton*.

Davies, Jacqueline. *The Lemonade War*.

Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery*.

Frederick, Heather Vogel. *Spy Mice: Goldwhiskers*.

Gormley, Beatrice. *Barack Obama: Our 44th President*.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Found (The Missing, Book 1)*.

Helgerson, Joseph. *Horns and Wrinkles*.

James, Charlie. *Billy the Fish*.

Jonell, Lynne. *Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat*.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Weedflower*.

Klages, Ellen. *The Green Glass Sea*.

Korman, Gordon. *Swindle*.

Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*.

Lupica, Mike. *The Big Field*.

McKissack, Patricia. *Abby Takes a Stand*.

Meehl, Brian. *Out of Patience*.

O’Connor, Barbara. *How to Steal a Dog*.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bread and Roses, Too*.

Prelutsky, Jack. *Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry: How to Write a Poem*.

Reisman, Michael. *Simon Bloom, The Gravity Keeper*.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Paint the Wind*.

Sage, Angie. *Araminta Spookie 1: My Haunted House*. (Harper Collins).

Tolan, Stephanie S. *Listen!*

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Feathers*.

After reading a book from the “Reading for Fun” list, you will write a friendly letter to your Reading teacher, indicating that you have read the book. This letter will be handed in to your Reading teacher on the first day of school, August 25th.

Your friendly letter should include the following:

- Your address, date, and greeting in a friendly letter format
- 1st paragraph: A short introduction, including your name, a few facts about yourself, and the date you completed the book
- 2nd paragraph: The title and author of the book, a description of one or two of the main characters, the setting, and a summary of the story
- 3rd paragraph: Your personal rating of the book, from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, plus your reasons for the rating
- Be sure to say enough. Letters should be about one and a half pages handwritten, one page typed. If handwritten, please use blue or black pen.

Remember, you are expected to read at least two books, but hopefully you will take the opportunity this summer to explore many different books. Adventure awaits!

