

Converse Middle School
Students Entering Grade 7
2009 Summer Reading List
Guidelines



What do I need to do?



- (1) Read one book from the attached “Theme” List, complete the attached Summer Reading 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 7th Grade English 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 book 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 7th Grade English Teacher) by being able to talk about all of the great books you've been reading!

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Dear Seventh Grade Reader,

In September you will begin the new school year with the theme of stories about Teamwork and Tolerance. 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"

Burnford, Sheila – *The Incredible Journey*

A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family.

Cormier, Robert – *The Chocolate War*

Danziger, Paula - *The Cat Ate my Gymsuit*

Misunderstood, overweight, and convinced that she'll never get a date, Marcy Lewis wants nothing more than to be "normal." Her admiration and defense of Ms. Finney, an outspoken English teacher with the courage of her convictions, provides a way for Marcy to reexamine what's important to her and to stand up for what she believes.

Flake, Sharon G. – *The Skin I'm In*

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.

Hesse, Karen – *Witness*

A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

Holm, Jennifer L. – *Penny From Heaven*

As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death.

Kadohata, Cynthia - *Kira, Kira*

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

L'engle, Madeleine – *A Wrinkle in Time or A Wind in the Door*

Lowry, Lois – *The Giver*

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Montgomery, Lucy Maud - *Anne of Green Gables*

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Philbrick, Rodman – *Freak the Mighty*

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Speare, Elizabeth George – *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.

Taylor, Mildred – *The Friendship*

Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s.

Twain, Mark – *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

A young boy living in mid-nineteenth century Missouri relates the many adventures that he and his friend, an escaped slave, experience as they travel down the Mississippi River on a raft.

Woodson, Jacqueline – *Feathers*

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.

While reading, fill out the Summer Reading Worksheet. Remember the worksheet counts as your first quiz grade for English, 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 this list, you will write a friendly letter to your English teacher, indicating that you have read the book. This letter will be handed in to your English 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!

