



Dear Parents,

This letter is designed to answer your questions about summer reading. It is intended as a guide, giving suggestions and activities for integrating pleasure reading into your family's summer days.

Students are required to choose at least one from the four novels listed below and encouraged to read as many novels as possible from the *Intermediate School Summer Reading Suggestions* list on pages 3 and 4 of this letter. Students should be prepared to create a project-based book response which will be completed at school with their literature group. The provided descriptions were obtained from Common Sense Media and GoodReads.

Moo - Sharon Creech - From CommonSense Media - *"Fans of Newbery Medal winner Sharon Creech's Love That Dog and Hate That Cat will love her newest novel, Moo. This uplifting tale reminds us that if we're open to new experiences, life is full of surprises. Following one family's momentous move from the city to rural Maine, an unexpected bond develops between twelve-year-old Reena and one very ornery cow."*

The Someday Birds - Sally J. Pla - 2018 Dolly Gray Children's Literature Award, From GoodReads - *"Charlie wishes his life could be as predictable and simple as chicken nuggets. And it usually is. He has his clean room, his carefully organized bird books and art supplies, his favorite foods, and comfortable routines. But life has been unraveling since his war journalist father was injured in Afghanistan. And when Dad gets sent across country for medical treatment, Charlie must reluctantly travel to meet him. With his boy-crazy sister, unruly twin brothers, and a mysterious new family friend at the wheel, the journey looks anything but smooth. So Charlie decides to try and spot all the birds that he and his dad had been hoping to see together in the wild. If he can complete the Someday Birds list for Dad, then maybe, just maybe, things will turn out okay."*

Amina's Voice - Hena Khan - A Washington Post Best Book of 2017, A NPR Best Book of 2017, A Kirkus Best Book of 2017, A GoodReads Choice Award Finalist - From GoodReads- *"Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? Or hiding who she is to fit in? While Amina grapples with these questions, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized."*

Hello Universe - Erin Entrada Kelly - 2018 Newbery Award - From GoodReads - *"In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kindhearted and feels out of place in his loud and boisterous family. Valencia Somerset, who is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely, and loves everything about nature. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister Gen is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just act normal so that he can concentrate on basketball. They aren't friends -- at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find the missing Virgil. Through luck, smarts, bravery, and a little help from the universe, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms."*

What is summer reading?

We believe that summer reading should be leisure reading, emphasizing pleasure rather than instruction. Quantity is not important, but routine reading is encouraged. Your child should choose books they want to read, within good taste and reason. Interest is one of the greatest motivations for readers of any age.

Which books should we choose?

- Help your child investigate interests through reading.
- Encourage variety in reading. Don't forget poetry, biographies, magazines and newspapers, comics, etc.
- Leisure reading should be geared to the comfort level of students. They should not be discouraged from choosing books that are a stretch. They can always put a book aside if it proves to be too advanced. There is nothing sacred about finishing every book you begin.

Who can help us?

- A librarian or a children's specialist at a local bookstore can be a great help in guiding children to find books that they will love.
- Sign up for the Grosse Pointe Public Library's Summer Reading Program at one of the branches. Make use of the 4/5 book suggestions.
- Talk to your children's friends about which books they have loved.
- Use literature websites: www.Kidsreads.com, www.bookadventure.org, or commonsensemedia.org

How can I motivate my child to read?

- Model reading for your child through family reading. Consider setting aside a family reading time when the entire family reads together.
- Let an older child read to a younger sibling, relative or friend.
- While you are reading a newspaper, encourage younger children to "make" their own newspaper and later ask them to read it to you.
- Set up a "reading bank": Children "owe" you 15-30 minutes of reading per day. They can "stock up" minutes by reading more and then trade in those minutes on days they don't have time to read. A chart made by your child could keep track of minutes earned and used.
- Encourage children to make their own reading selections and respect their decisions.
- For variety, consider recorded books. Vacations might be a good time to utilize this alternative.

What are the parents' roles?

- Read, read, read to your children. Read whatever they love; read whatever you love. Read stories over and over again. Read to your entire family. Read to your older child. Never stop reading aloud!
- Make reading fun. Plan a lunch at a bookstore after choosing books, or stop off at the ice cream parlor after a trip to the library. You have control over setting the tone of reading in your family.
- Enjoy a recorded book as you travel or carpool. It helps pass the time pleasantly and may give rise to conversation about the book.
- Help children find time to read. Allow children the opportunity to plan their daily routine, scheduling in time for favorite television shows and time for reading.
- Surround children with a variety of reading materials.
- Share children's reading experiences, value their opinions and concerns. Engage them in conversations about what they are reading.
- Express your approval of their reading.

**Here's to the long, lazy days of reading enjoyment!
Intermediate School Language Arts Department**

Fiction:

El Deafo by CeCe Bell

The Fourteenth Goldfish or *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm

The Crossover or *Booked* by Kwame Alexander

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library or *Island of Dr. Libris* by Chris Grabenstein

The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail or *Secrets at Sea* by Richard Peck

Smile by Raina Telgemeier

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly

Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper

The Land of Stories (series) by Chris Colfer

Ungifted or *Restart* by Gordon Korman

The Invention of Hugo Cabret or *Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick

Harry Potter (series) by J.K. Rowling

Artemis Fowl (series) by Eoin Colfer

Charlie Bone (series) by Jenny Nimmo

Joey Pigza (series) by Jack Gantos

The Boy on the Porch by Sharon Creech

Love That Dog or *Hate that Cat* by Sharon Creech

Eragon (series) by Christopher Paolini

Dragon Rider or *Inkheart* (series) by Cornelia Funke

Chains, Forge, by Laurie Halse Anderson

Rules by Cynthia Lord

Lawn Boy or *Hatchet* by Gary Paulson

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine

Michigan Chillers or *American Chillers* (series) by Johnathan Rand

Princess Tales (series) by Gail Carson Levine

Ida B and Her Plan to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World by Katherine Hannigan

Al Capone Does My Shirts, Al Capone Shines My Shoes by Gennifer Choldenko

North by Donna Jo Napoli

Sahara Special or *Diary of a Fairy Godmother* by Esme Raji Codell

Hoot or *Flush* by Carl Hiasson

The Penderwicks: A Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall

The Mysterious Benedict Society (series) by Trenton Lee Stewart

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

Judy Moody or *Stink* (series) by Meghan McDonald

The World According to Humphrey (series) by Betty G. Birney

A Nest for Celeste by Henry Cole

The Lightning Thief, Percy Jackson and the Olympians(series) or *The Red Pyramid* (series) by Rick Riordan

Wings of Fire (series) by Tui T. Sutherland

Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator (series) by Jennifer Allison

Moxie Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little by Peggy Gifford

Lunch Money or *Keepers of the School* (series) by Andrew Clements

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

The Kid Who Ran for President by Dan Gutman

Pandora Gets Jealous (series) by Carolyn Hennesy

NON-FICTION, POETRY AND BIOGRAPHY:

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World

by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick

Leonardo's Horse by Jean Fritz

The Tarantula Scientist by Sy Montgomery

Spiders or Lizards by Nic Bishop

Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms by Patricia Lauber

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women by Catherine Timmesh

We Were There Too!: Young People in U.S. History by Phillip M. Hoose

Interrupted Journey: Saving Endangered Sea Turtles by Kathryn Lasky

Digging for Bird-Dinosaurs: An Expedition to Madagascar by Nic Bishop

Hero Dogs: Courageous Canines in Action by Donna M. Jackson

Coyotes in the Crosswalk by Eve Bunting

Backyard Detective: Critters Up Close by Nic Bishop

Bear Dogs: Canines With a Mission, by Ted Wood

Rainbow Soup by Brian P. Cleary (poetry)

Wonderful Words: Poems About Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening by Lee Bennett Hopkins

Falling Up or Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein

The New Kid on the Block, A Pizza the Size of the Sun or It's Raining Pigs and Noodles by Jack Prelutsky

A Maze Me, Poems for Girls by Naomi Shihab Nye

George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the

Revolutionary War by Thomas B. Allen

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges

Langston Hughes, American Poet by Alice Walker

Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina by Maria Tallchief

26 Fairmont Avenue by Tomie DePaola

Ben Franklin's Almanac by Candace Fleming

Walt Whitman: Words for America by Barbara Kerely

The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins by Barbara Kerley

Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney

First to Fly by Peter Busby

Fight On! Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration by Dennis Brindell Fradin and Judith Bloom Fradin

Hana's Suitcase by Karen Levine

Michaelangelo, Cleopatra, Leonardo Da Vinci, or Bard of Avon by Diane Stanley

Worst of Friends: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and the True Story of an American Feud by Suzanne Tripp Jurmain

Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum by Meghan McCarthy

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

I, Fly: The Buzz About Flies and How Awesome They Are by Bridget Heos