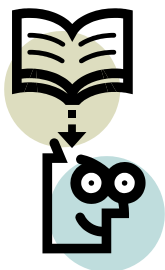


Suggested Reading List



Incoming 6th Graders
Avondale Middle School
Summer 2019



Research supports summer reading!

In the elementary grades, "a summer loss of 3 months accumulates to become a gap of 18 months by the end of 6th grade. By **middle school**, summer reading loss...produces a **cumulative lag of two or more years in reading achievement**, even when effective instruction during the school year is available" (McGill-Franzen 2001).

According to the National Reading Panel's 2000 report, hundreds of correlation studies suggest that "the **more children read, the better their fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.**" (12).

Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed (Krashen 2004).

If children read **one million words a year, at least one thousand words will be added to their vocabulary.** (One study found this could easily be accomplished by letting children and teens read any format reading material they wanted, including comic books and teen romances.) (Krashen 2004).

People who **read more, write better** (Krashen 2004).

Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed (Krashen 2004).

All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. **Research shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of summer vacation (Cooper 1996).**

Summer reading supports our students' learning!

There will NOT be assignments given during the first weeks of class that require reading one of these books, as in the past years.

This list is provided to suggest good books to students and to encourage summer reading.

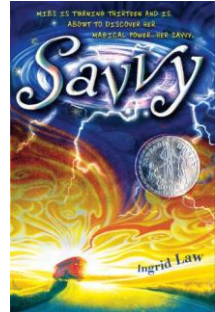
Savvy

by Ingrid Law



Pages: 352

Genre: Science Fiction



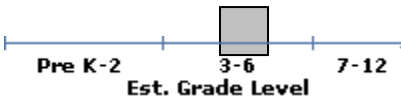
Description

For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a "savvy" -a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, her older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity . . . and now it's the eve of Mibs's big day.

As if waiting weren't hard enough, the family gets scary news two days before Mibs's birthday: Poppa has been in a terrible accident. Mibs develops the singular mission to get to the hospital and prove that her new power can save her dad. So she sneaks onto a salesman's bus . . . only to find the bus heading in the opposite direction. Suddenly Mibs finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make sense of growing up -and of other people, who might also have a few secrets hidden just beneath the skin.

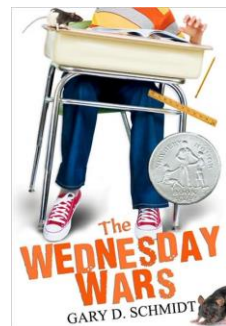
The Wednesday Wars

by Gary D. Schmidt



Pages: 272

Genre: Historical Fiction



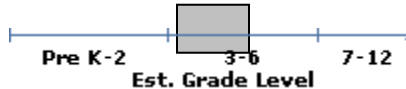
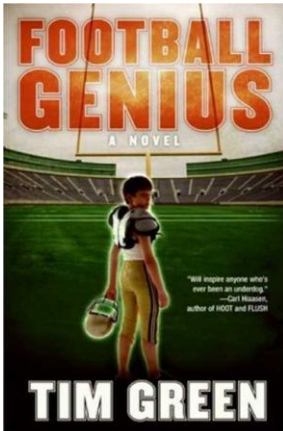
Description

When Holling Hoodhood starts seventh grade, he knows two things for sure. First, he is the son who will one day inherit Hoodhood and Associates (his father's architecture firm). Second, his new teacher, Mrs. Baker, hates his guts. He first discovers this fact on Wednesday, when the Jewish and Catholic students leave for religious study, and Holling, the only Presbyterian, must stay behind with Mrs. Baker. Mrs. Baker tortures him with meaningless chores each Wednesday, until one day, she comes up with a new punishment. She forces him to read Shakespeare.

Through reading and performing Shakespeare, Holling learns two things. First, he can choose to be more than the son who will one day inherit Hoodhood and Associates. Second, Mrs. Baker probably doesn't hate him.

The political and social unrest of the Vietnam era bubble under the surface of this strongly felt coming-of-age novel. Schmidt peppers his deeply funny story with poignant moments of loss, growth and missed chances. Even if some plot twists seem too good to be true (like when Holling gets to play with the Yankees), Holling brings a unique, believable voice that will speak to young and not-so-young readers alike. A beautifully crafted novel about finding hope and strength even in the most uncertain of times.

Football Genius by Tim Green



Pages: 272

Genre: Sports Fiction



Description

Troy White has a phenomenal gift. He can predict football plays before they happen. Any position. Any player. Any team.

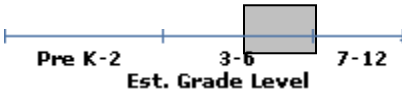
When Troy's single mom gets a job working in public relations for the Atlanta Falcons, Troy figures it's his chance to prove what he can do. But first he has to *get* to the Falcons—and with tight security and a notoriously mean coach, even his mom's field passes aren't much help.

Then Troy and his best friends devise a plan to get the attention of star linebacker Seth Halloway. With Seth's playing and Troy's genius, the Falcons could be unstoppable—if they'll only listen.

Bestselling author and former NFL player Tim Green scores a touchdown with this exhilarating novel, his first for young readers. *Football Genius* is an action-packed adventure with gripping suspense, a hero you can really root for, and an insider's look at the world of professional football.

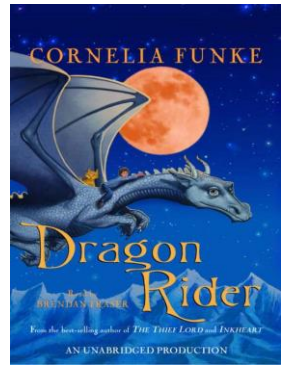
Dragon Rider

by Cornelia Funke



Pages: 528 Genre: Fantasy

Description



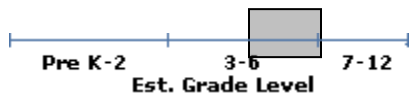
A dragon. A boy. A journey.

Firedrake, a brave young dragon, his loyal brownie friend Sorrel and a lonely boy called Ben are united as if by destiny. Together, they embark on a magical journey to find the legendary place where silver dragons can live in peace for ever. With only a curious map and the whispered memories of an old dragon to guide them, they fly across moonlit lands and seas to reach the highest mountains in the world.

Along the way, they discover extraordinary new friends in unlikely places and a courage they never knew they had. Just as well, for the greatest enemy of all is never far behind them – a heartless monster from the past who's been waiting a very long time to destroy the last dragons on earth.

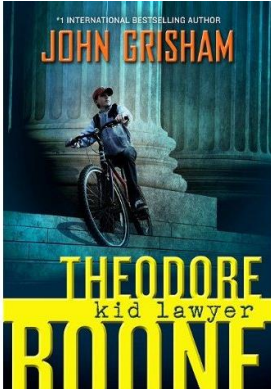
Theodore Boone Kid Lawyer

by John Grisham



Pages: 192

Genre: Mystery



Description

A perfect murder

A faceless witness

A lone courtroom champion knows the whole truth .

... and he's only thirteen

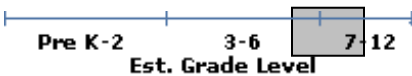
Meet Theodore Boone

In the small city of Strattenburg, there are many lawyers, and though he's only thirteen years old, Theo Boone thinks he's one of them. Theo knows every judge, policeman, court clerk—and a lot about the law. He dreams of being a great trial lawyer, of a life in the courtroom.

But Theo finds himself in court much sooner than expected. Because he knows so much—maybe too much—he is suddenly dragged into the middle of a sensational murder trial. A cold-blooded killer is about to go free, and only Theo knows the truth. The stakes are high, but Theo won't stop until justice is served. Brimming with the intrigue and suspense that made John Grisham a #1 international bestseller and the undisputed master of the legal thriller, *Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer* will keep readers guessing and pages turning.

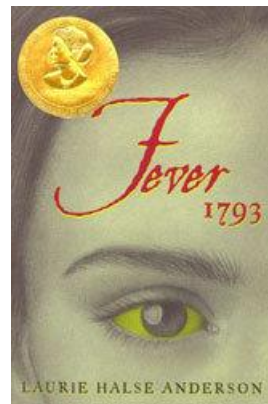
Fever 1793

by Laurie Halse Anderson



Pages: 272

Genre: Historical fiction



Description

August 1793. Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook is ambitious, adventurous, and sick to death of listening to her mother. Mattie has plans of her own. She wants

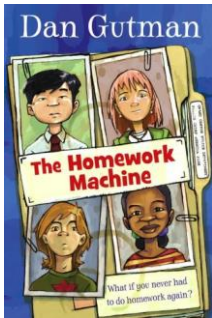
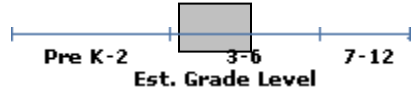
to turn the Cook Coffeehouse into the finest business in Philadelphia, the capital of the new United States.

But the waterfront is abuzz with reports of disease. "Fever" spreads from the docks and creeps toward Mattie's home, threatening everything she holds dear

As the cemeteries fill with fever victims, fear turns to panic, and thousands flee the city. Then tragedy strikes the coffeehouse, and Mattie is trapped in a living nightmare. Suddenly, her struggle to build a better life must give way to something even more important -- the fight to stay alive.

The Homework Machine

by Dan Gutman



Pages: 176

Genre: Realistic fiction



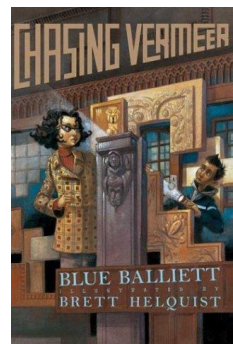
Description

Sam, Kelsey, Judy, and Brenton make up the D-Squad. They are forced to sit together during school because their last names all begin with a D, and they aren't very happy about it. Sam is a class clown, Kelsey is a slacker, Judy is a teacher's pet, and Brenton is just weird – they have nothing in common. That is, until Brenton creates a homework machine named Belch that does homework for you. Sam, Kelsey, and Judy soon find out about the homework machine and eventually everyone is spending afternoons at Brenton's house using Belch.

Pretty soon, the entire fifth grade starts to question why the D-Squad is spending so much time together outside of school. Miss Rasmussen, their teacher, begins to wonder why the D-Squad members have such good grades. Before long, it becomes more and more difficult to keep their secret, and Belch begins to do some unusual, frightening things. Will Belch end up causing more problems than it solved?

Chasing Vermeer

by Blue Balliett





Pages: 272 **Genre:** Mystery

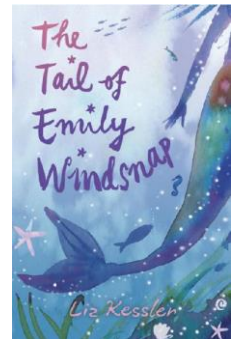
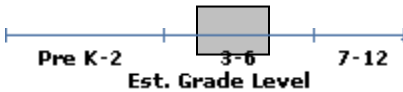
Description

A famous Vermeer painting, *The Lady Writing*, is stolen while in transit to a Chicago museum. Petra and Calder, classmates at the University of Chicago Lab School, think they may be able to solve the mystery. Petra has found, and then lost again, a related letter, and each of them may be getting supernatural messages about the theft, Petra directly from the Lady in the painting, and Calder from a set of pentominoes.

As they track down clues, their investigations lead them in many directions: an old lady in the neighborhood, a famous bookstore, their teacher, a book of freakish phenomena, a friend's disappearance, and a series of odd coincidences. No one is what they seem to be, and Petra and Calder don't know whom they can trust.

The Tale of Emily Windsnap

by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor



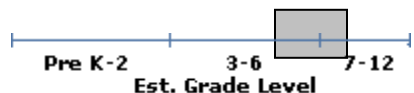
Pages: 224 **Genre:** Fantasy

Description

For as long as she can remember, twelve-year-old Emily Windsnap has lived on a boat. And, oddly enough, for just as long, her mother has seemed anxious to keep her away from the water. But when Mom finally agrees to let her take swimming lessons, Emily makes a startling discovery — about her own identity, the mysterious father she's never met, and the thrilling possibilities and perils shimmering deep below the water's surface. With a sure sense of suspense and richly imaginative details, first-time author Liz Kessler lures us into a glorious undersea world where mermaids study shipwrecks at school and Neptune rules with an iron trident — an enchanting fantasy about family secrets, loyal friendship, and the convention-defying power of love.

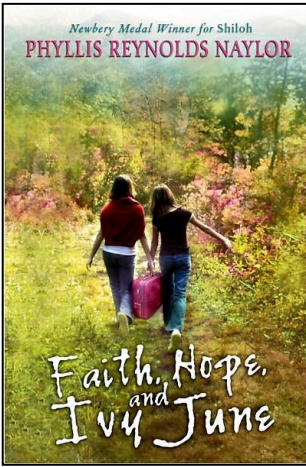
Faith, Hope, and Ivy June

by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor



Pages: 288

Genre: Realistic fiction



Description

Although they live only a few hours apart in Kentucky, Ivy June Mosely and Catherine Combs come from two drastically different homes. Ivy June lives in the mountains of Thunder Creek, where she resides in her grandparents' rural house with no cell phone reception and just enough means to get by. Catherine comes from a more suburban neighborhood, with white shutters, brand-name clothes, and significantly more income. To broaden their horizons, the two girls participate in a student exchange program through their middle schools to see how another girl their age lives. The two write in journals throughout the broadening journey, reflecting on their differences, but more importantly, their similarities.