

Celebrating Summer Reading  
Argyle Middle School  
Magnet for Digital Design and Development  
We've got *IT*\* goin' on!

June 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students of Argyle Middle School:

Argyle Middle School students read! We expect all of our students to continue learning throughout the summer by reading. The following are the expectations for each grade level, a list of suggested titles, and a copy of the assignment which will be due the **1st** week of school. The English department has provided some supporting documents to help students complete the assignments.

- Summer Reading Objectives:**
1. Read books from specific genres that support the curriculum and magnet focus.
  2. Promote good reading habits

**Summer Reading Requirements:** Though only **2 assignments will be turned in**, students are expected to read each of the following:

- \* one work of fiction
- \* one work of non-fiction
- \* one work related to information technology

To assist you, we have provided a list of recommended authors as well as topics students may wish to consider. To assure a positive and rewarding experience, we encourage you to discuss book choices based upon the book's merit, reader's interest, and readability. If you need further assistance, librarians and bookstore consultants can help you determine the level of difficulty for individual titles.

**Summer Reading Assignments:** Each grade level has a different assignment that will be due.

6th Grade - Complete a plot map for a work of fiction. Complete a summary graphic organizer and a written summary for an informational text.

7th Grade- Write a paragraph or more identifying 1) structure and characterization in fiction; and 2) the main idea and important information in non-fiction.

8th Grade - Identify a universal theme that can be found in the book. In paragraph form, describe the theme, supporting it with details from the text.

## Summer Reading Grading:

A grade for summer reading will be assigned for each type of book during the first marking period of each student's English class (not to exceed 10% of a student's total grade).

**Due Date:** All assignments are due on the Thursday (even) or Friday (odd) of the first week of school. Teachers will give specific directions and details for turn in.

**Deadline:** To receive reduced credit, summer reading must be turned in by the end of the second week of school.

If you have any questions, you may contact Mr. Ryan R. Flynn at Argyle Middle School.

## Recommended Authors & Grade-level Topics:

### Fiction –

Avi*	Duncan, Lois	L'Engle, Madeleine	Rowling, J.K.*
Alexander, Lloyd*	Dygaard, Thomas	Lewis, C.S.	Schwartz, Alvin*
Armstrong, William H.	Fenner, Carol	Lisle, Janet	Scieszka, John*
Banks, Lynne Reid	Fleishman, Sid*	MacHale, D.J.*	Scringer, Richard
Braun, Lillian Jackson	Funk, Cornelia*	MacGregor, Roy*	Snicket, Lemony
Bunting, Eve*	Gantos, Jack*	Mazer, Harry*	Soto, Gary*
Carson-Hollander, Gail	Haddix, Margaret*	McCaffery, Anne	Taylor, Mildred
Choi, Sook Nyl	Hamilton, Virginia	McKinley, Robin	Temple, Frances
Cisneros, Sandra	Hesse, Karen	McKissack, Patricia	Uchida, Yoshiko
Cleary, Beverly	Hobbes, Will*	Myers, Walter Dean*	Temple, Frances
Colfer Eoin*	Hoffius, Stephen	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	Voight, Cynthia
Cooney, Caroline*	Hughes, Dean	Oppel, Kenneth	Walters, Eric
Creech, Sharon	Konigsburg, E. L.	Osborne, Mary Pope	Whelan, Gloria
Danzinger, Paula	Korman, Gordon*	Philbrick, Rodman*	Yolen, Jane
DeFelice, Cynthia	Kropp, Paul*	Pierce, Tamora	Zindel, Paul*
Dorris, Michael	Lasky, Kathryn	Pinkwater, D.M.*	
Doyle, Brian*	Lee, Tanith	Roberts, Willo Davis	

**\*Highly recommended by male students**

## Non-Fiction –

### Grade 6

#### World Studies

Ancient Civilizations  
Egypt  
Sumer  
Mesopotamia  
Indus River  
China  
Maya  
World Geography

#### Science

Chesapeake Bay  
Stars and Planets  
Forces and Motion

#### Information Technology

Systems Theories  
Software Applications  
Technological Innovations  
Innovators

### Grade 7

#### World Studies

Renaissance  
Islam  
Latin America  
Aztecs  
World Trade  
World War II

#### Science

Stars and Planets  
Life Science  
Light and Sound

#### Information Technology

Systems Theories  
Software Applications  
Technological Innovations  
Innovators

### Grade 8

#### World Studies

Citizenship  
American Revolution  
Slavery  
Civil War  
Publishing

#### Science

Earthquakes  
Volcanoes  
Heredity

#### Information Technology

Systems Theories  
Software Applications  
Technological Innovations  
Digital Design Programs

## Technology –

Artificial Intelligence By Alexander Woolf

Spy Satellites By Paul Kupperberg

Weapons Satellites By Philip Wolney

Computer Evidence By Ann Byers

From Radio to the Wireless Web By Joanne Mattern

Larry Ellison: Database Genius of Oracle  
By Craig Peters

Bill Gates, Billionaire Computer Genius By Joan D.  
Dickinson

Stephen Hawking: Breaking the Boundaries of Time  
and Space By John Bankston

Steve Jobs: Computer Genius of Apple By Virginia  
Brackett

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11  
on the Moon. by Thimmesh, Catherine.

MythBusters: Don't Try This at Home by Mary  
Packard, Discovery Staff

Career Ideas for Teens in Information Technology by  
Diane Lindsey Lindsey Reeves, Gail Karlitz, Don  
Rauf, Gail Karlitz (With), Don Rauf (With)

Artificial Intelligence by Peggy Thomas

Electronic America by John W. Weier

Firestorm (Caretaker Trilogy #1) by David Klass

Enigma: The Battle for the Code  
by Hugh Sebag-Montefiore

The Bar Code Tattoo  
by Suzanne Weyn

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

This summer we expect students to read **two (2) books** that they have never read. After reading each book, students are expected to prepare responses to the attached questions for **each** book. These responses will be collected the first week of school and will count as a **Homework** grade. The responses can be handwritten, although typed responses are preferred. The responses will also be important in the first week of school:

- Students will be expected to complete a formative assessment involving the two books assigned once school starts
- Students will use the responses in order to complete the formative assessment
- It is unrealistic for students to expect to read and comprehend two entire books in the first week of school

Students must read the following:

- one work of fiction
- one work of non-fiction

To assist you, we have provided a list of recommended authors as well as topics students may wish to consider. To assure a positive and rewarding experience, **we encourage you to discuss book choices with your student** based upon the book's merit, reader's interest, and readability. If you need further assistance, librarians and bookstore consultants can help you determine the level of difficulty for individual titles.

After students have read each book, they must prepare a response based on the attached format. **The responses will be collected by your child's English teacher the first week of school on either Thursday, September 3 or Friday, September 4, 2009. The deadline will be the following week on either Thursday, September 10 or Friday, September 11, 2009.** Only students who register after August 1, 2009, will receive an extended deadline. This information will be shared with students during the first week of school and posted on Edline:

1. A homework grade for the summer reading assignment will be included in the first marking period in English class.
2. A formative assessment will be given directly involving the summer reading assignments.
3. English and reading classes both require assignments involving summer reading selections.

If you should need another packet, they are available in our main office, on our school website, or the MCPS website

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/argylems/>

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/readinglists/>

## Example of a Response

Your Last Name, Your First Name

Author's name. Title of the Book. City In Which It Was  
Published: Name of Publishing Company, Date It Was Published.

← Follow this format.  
Copy punctuation,  
spacing, & capitalization.

Okuda, Michael, and Denise Okuda. Star Trek Chronology:  
The History of the Future. New York: Pocket, 1993.

← An example, but with  
two authors.

These areas should  
be included in the  
written response for  
each book read.

1. Setting: Where does the story take place? How does the setting change?  
  - \* What is the setting for the informational text?
2. Main Characters: Who is/are the major character(s)? Why are they significant?  
  - \* Who is/are the subject of the text?
3. Plot: What is the plot of the story?  
  - \* What is the main idea of the text?
4. Conflict: What are the major internal & external conflicts? Why are they significant?
5. Resolution: How does the story end?  
  - \*How does the text conclude?
6. Theme: What are some major themes that can be found in the story?  
  - \* What is the author's purpose for writing the text?

\* indicates questions for non-fiction texts