

**Earle B. Wood Middle School  
Summer Reading**

June 1, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of incoming sixth, seventh, and eighth graders,

In Montgomery County Public Schools, summer reading has been an expected practice in middle and high schools since 1998. The ability to read is crucial to an individual's success in school and on the job. Reading is a life-long skill that gives individuals the opportunity to learn about people, times, regions, and ideas that they may never actually encounter in life. Research strongly suggests that reading improves with practice and decreases when students do not read for even a short time. Therefore, consistent with our commitment to prepare all Wood students for success during school and after graduation, we in MCPS expect all students to read throughout the year.

Here at Earle B. Wood Middle School, we believe that during the summer our students need to read to develop a leisure time reading habit, reinforce reading skills, and prepare for the fall's first unit of instruction in English. To that end, **all students are required to read two books this summer.**

Students should read books that excite them. They may choose any books, fiction or nonfiction, as long as they have not been read previously, are on an appropriate reading level for your child, and are approved by a parent or guardian. A list of suggested authors is included in this packet of information.

**SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students are required to respond in writing to the two summer reading assignments included in this letter. For both assignments, students take notes to answer several questions. These notes will prepare the students for a writing assignment during the beginning of the school year and for a short book talk they will share with their peers during Book Celebration Day on September 5, 2008.

**Both book assignments are due by Friday, August 29, 2008. Each assignment will be worth ten achievement points for the first quarter English grade.** Please review the two summer reading assignments with your child to ensure they have every opportunity to complete the assignment correctly.


Students who enroll after school begins will have three weeks to submit the notes.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Donna O'Keiff, English Content Specialist, through email to [Donna\\_O'Keiff@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Donna_O'Keiff@mcpsmd.org) or phone the school at 301-460-2150.

Thank you in advance for supporting our summer reading program.

Sincerely,

Donna O'Keiff and  
The English Department



➤ What have you read lately?

## Earle B. Wood Middle School Summer Reading Assignment #1

In preparation for a writing assignment worth **ten achievement points in English** class, you must turn in your assignment to your English teacher by the end of the first week of school, August 29, 2008. These answers should be neat, legible, in complete sentences, and written in ink or typed. Be sure your name is included!

### CHOOSING BOOKS:

- Select titles that are on or above your reading level.
- Select titles that you have not read previously.

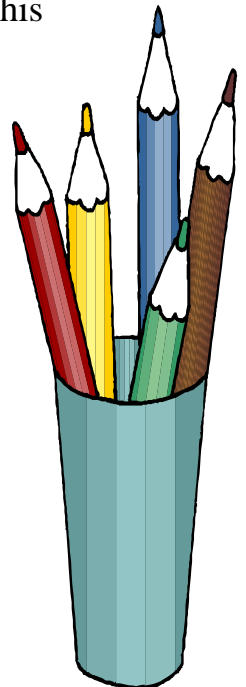
**For one of the books, take notes to answer these questions:**

1. What are the book title and the author's name?
2. Where and when does the story take place?
3. Who is the main character? Identify three words that describe him/her and tell why you think this.
4. What is the main problem (conflict) the character faces? How is this conflict resolved?
5. What has the main character learned about himself through his/her experiences in the novel?
6. What is the theme (idea the author wants you to remember about life) of this novel?

**Put your best foot forward for next year by completing  
your assignments!**

### Remember:

- Work is due by Friday, August 29, 2008.
- Read the directions carefully.
- Complete both assignments.





## Earle B. Wood Middle School Summer Reading Assignment #2

In preparation for a book share on Book Celebration Day, September 5, 2007, you must answer these questions for your second book. You will share information about your book with a small group. This book share is **worth ten achievement points for the first quarter grade in English**. You must turn in these notes to your English teacher by the end of the first week of school, August 29, 2008. These notes should be brief, neat, legible, and written in ink or typed. You will use these notes to prepare a 2-3 minute book talk about your second book.

### **If your book is fiction:**

➤ **Make time for reading!**

1. What is the book's title and the author's name?
2. What made you choose this book?
3. What was the most exciting part of the book? Describe and tell why.
4. What kind of a person is the main character? Does he/she remind you of someone you know?
5. What is the main conflict (problem) this character faces in the story?
6. What appealed to you most about this book?
7. Was the ending of the book what you expected? Why or why not?

### **OR, If your book is non-fiction:**

2. What are the book's title and the author's name?
3. What made you choose this book?
4. What was the most exciting part of the book? Describe.
5. What did you learn from reading this book?
6. How might you use this information? Explain.
7. Who would benefit from reading this book?

**Earle B. Wood Middle School Summer Reading  
Suggested/Possible Authors - Fiction**

Avi	Robin McKinley
Lousia May Alcott	Patricia McKissack
Lloyd Alexander	Carolyn Meyer
T.A. Barron	Ben Mikaelson
Joan Bauer	Walter Dean Myers
Meg Cabot	Beverly Naidoo
Matt Christopher	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Sook Nyul Choi	Jenny Nimmo
Sandra Cisneros	Garth Nix
Eoin Coffey	Scott O'Dell
Caroline Cooney	Linda Sue Park
Susan Cooper	Katherine Paterson
Sharon Creech	Richard Peck
Christopher Paul Curtis	Gary Paulsen
Roald Dahl	Rodman Philbrick
Peter Dickinson	Tamora Pierce
Thomas Dygard	Philip Pullman
Nancy Farmer	Ann Rinaldi
Jack Gantos	J.K. Rowling
Jean Craighead George	Ann Schraff
Patricia Giff	Darren Shan
Michael Crichton	William Sleator
Margaret Haddix	Gary Soto
Mary Downing Hahn	Elizabeth Speare
Virginia Hamilton	Lemony Snicket
Karen Hesse	Zilpha Keatley Snyder
Will Hobbs	Jerry Spinelli
Anthony Horowitz	RL Stine
Brian Jacques	Mildred Taylor
Robert Jordan	J.R.R. Tolkien
Kathryn Lasky	Megan Turner
Tanith Lee	Mark Twain
Ursula Leguin	Cynthia Voigt
Madeleine L'Engle	Bill Wallace
C.S. Lewis	Robert Westall
Janet Lisle	Ruth White
Paul Landon	Jacqueline Woodson
Jack London	Laurence Yep
Ann Martin	Jane Yolen
Carol Matas	