

TCS Middle School Summer Reading 2021

Reading is the key to learning, The Cottage School seeks to promote reading throughout the curriculum. The summer reading challenge is one component of that mission. Summer is the perfect time to spend some pleasurable hours with a good book, and so all students, grades 6-8, are challenged to read at least two books during the summer months.

READING LEVEL AND AVAILABILITY

This suggested list of books has been compiled with an eye toward a variety of subject matter, accessibility to all reading levels, and to both boys and girls. At the time this list was printed, all of the titles were in print and most were available in paperback.

PERIODICALS

While books do most to foster fluency among readers, any reading is better than no reading at all. Please encourage your student to read additional materials that appeal to him or her, including periodicals. Some popular periodicals among current students are *Dig*, an archeological/history magazine; *Stone Soup*, a great magazine full of fiction and poetry done by middle school students; *Muse*, a Smithsonian magazine publication; and *Sports Illustrated Kids*.

READING CHALLENGE

Each student who participates in the reading challenge and turns in a completed parent signed reading log will have the opportunity to shop in our reading challenge store. Students will receive \$1.00 Cottage School Bucks per page read that their parents have verified. If the student chooses to complete one of the suggested projects for one book they will receive \$500.00 for the project.

All projects and reading logs must be submitted to Ms. Rose no later than the second Friday of school to receive credit for participating in the summer reading challenge.

PROJECTS

To receive a \$500.00 bonus please complete one of the following projects for a novel that you have read over the summer.

Art Log: Make an artistic log of the book. Think in the style of a comic strip where you create drawings that retell key elements of the story. Use an 8x11 sheet of drawing paper and create drawings that represent the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story with a brief description of what is happening in the drawing.

Travel brochure – Make a travel brochure advertising the setting and the characters of your book. Make sure to include settings from the beginning, the middle, and the end of your novel.

Timeline - Create a timeline of important events from the book. You must include at least ten events and illustrations for each event. Explain why you choose these events.

Create a book jacket, including illustrations, an enticing summary, author bio, and favorable reviews. Must be different from the original book jacket.

Create a “Ten Facts About [Book Title]” handout. Create a fact sheet of 10 facts you found out during reading but did not know before you read the book.

Submit any other ideas you have for a project to Ms. Rose for approval.

Suggested Books for Summer Reading

Hoot, by Carl Hiaasen - There's nothing like rooting for the underdog to get a kid pulled into a story, and Hoot's main character gets hit from all sides. Roy is the new kid in school. He's dealing with bullies his age, but he ends up taking on adults who could be called the same. Mother Paula's All American pancake house is determined to bulldoze an abandoned lot that just happens to be the home of two miniature burrowing owls.

The Underland Chronicles by Suzanne Collins - Set of five books that captivate middle school readers. The series tracks the adventure of a boy who falls down a manhole and ends up on journeys through the city's underbelly. All of this happens while life up on the street keeps rolling on as usual.

Eight Keys by Suzanne LaFleur - Elise enters middle school and with that comes changes. Her friendships are different, there is bullying and her family dynamics seem off as well. She receives a mysterious gift of keys for her 12th birthday. The keys unlock one of eight doors in the barn behind the house. Her journey deals with the changes kids face in middle school.

Ungifted, by Gordon Korman - A middle-school troublemaker accidentally ends up in a gifted program, where he doesn't belong for more reasons than one. His adventures end upbringing humanity to a school where kids' IQ scores trump everything else.

Island of the Blue Dolphins by *Scott O'Dell* -The Newbery Medal winner for 1961, this book could be seen as a precursor to Gary Paulsen's Hatchet (see below). Karana is a 12-year-old Native American who refuses to abandon her 6-year-old brother when her island, Ghalas-at (off the Southern California coast) is evacuated. Shortly thereafter, he tragically dies after being attacked by wild dogs, and Karana begins her solitary wait for a ship to come for her. She waits 18 years. Karana survives by foraging, fishing in the ocean, defending herself from wild dogs and elephant seals, and hiding from the Aleut tribe. Told from her point of view, we share the details of her day-to-day life, watch the days turn into years, and wait for the ship to carry her off her lonely island. O'Dell based this novel on an actual historical figure, known as The Lost Woman of San Nicolas, who lived on the island from 1835-1853.

The One and Only Bob by Katherine Applegate - Bob sets out on a dangerous journey in search of his long-lost sister with the help of his two best friends, Ivan and Ruby. As a hurricane approaches and time is running out, Bob finds courage he never knew he had and learns the true meaning of friendship and family.

Matilda by Roald Dahl -“Matilda is a little girl who is far too good to be true. At age five and a half, she's knocking off double-digit multiplication problems and blitz-reading Dickens. Even more remarkably, her classmates love her even though she's a super-nerd and the teacher's pet. But everything is not perfect in Matilda's world. For starters, she has two of the most idiotic, self-centered parents who ever lived. Then there's the large, busty nightmare of a school principal, Miss (“The”) Trunchbull, a former hammer-throwing champion who flings children at will and is approximately as sympathetic as a bulldozer. Fortunately for Matilda, she has the

inner resources to deal with such annoyances: astonishing intelligence, saintly patience, and an innate predilection for revenge.

She warms up with some practical jokes aimed at her hapless parents, but the true test comes when she rallies in defense of her teacher, the sweet Miss Honey, against the diabolical Trunchbull. There is never any doubt that Matilda will carry the day. Even so, this wonderful story is far from predictable. Roald Dahl, while keeping the plot moving imaginatively, also has an unerring ear for emotional truth. The reader cares about Matilda because, in addition to all her other gifts, she has real feelings.”

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davis - When Evan Treski finds out that his younger sister is skipping third grade and joining his fourth-grade class, he is not happy. The last thing he wants is Jessie showing him up with her perfect grades, and he doesn't need her help getting his lemonade stand up and running . . . even if the business side of things has got him confused. Jessie doesn't understand why Evan won't team up with her, but she's got a plan to set up her lemonade stand to prove her worth. Now if she can just figure out how to attract customers as easily as Evan can, she'll be able to show him what he's missing. Can these siblings do it all on their own, or will they need each other after all? And will their lemonade war ever end? Brimming with ideas for making money at any business, definitions of business terms, charts, diagrams, and even math problems, this fresh, funny, emotionally charged novel explores how arguments can escalate beyond anyone's intent—and the unique rivalry (and partnership) that comes with having siblings.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson - Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, although she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown - Can a robot survive in the wilderness? When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is—but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.

Counting by 7's by Holly Stone - Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer Holm - Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan - Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.

Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. And ultimately, pulled by the invisible thread of destiny, their suspenseful solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo.

Richly imagined and masterfully crafted, *Echo* pushes the boundaries of genre, form, and storytelling innovation to create a wholly original novel that will resound in your heart long after the last note has been struck

Middle School series by James Patterson (any of the books) - A series of books written by James Patterson that details the adventures of Rafe Khatchadorian and his sister as they navigate life in Middle School.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney

