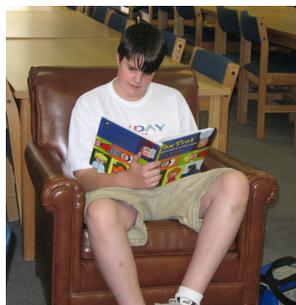


# S.A.M.S. 2008 Summer Reading List

## Provided by the Information Center



Our students really seem to Love to Read during the school year. Remember, Summer Reading should be a time of fun and relaxation. Below are a few of the books that our students enjoy at S.A.M.S. Maybe some of these will become a favorite of yours, too.

### FICTION

Amber Spyglass, by Philip Pullman--third in His Dark Materials trilogy which includes Golden Compass and Subtle Knife. Continues the story of the battle between the forces of the Authority and those gathered by Lord Asriel.

Begging for Change, by Sharon Flake. How does a teenager sort out her life when her drug-addicted father, whom she loves, lies and steals?

Bread and Roses, Too, by Katherine Paterson (Author of Bridge to Terabithia) two children try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Mass.

Eggs, by Jerry Spinelli (Author of Stargirl). An unlikely friendship is formed between a nine-year-old with an independent, quirky thirteen-year-old, as the two help each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

Traitor's Gate, by Avi. When his father is arrested as a debtor in 1849 London, fourteen-year-old John Huffman must take on unexpected responsibilities

Horowitz (Alex Rider Series), Carolyn Meyer and Ann Rinaldi (historical fiction), Patterson (Maximum Ride Series)

### NON-FICTION

Dear Miss Breed, by Joanne Oppenheim. The experiences of Japanese-American children in internment and relocation camps during World War II as seen through the letters written to their librarian.

Blood on the River: James Town 1607, by Elisa Carbone. Twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town in the New World.

Tracking Trash: flotsam, jetsam, and the science of ocean motion, by Loree Burns. Observes unbelievable amounts of trash which float on the water and endanger the life which inhabits it.

Marley & Me: life and love with the world's worst dog, by John Grogan. All the trials and tribulations of a family with a Labrador retriever.

### **SOME OF MRS. WILEY’S ALL-TIME FAVORITES:**

Music from a Place Called Half-Moon, by Jerrie Oughten (a friend of Mrs. Wiley’s) When Edie becomes friends with a Cherokee boy in North Carolina, she has to decide what to do about her own and her town’s prejudice.

A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeline L’Engle. A family adventure into the future world of time travel and mind control.

Dacey’s Song, by Cynthia Voigt. Four homeless children go to live with their grandmother and all have to adapt to the new life.

Pay It Forward, by Catherine Ryan Hyde. (The movie cannot compare to the book) A young boy tries to change the world by doing favors for three people and then asking those three people to do the same for others.

Out From Chicago, by Richard Peck (followed by the sequel A Year Down Yonder). Hilarious and touching exploits. The story of a brother and sister who are sent to live with their eccentric grandmother in the “sticks” because the Great Depression has made living in the city impossible.

Slot Machine, by Chris Lynch. (for older readers) A 13-year-old boy is sent to “camp” and faces the discrimination of the athletes and coaches there.

Red Midnight, by Ben Mikaelson. Twelve-year-old Santiago and his four-year-old sister flee Guatemala in a kayak and try to reach the United States.

### **WHAT OTHERS RECOMMEND:**

A recent news article in the Washington Post ([http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/04/AR2008050401745\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/04/AR2008050401745_pf.html)) shared the results of the “Renaissance Learning report ‘What Kids are Reading’ [that] calculated the books most read by more than 3 million schoolchildren last year.”

For 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, the top favorites included:

- ✓ Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- ✓ Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
- ✓ Holes, by Louis Sachar
- ✓ Number the Stars and The Giver by Lois Lowry
- ✓ The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket
- ✓ The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton
- ✓ Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling.

This is the web site for a list of classics that are recommended for Grades 7 and 8 by the National Endowment for the Humanities: [www.neh.gov/projects/summertimefavorites.html](http://www.neh.gov/projects/summertimefavorites.html)

Language Arts teacher Ms. Susan DeLozier recommends that her rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade students should concentrate on any poetry anthologies, autobiographies, House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros and Midsummer’s Night Dream by William Shakespeare.

<http://crl.startest.org/search.do;jsessionid=20K0VHUGSYN3XTJUFEEBHFQ>  
mostly poetry books for grades 6-8

<http://www.haisln.org/ReadingLists.htm> comprehensive list (old and new) by grade level with annotations from Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/childrensnoteable/notablebooklist/currentnotable.cfm> Association for Library Service for Children “2008 Notable Children’s Books” annotated list age level. Scroll down for Middle and Older readers.

[http://staff.pausd.org/~middlelibrary/Summer\\_Reading\\_List\\_2008.pdf](http://staff.pausd.org/~middlelibrary/Summer_Reading_List_2008.pdf) from middle schools of Palo Alto, CA, divided into classics and contemporary genres with annotations.

[http://www.reading.org/Library/Retrieve.cfm?D=10.1598/RT.61.3.7&F=RT-61-3\\_TC.html](http://www.reading.org/Library/Retrieve.cfm?D=10.1598/RT.61.3.7&F=RT-61-3_TC.html) Reading Teacher’s 2007 list of teacher’s choices for students.

[http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices\\_childrens.html](http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices_childrens.html) International Reading Association’s 1998-2007 yearly lists of the books that children have selected as favorites. The site also links out to Parent Reading Resources and teachers’ lesson plans.



The Cat in the Hat visited our READ ACROSS SAMS Celebration after our students read 383,387 pages during the month of March.