

SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS
For Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders at The Hill School
Summer 2015

For All Ages:

Kwame Alexander, **Crossover**. Fiction. A novel in verse about basketball.

Lynne Cox, **Grayson**. Nonfiction. The story of an Olympic swimmer and a baby whale.

Erik Christian Hengard, **The Samurai's Tale**. Fiction. Historical fiction about samurai.

Thanhha Lai, **Inside Out and Back Again**. Fiction. Historical fiction in verse about Vietnamese refugees.

Mike Lupica, **QB1**. Fiction. A novel about a football family.

L.M. Montgomery, **Anne of Green Gables**. Fiction. A classic coming-of-age story about a girl who loves reading, whimsy, and Gilbert Blythe.

Walter Dean Myers: **Hoops**. Fiction. A novel about basketball.

Mark Pfetzer, **Within Reach: My Everest Story**. Nonfiction. A teenager trains to climb Everest.

Jacqueline Woodson, **Brown Girl Dreaming**. Fiction. Award-winning novel in verse. Recently discussed on the Diane Rehm show.

Best for 6th & 7th Grades

Zizou Corder, **Lionboy** series. Fiction. Set in London, the adventures of a boy who speaks Cat. Written by a mother-son partnership.

L. M. Elliot, **Under a War-torn Sky**. Fiction. During WWII, a young pilot is shot down behind enemy lines and must make his way back to his unit.

Sharon Flake, **The Skin I'm In**. Fiction. A Pittsburgh teenager meets an influential new teacher.

Rita Garcia-Williams, **One Crazy Summer** and **Be Eleven**. Fiction. Set in the 1960s, these novels follows three sisters who get to know their estranged mother.

Karen Hesse, **Out of the Dust**. Fiction. Award-winning novel in verse about a girl growing up in the Dust Bowl during the Great Depression.

Ingrid Law, **Savvy** and **Scumble**. Fiction. These fantasy novels follow young people learning how to use their magical powers.

Eugene Yelchin, **Breaking Stalin's Nose**. Fiction. A coming-of-age story about a boy in the Soviet Union.

Best for 7th & 8th Grades:

Peter Abrahams, **Down the Rabbit Hole** series. Fiction. Ingrid plays soccer, acts in her school play, and solves murder mysteries.

Douglas Adams, **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**. Fiction. Wacky science fiction.

Joseph Bruchac, **Jim Thorpe, Original All-American**. Nonfiction. Biography of an Olympic athlete raised on a reservation.

Agatha Christie, **Murder on the Orient Express**. Fiction. Classic murder mystery.

Herriot, James, **All Creatures Great and Small**. Nonfiction. Memoirs of a country veterinarian.

Lauren Hillenbrand, **Unbroken**. **Nonfiction**. Riveting true story of Louis Zamperini, Olympic athlete and army hero shot down over the Pacific in WWII.

China Mieville, **Un Lun Dun**. **Fiction**. A London teenager may or may not be chosen to visit Unlondon, where feral trash roams the streets and a crisis looms.

Nathaniel Philbrick, **Revenge of the Whale**. **Nonfiction**. The story of the battle between the whaling ship Essex and an angry whale, which inspired **Moby Dick**. This is the YA version of Philbrick's **In the Heart of the Sea**.

Terry Pratchett, **Nation**. **Fiction**. Mau inhabits an alternate reality which includes a tree-climbing octopus and cooperative conquistadors.

Gary D. Schmidt, **Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy**. **Fiction**. Turner is the new boy in town and also a minister's son. Lizzie, an adventurous islander, seems his only chance for friendship.

Eliot Schrefer, **Endangered**. **Fiction**. A girl and a bonobo ape must escape from the war-torn Congo.

T.H.White, **The Once and Future King**. **Fiction**. The epic story of King Arthur, from his boyhood to the end of Camelot.

Best for 8th Grade:

Matthew Algeo, **Last Team Standing: How the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Philadelphia Eagles Saved Pro Football during World War II**. **Nonfiction**. The title says it all!

Benjamin Ajak, et al, **They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan**. **Nonfiction**. A group of boys escapes on foot from the Sudanese civil war.

Orson Scott Card, **Ender's Game**. Fiction. A six-year-old turns out to be a genius at fighting space battles but has to grow into the responsibilities of the job.

Haddon, Mark. **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**. * Fiction. A boy with Asperger's syndrome attempts to solve the murder of a neighbor's dog. *Adult language.

S.E. Hinton, **Rumble Fish**. Fiction. The story of a teenage boy and the older brother he worships. By the author of **The Outsiders**.

Cynthia Kadohata, **Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam**. * Fiction. Historical fiction about an army dog used in Vietnam. *Adult language.

E. Lockhart, **We Were Liars**. Fiction. A mystery surrounds a girl's past on her family's estate.

Kamala Markandaya, **Nectar in a Sieve**. Fiction. This novel follows Rukmani and Nathan, a couple in an arranged marriage dealing with a quickly-changing India.

Roland Smith, **Elephant Run**. Fiction. A young boy grows up in WWII-era Burma on his family's teak plantation.

Kate Thompson, **The New Policeman**. Fiction. This fantasy novel includes characters from Irish fairy tales and asks, *Where does the time go?*

Jacqueline Winspear, **Maisie Dobbs series**. Fiction. A woman becomes a private detective in post-WWI England.