

GRISWOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ROCKY HILL, CT  
REQUIRED SUMMER READING

**FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 7**

All students entering grade 7 at Griswold Middle School will participate in a required summer reading program. The program has been introduced to all students during their language arts classes. The requirements are as follows:

• **Students entering grade 7 are required to read ONE book chosen from a list of eight provided for each grade level.**

The book lists from which the students must choose are included in this document. Lists are also posted in the classrooms, in the school office, and at the public library. All books on the list are available from the following sources:

- The Cora J. Belden Library will have extra copies of each book set aside in a special display. The school library copies will be available through the public library during the summer.
- You should be able to buy or order these books from local bookstores or order them online. Many are available as e-books.

Teachers are planning activities to help the students meet the summer reading requirements:

- Teachers will preview each of the books on the list with their students in order to help students with their choices.
- Students will be encouraged to take notes while reading. The teachers will provide instruction on how to use the required organizers. The notetaking organizers are part of this document and should be downloaded and printed for student use.

During the first week of school in the Fall, students will complete writing assignments in Language Arts class:

- Each student in grade 7 will be given a writing assignment based on the book he or she has read.
- Students may not use their books, but may use their notes during the writing assignment. **Only the student's handwritten notes on the note-taking organizer will be allowed. No type-written notes or extra sheets will be permitted.** All writing will be done in class.
- The assignments will be graded by the Language Arts teachers and will count as a grade for the first marking period.

Parents who have questions may call their child's language arts teacher at the Middle School, at 258-7741.

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**FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 7**

INSTRUCTIONS

Students entering grade 7 must choose ONE book from the following list. Several copies are available at the Cora J. Belden Library. You should also be able to buy or order these books from local bookstores or order them online. Many are available as e-books.

These books are listed in approximate order of difficulty, with the least difficult book listed first. The selections represent a range of interests, levels, and cultures. Students should make their choices based on their interests and abilities.

A note-taking organizer is included in this document. Students are encouraged to download and print the organizer to use as they read to record the important elements of the book. **Only this organizer may be used during the writing assignment to be given in September. Type-written notes or other extra pages will not be allowed.**

GRADE 7 SELECTIONS

*Al Capone Does My Shirts*, by Gennifer Choldenko

Twelve-year-old Moose Flanagan and his family move to Alcatraz Island in 1935, where his father gets a job in the prison which housed noted criminals Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly. Moose is given almost complete responsibility for his autistic younger sister while he has to cope with a new school and living in a strange and isolated place. The warden's daughter, Piper, adds to his troubles by getting him involved in her latest money-making scheme.

*Island, Book One: Shipwreck*, by Gordon Korman

This is the first of a series of three action-packed books about six kids who are sent on a boating trip to the Pacific Ocean as a punishment. It is supposed to be a character-building experience, but when a terrifying storm hits, the ship is wrecked on an island. Only the kids survive. All of the adults are gone and now the quest for survival begins.

*Hope Was Here*, by Joan Bauer

Hope officially changed her name from Tulip to Hope when she was twelve years old. Her mother left when she was born and she is being raised by her aunt. Now she is a young teen and she and her aunt are used to moving around a lot. But when they move from New York City to a small town in Wisconsin to manage the local diner, she is not sure she will fit in. She is worried about her new school and that she will be bored in such a small town. She soon finds out that a small town can have as much drama and excitement as the big city.

*Touch Blue*, by Cynthia Lord

Tess and her family live on a small island off the coast of Maine. Now the state plans to shut down her island schoolhouse because of the low number of students, which would force Tess's family to move to the mainland. Tess does not want to leave the only home she has ever known. The islanders develop a plan to keep the school open: increase the number of students by having several families take in foster children. Will this plan work, and how will having a thirteen-year-old foster brother change Tess's life?

*Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*, by Wendy Mass

For Jeremy Fink and his best friend Lizzy, the summer vacation is turning out to be more of an adventure than they expected. The surprises start when Jeremy receives a mysterious carved wooden box with a special locking system. It is carved with his name and promises to contain "the meaning of life." There is one problem: the four keys that will open the complicated locking system are lost, and the instructions say that Jeremy must open the box on his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, in one month. With Lizzy's help, his efforts to solve the mystery take many surprising twists and turns.

*Among the Hidden*, by Margaret Haddix

This is a futuristic novel about a society in which government regulations limit families to only two children. Luke, an illegal third child, must live his life in secret, hidden in his family's farmhouse. When a new housing development is built nearby, he discovers the existence of another "shadow child" named Jen. She introduces him to the internet network of others like them. Together they decide it is time to rebel against a system that denies their right to exist.

*The River*, by Gary Paulsen

In this sequel to *Hatchet*, Brian returns to the wilderness with a researcher who wants to see first-hand how Brian survived his first ordeal. When the unexpected happens, Brian again finds himself in a life or death situation, only this time, someone else's life is also in danger.

*Missing May*, by Cynthia Rylant

1993 Newbery Medal Winner

Summer, a twelve year old girl, has lived with Aunt May and Uncle Ob in a trailer in the mountains of West Virginia since she was six years old. Now that May has died, Summer worries about what will happen to her. Uncle Ob seems to have lost the will to live now that May is gone. With the help of Cletus Underwood, a strange boy from school, Summer sets out on a search for something that will help ease the pain of missing May.



