

WHITE PLAINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROJECT SUMMER READ

6th Grade

June 2014

Dear WPMS Students and Parents,

*** Research shows that children lose two to three months of reading skills during the summer if they do not read!!! ***

The purpose of *Project Summer Read* is to encourage our students to continue developing their independent reading skills and to enjoy some good literature!

Our library media specialists, teachers, and students themselves have recommended the books on this list. Please note that this list is a starting point. We encourage you and your child to visit the public library during the summer to make additional book selections. If you aren't sure what to read, you can always ask the librarian for a recommendation.

About Lexile:

This past school year, every 5th grade student took the SRI (Scholastic Reading Inventory). The SRI is a computer assessment tool to determine reading skill and ability. After taking the SRI, students are given a Lexile number. Lexiles are used to guide a student to books within his/her reading range. Although Lexile assesses the difficulty of a text, it *cannot* evaluate the quality, content or age appropriateness of a book. Student interest, motivation, and maturity are critical factors to consider when choosing what to read. A computer assessment can never replace conversations about books or personal recommendations from family, friends, teachers, and librarians.

This Summer Remember:

- Read *every* day! This includes newspapers, magazines, and comics too!!
- *Enjoy* what you read. If you're not enjoying a book after the first chapter, switch to another book!
- **READ...READ...READ ... JUST...READ...SOMETHING!**

Suggestion:

- Read at least **four** books this summer.



All of us at Eastview wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in September! 😊

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Bringing the Past to Life - Historical Fiction

<u>Lexile</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Annotation</u>
600	Joseph	Bruchac	<i>Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II</i>	After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.
690	Eve	Bunting	<i>SOS Titanic</i>	With high hopes, Pegeen and her two brothers leave Ireland to begin a new life in New York by sailing on a fabulous new ship... the Titanic.
750	Rita	Williams-Garcia	<i>One Crazy Summer</i>	In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. (First of 2 books)
780	Laurie Halse	Anderson	<i>Chains</i>	After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.
840	Gary L	Blackwood	<i>The Shakespeare Stealer</i>	A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of Hamlet, but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.
990	Gary	Schmidt	<i>Wednesday Wars</i>	Seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood, stuck in Mrs. Baker's classroom during the 1967 school year while his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, learns much of value about the world in which he lives from the study of the plays of William Shakespeare.

Fantasy

520	Kate	DiCamillo	<i>Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures</i>	Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses , demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.
670	Kate	DiCamillo	<i>The Tale of Despereaux</i>	The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin
710	Jennifer	Nielsen	<i>The False Prince</i>	In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.
1070	Ingrid	Law	<i>Savvy</i>	Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

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Get Serious About a Series!

Lexile	First Name	Last Name	Series Title	First Title in Series
1000-1370	Lemony	Snicket	A Series of Unfortunate Events	<i>The Bad Beginning</i> is the first title in this series.
330-500	Lincoln	Peirce	Big Nate	<i>In a Class by Himself</i> is the first title in this series.
400-500	Carolyn	Keene	Nancy Drew Notebooks	<i>The Slumber Party Secret</i> is the first title in this series.
550-730		Various	The 39 Clues	<i>The Maze of Bones</i> is the first title in this series.
560-880	Donald J	Sobol	Encyclopedia Brown	<i>Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective</i> is the first title in this series.
590-660	DJ	MacHale	Pendragon	<i>Merchant of Death</i> is the first title in this series.
610-780	Henry	Winkler	Hank Zipzer	<i>Niagara Falls, or Does It?</i> is the first title in this series. Inspired by the true life experiences of Henry Winkler, this series is about Hank Zipzer, the world's greatest underachiever!
660-890	Wendelin	Van Draanen	Sammy Keyes	<i>Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief</i> is the first title in this series.
680-760	Jeanne	DuPrau	The Books of Ember	<i>The City of Ember</i> is the first title in this series. Built as an underground refuge for the human race, the city of Ember begins to deteriorate as its lights start to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever.
700-840	Kathryn	Lasky	Guardians of Ga'Hoole	<i>The Capture</i> is the first title in this series.
710-750	Margaret Peterson	Haddix	The Missing	<i>Found!</i> is the first title in this series.
770-890	Rachel Renee	Russell	Dork Diaries	<i>Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous Life</i> is the first title in this series.
950-1120	Jim	Benton	Dear Dumb Diary	<i>Let's Pretend This Never Happened</i> is the first title in this series.

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Nonfiction

920	Jim	Murphy	<i>The Boys' War</i>	Includes diary entries, personal letters, and archival photographs to describe the experiences of boys, sixteen years old or younger, who fought in the Civil War.
940	Andrea	Pinkney	<i>Let it Shine</i>	Presents profiles of ten African-American women whose efforts on behalf of racial justice and freedom have influenced the course of history.
980	Tayna Lee	Stone	<i>Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream</i>	Profiles thirteen women who challenged social norms and government policies to prove they could be exceptional astronauts.
990	Steve	Sheinkin	<i>The Notorious Benedict Arnold</i>	Most people know that Benedict Arnold was America's first, most notorious traitor. Few know that he was also one of its greatest war heroes. This accessible biography introduces young readers to the real Arnold: reckless, heroic, and driven. Packed with first-person accounts, astonishing battle scenes, and surprising twists, this is a gripping and true adventure tale.

Spooky and Creepy

840	Black	Holly	<i>Doll Bones</i>	Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.
1040	Phyllis	Naylor	<i>Jade Green</i>	When orphan Judith Sparrow is sent to live with her uncle in his haunted house, strange and mysterious things begin to happen when Judith disobeys her uncle's "green" rule.

Realistic Fiction

630	Katherine	Erskine	<i>Mockingbird</i> (Mok'ing-bûrd)	Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.
670	Sharon	Flake	<i>The Skin I'm In</i>	Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.
690	Jenny	Lombard	<i>Drita My Homegirl</i>	When ten-year-old Drita and her family move to New York from Kosovo, she is teased about not speaking English, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls bond and Drita is no longer teased.
750	Laura	Resau	<i>What the Moon Saw</i>	Fourteen-year-old Clara Luna spends the summer with her grandparents in the tiny, remote village of Yucuyoo, Mexico, learning about her grandmother's life as a healer, her father's decision to leave home for the United States, and her own place in the world.

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Withstanding the Test of Time - The Classics

750	Mark	Twain	<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	The adventures of a mischievous young boy and his friends growing up in a Mississippi River town in the nineteenth century.
800	Brian	Jacques	<i>Redwall</i>	This epic animal fantasy moves the reader through a series of adventures filled with villains, heroes, mysteries, and riddles. This is a classic tale of good versus evil.
1070	Robert Louis	Stevenson	<i>Treasure Island</i>	While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, Jim Hawkins and his innkeeper mother find a treasure map that leads to a pirate's fortune.
1300	Louisa May	Alcott	<i>Little Women</i>	Chronicles the humorous and sentimental fortunes of the four March sisters--Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth--as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.

Student Recommendations

580	Loretta	Ellsworth	<i>In a Heartbeat</i>	Told in their separate voices, Eagan, who has died in a figure-skating accident, becomes a heart donor for Amelia, who then begins taking on some aspects of Eagan's personality.
610	Gordon	Korman	<i>No More Dead Dogs</i>	Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.
630	Eleanor	Coerr	<i>Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes</i>	Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy.
660	Christine	Morton-Shaw	<i>The Hunt for the Seventh</i>	When his father starts a new job at Minerva Hall as gardener, twelve-year-old Jim discovers an ancient curse that needs to be unraveled before disaster happens.
680	Dan	Gutman	<i>The Homework Machine</i>	Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.
684	James	Buckley, Jr	<i>Soccer Superstars (Boys Rock! series)</i>	This book is a brief look at the competition and top players from the soccer world.
700	Kate	DiCamilo	<i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i>	Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.
700	James	Patterson	<i>Middle School The Worst Years of My Life</i>	When Rafe Kane enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.

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720	Wendelin	VanDraanen	<i>Flipped</i>	In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.
740	Madeleine	L'Engle	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	A classic. Meg and Charles Wallace set out with their friend Calvin in a search for their father. His top secret job as a physicist for the government has taken him away and the children search through time and space to find him.
750	Ann M	Martin	<i>A Corner of the Universe</i>	The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie's small town.
750	Marjorie Kinnan	Rawlings	<i>The Yearling</i>	A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.
760	Carl	Hiaasen	<i>Hoot</i>	Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
770	Kathryn	Lasky	<i>Ashes</i>	In 1932 Berlin, thirteen-year-old Gaby Schramm witnesses the beginning of Hitler's rise to power, as soldiers become ubiquitous, her beloved literature teacher starts wearing a jewelled swastika pin, and the family's dear friend, Albert Einstein, leaves the country while Gaby's parents secretly bury his books and papers in their small yard.
780	Julie	Kagawa	Iron Fey series <i>(The Iron King #1)</i>	(First book in series) When her half-brother is kidnapped, Meghan Chase, who has recently learned that she is the daughter of the summer faery king, must journey into a strange world she never imagined to face an unknown enemy and save those she loves.
790	Lisi	Harrison	<i>The Clique</i> series	(First book in series) Wealthy Massie is determined to exclude middle class Claire, the daughter of her father's old friend, from her seventh-grade clique at a very exclusive private school in Westchester, New York, but after Massie steals her only friend, Claire strikes back.
840	Trenton Lee	Stewart	<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society</i> (Book 1)	After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.
860	Sara	Weeks	<i>So.B.It</i>	After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.
910	Mike	Lupica	<i>Summer Ball</i>	Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.

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660-770	James	Patterson	Maximum Ride	<i>The Angel Experiment</i> is the first title in this series. After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.
700-800	Franklin W	Dixon	The Hardy Boys series	Even though these books were written quite some time ago, they still appeal to kids today.
760-900	Lloyd	Alexander	Prydain Chronicles (The Book of Three)	Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper to a famous oracular sow, sets out on a hazardous mission to save Prydain from the forces of evil.
775-850	Margaret Peterson	Haddix	The Shadow Children series	<i>Among the Hidden</i> is the first title in this series. Luke's parents hide him away so that the population police will not know that he exists. It is a lonely life for Luke, who wishes he could go outside and play, like his brothers do, and also go to school, to leave the house and go anywhere. When the land behind Luke's farm is developed into a neighborhood, Luke is shocked to meet another child like him, Jen. She tells him all about other "shadow children" who live hidden away from the rest of society. When Jen organizes a big rally to support the hidden children, will Luke risk his life by going to it?
800-920	John	Flanagan	Ranger's Apprentice series	The Ruins of Gorlan is the first title of this series. Follow the adventures of Will, an orphan who is taken as an apprentice Ranger, as he strives to keep the Kingdom of Araluen safe from invaders, traitors, and threats. He is joined on his adventures by his mentor Halt and his best friend Horace.
880-1030	JK	Rowling	Harry Potter series	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> is the first title in this series.
910-1010	Jeff	Kinney	Diary of a Wimpy Kid series	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> is the first title in this series.
	C.S.	Lewis	The Chronicles of Narnia	<i>The Magician's Nephew</i> is the first title in this classic series.

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Teacher Favorites

780	Mal	Peet	<i>Keeper</i>	In an interview with a young journalist, World Cup hero, El Gato, describes his youth in the Brazilian rain forest and the events, experiences, and people that helped make him a great goalkeeper and renowned soccer star.
590	Jerry	Spinelli	<i>Stargirl</i>	In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.
700	Henry	Winterfeld	<i>Detectives in Togas</i>	In an effort to save a boy wrongly accused, a group of young friends living in ancient Rome search for the culprit who scrawled graffiti on the temple wall.
700	E.L.	Konigsburg	<i>From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i>	Claudia and her brother run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she sees a statue so beautiful, she must identify its sculptor. To find out, she must visit the statue's former owner, the elderly Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.
720	Tom	Angleberger	<i>Darth Paper Strikes Back</i>	After several Origami Yoda-related incidences, Dwight is suspended for being a troublemaker and Yoda asks Tommy and Kellen to save Dwight by creating a case file that proves Dwight is an asset to Ralph McQuarrie Middle School.
750	Michael	Northrop	<i>Trapped</i>	The day the blizzard started, no one knew that it was going to keep snowing for a week. That for those in its path, it would become not just a matter of keeping warm, but of staying alive.
760	Tom	Angleberger	<i>Strange Case of Origami Yoda</i>	Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.
760	Andrew	Clements	<i>The School Story</i>	After twelve-year-old Natalie writes a wonderful novella, her friend Zoe helps her devise a scheme to get it accepted at the publishing house where Natalie's mother works as an editor.
780	Cornelia	Funke	<i>Inkheart</i>	Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.
820	Neil	Gaiman	<i>The Graveyard Book</i>	Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.
830	Sharon	Draper	<i>Out of My Mind</i>	Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

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930	Philip	Pullman	<i>The Golden Compass</i>	Accompanied by her shape-shifting daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North,
960	Bethany	Hamilton	<i>Soul Surfer</i>	They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the passion that drives her to surf? How else could one explain that nothing—not even the loss of her arm—could come between her and the waves?
980	Cynthia	Rylant	<i>Missing May</i>	After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.
1000	Rodman	Philbrick	<i>Freak, the Mighty</i>	At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.
1000	Norton	Juster	<i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i>	A bored young boy, Milo, drives his small electric car through a toy tollbooth and finds himself in the Land Beyond. A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.
1010	Zilpha Keatly	Snyder	<i>The Egypt Game</i>	An interracial group of children, entranced with the study of ancient Egypt, play their own Egypt game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend the antique dealer-professor before they move on to new interests.
1090	Richard	Llewellyn	<i>How Green Was My Valley</i>	<i>How Green Was My Valley</i> is Richard Llewellyn's bestselling -- and timeless -- classic and the basis of a beloved film. As Huw Morgan is about to leave home forever, he reminisces about the golden days of his youth when South Wales still prospered, when coal dust had not yet blackened the valley. Drawn simply and lovingly, with a crisp Welsh humor, Llewellyn's characters fight, love, laugh and cry, creating an indelible portrait of a people. -amazon.com
1260	Pete	Nelson	<i>Left for Dead</i>	Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.
630-710	Suzanne	Collins	The Underland Chronicles	<i>Gregor the Overlander</i> is the first title in this first series by the author of <i>The Hunger Games</i> .
770-840	Greg	Taylor	Killer Pizza series	While working as summer employees in a local pizza parlor, three teenagers are recruited by an underground organization of monster hunters.
N/A	Zilpha Keatly	Snyder	<i>The Changeling</i>	Part of Zilpha K. Snyder's magic as a writer is her ability to create young characters who face real tragedies and traumas and yet somehow overcome what seem to be the insurmountable odds of surviving adolescence. Facing my own crises as I approached Junior High, I found her books at once inspiring and reassuring. -Fritz R. Ward, via Amazon.com

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Graphic Novels

310-400	Kazu	Kibuishi	<i>Amulet series</i>	(First book in series) After the tragic death of their father, Emily and Navin move with their mother to the home of her deceased great-grandfather, but the strange house proves to be dangerous. Before long, a sinister creature lures the kids' mom through a door in the basement. Em and Navin, desperate not to lose her, follow her into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals....
360-450	Jeff	Smith	<i>Bone series</i>	(First book in series) The adventure starts when cousins Fone Bone, Phoney Bone, and Smiley Bone are run out of Boneville and later get separated and lost in the wilderness, meeting monsters and making friends as they attempt to return home.
	Robert	Venditti	<i>The Lightning Thief, the Graphic Novel</i>	After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.
410	Raina	Telgemeier	<i>Smile</i>	An autobiography in graphic novel format describes how the author lost two of her front teeth in an accident when she was twelve, and her subsequent struggles with various corrective dental techniques throughout adolescence.
840	Gareth	Hinds	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Retells, in graphic novel format, Homer's epic tale of Odysseus, the ancient Greek hero who encounters witches and other obstacles on his journey home after fighting in the Trojan War.

Unless otherwise notes, the annotations are from NovelList K-8.