

## **New Albany Middle School Presents the New Summer Reading Program**

New Albany Middle School is excited to announce their new summer reading program. This opportunity is a requirement for upcoming sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Each grade has a list of ten books from which students will make a selection. Each student will choose one book of his or her choice and complete the summer reading assignment. Students may purchase a book, or they may check out a book at the public library. Students who will be in next year's sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes have a packet that explains the new summer reading program. The list may also be found on the website. As a parent or teacher, it is natural to desire a better future for your child or student. As a student, you have probably found yourself wishing you had achieved higher on a test. From all perspectives, reading is crucial. It is crucial for success in the present and in the future. Thank you for taking advantage of the new summer reading program.

### **New Albany Middle School English Department Summer Reading**

The English Department at New Albany Middle School will implement summer reading for all grades of English. Reading is fundamental to success in all areas of education. Reading during summer months will benefit all students by improving reading comprehension and increasing retention of literary analysis skills learned during the school year.

#### **Other Rationale for Summer Reading:**

- To generate interest and pleasure in reading that enriches literary and philosophical experience
- To use time not available during the school year to expand cultural literacy
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading

#### **Assignments:**

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade English:

- One text required
- Written assignment due the second day of school (major grade)
- Literature circles will be used to discuss/review the texts during the first nine weeks
- Quotes from various text will be used during the first nine weeks to enhance writing, a preview of responding to literature which is required in high school

#### **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Written Assignment:**

1. Complete the characterization chart. An example chart is attached at the end.
2. Complete the double-sided journal entries. An example is attached at the end.

\*\*A rubric for grading is attached at the end.

## Summer Reading Text Options:

### *6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading List*

#### ***The Whipping Boy*** (Fleischman, Sid)

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places.

#### ***Deep, Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story*** (Hahn, Mary Downing)

When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.

#### ***Stolen Children*** (Kehret, Peg)

Amy, baby-sitting for little Kendra, must use her wits to save herself and the child after they are kidnapped by two thugs who are demanding money from Kendra's wealthy parents in exchange for the lives of the girls.

#### ***On My Honor*** (Bauer, Marion Dane)

When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

#### ***Surviving the Applewhites*** (Tolan, Stephanie S.)

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

#### ***A Wrinkle in Time*** (L'Engle, Madeleine)

Meg Murry and her family receive a surprise visit from an unearthly stranger out of another dimension in time.

#### ***Missing*** (Catherine McPhail)

Thirteen-year-old Maggie struggles to learn what is real when she begins receiving phone calls from someone claiming to be her runaway brother, Derek, who has just been declared dead.

#### ***Strawberry Girl*** (Lenski, Lois)

This is a story of Birdie Boyer and how she battles nature, animals, and feuding neighbors in the backwoods of Florida to become a "strawberry girl".

#### ***Loser*** (Spinelli, Jerry)

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

#### ***Number the Stars*** (Lowry, Lois)

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading List**

1. **That Was Then, This Is Now** by **S.E. Hinton**  
Sixteen-year-old Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate.
2. **Maniac McGee** by **Jerry Spinelli**  
After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.
3. **A Year Down Yonder** by **Richard Peck**  
During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.
4. **Stormbreaker** by **Anthony Horowitz**  
After the death of his uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, M16. This is the first book in the Alex Rider spy thriller series.
5. **The Thief Lord** by **Cornelia Funke**  
Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious thirteen-year-old boy who calls himself the "Thief Lord."
6. **Princess Academy** by **Shannon Hale**  
When the high priests announce that the next princess will come from a small town, Mount Eskel, the families are skeptical about sending their daughters to a "Princess Academy." Miri, one small, weak girl from Mount Eskel, regretfully attends the finishing school, where she is surprised to discover her own inner strength and willpower.
7. **Hoot** by **Carl Hiaasen**  
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.
8. **The Face on the Milk Carton** by **Caroline B. Cooney**  
A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.
9. **Beowulf** by **Welwyn Wilton Katz**  
This is a retelling of the classic in which Beowulf is endowed with a magical gift that is also a terrible burden. Beowulf's superhuman strength makes him clumsy and even overpowers his own weapons.
10. **Alida's Song** by **Gary Paulsen**  
A fourteen-year-old boy who has been neglected by irresponsible parents spends a wonderful summer on a farm where his grandmother cooks for two elderly brothers.

## ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading List***

### **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**

Taylor, Mildred D.

Warmth, humor and hard times prevail as a black family struggles to maintain dignity and independence in Depression-era Mississippi.

### **Summer Ball**

Lupica, Mike

Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.

### **Tears of a Tiger**

Draper, Sharon M.

The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school. Book #1

### **Where the Red Fern Grows**

Rawls, Wilson

A simply written, moving story of the love between a young boy and his two dogs.

### **Soldier Boys**

Hughes, Dean

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.

### **The Hound of the Baskervilles (Unabridged)**

Doyle, Arthur Conan

Sherlock Holmes and Watson set out to solve the mystery that had haunted the Baskerville family for years and had recently occurred again.

### **The River Between Us**

Peck, Richard

During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois.

### **The Call of the Wild**

London, Jack

Buck, a dog that has been forced into the harsh life of a sled dog, befriends a man seeking his fortune in the Klondike gold fields, and must ultimately decide whether to stay with his master or obey his instinct to join the wolves.

### **The House of Dies Drear**

Hamilton, Virginia

This mystery concerns an African-American boy's move to Drear House, which had once played a part in the Underground Railroad.

### **Esperanza Rising**

Ryan, Pam Muñoz

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California on the eve of the Great Depression.

**Characterization:** This is the method used by the writer to develop a character. A character can be developed in four ways:

1. Physical description – What does the character look like?
2. What other characters say about a specific character
3. What the character says (dialogue) and how the character acts
4. What the narrator says about the character

Identify the **main characters**, their roles in the book, describe their personalities, and provide specific examples from the text to support the character traits you have listed.

Characters	Role in the Story	Character Traits	Evidence from the Text

**Double-Sided Journal Entries:**

As you read the book, complete each of the following:

1. **Five Quotes** – Divide your paper in half with a straight vertical line. Label each side using the example below. \*You may need to use more than one sheet. Quote five different sentences from the book, include the page number, and explain what each statement means in your own words. Explain why you chose each quote.

<b>Quote and Page Number</b>	<b>Meaning in My Own Words and Why I Chose This Quote</b>

2. **Summary** –Divide your paper in half with a straight vertical line. Label each side using the example below. Summarize your favorite section of the book on the left. On the right, explain in detail why you chose this particular part of the book.

<b>Summary of Your Favorite Section</b>	<b>Why I Chose This Section</b>

Rubric for Summer Reading Assignment

	33 points	22 points	11 points	0 points
Quotes	Five quotes are stated correctly including complete explanations for each	Five quotes are stated correctly and explanations are lacking	Five or fewer quotes are accurately stated but explanations are vague	Fewer than five quotes are stated without explanations
Summary	The summary and explanation are complete and give a thorough understanding of the section discussed. Both use correct grammar and punctuation.	The summary and explanation are complete but lack important details of the section. Both correct grammar and punctuation require minimal editing.	The summary and explanation are complete but one or both are vague. Grammar and punctuation requires extensive editing.	The summary and/or explanation are missing and/or require extensive editing.
Characterization Chart	Chart is complete for each character and each section adequately detailed appropriate to the text selection	Chart is complete for each character but lacks specific details regarding one or more characters as pertains to the selection	Chart is incomplete for all characters and gives insufficient details regarding the character(s) as pertains to the selection	Chart is incomplete and gives inaccurate information regarding the character(s) as pertains to the selection

\*Plus one point will be added for including your name on all assigned work.