



Middle School Summer Reading
For students entering Grades 5 – 8
August 2009

Dear Students and Parents,

This year's summer reading for students is focused on students' choices from a wonderful selection of books – carefully selected by Pardes Middle School Language Arts teachers. We require students to choose two books from the list of four detailed below for the grade the student will enter in August. Each list includes classics as well as quality literature from recent years.

By offering a choice of books, we hope every student will make two choices based on the following criteria:

- Choose two books which you hope you will enjoy, and that you have **NOT** read before.
- Choose two books that are the right level for you – not too easy and not too difficult (**parents, please support your student in making sensible choices which challenge, but do not overwhelm students**).
- Choose two books that will broaden your reading experience. Variety in reading is very important so that we all experience different kinds of writing and different genres.

Here are the lists:

Students entering Grade 5

Things Not Seen
The Witches
Ginger Pye
Hatchet

Andrew Clements
Roald Dahl
Eleanor Estes
Gary Paulson

Students entering Grade 6

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
The Graveyard Book
The Black Stallion
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Robert C. O'Brien
Neil Gaiman
Walter Farley
Judith Kerr

Students entering Grade 7

The Secret Garden
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
The Time Machine
Zlata's Diary

Frances Hodgson Burnett
Mildred Taylor
H. G. Wells
Zlata Filipovic

Students entering Grade 8

Oliver Twist
October Sky
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Ender's Game

Charles Dickens
Homer Hickam
Betty Smith
Orson Scott Card

During the first few weeks of school there will be discussion and development work about personal reading. Students may be asked to work individually or in groups to discuss or present ideas about the books they chose to read. Lively discussion will be a great way for teachers to get to know their new students. Although students are not asked to produce specific work on the books during the summer, reading is an excellent way of maintaining skills and imagination over the long break.

Make great choices – enjoy your reading!

Angie Leiker/Richard Tams	Grade 5
Catherine Heimann	Grade 6
Rina Kenton	Grades 7/8

Language Arts
PJDS Middle School