

# Middle School Summer Reading Challenge

We challenge you to read as many books on your level as you can this summer! Below are some of your teachers' favorites! We hope you will find a book (or five!) that you can't put down this summer!

To make this an online challenge, we have created a Google form for you to let us know what you have read and what you thought of the book! You MUST have submitted at least one response by the start of school in August... but the more the better! We will see who can read the most books this summer!

(Sorry! Doctor Suess doesn't count! Grade-level books ONLY!)

[https://docs.google.com/a/investcollegiateimagine.org/forms/d/1YXIGerNXouja7G\\_bVLxxsyPF6V3dMg7B48T24M6YJo/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/investcollegiateimagine.org/forms/d/1YXIGerNXouja7G_bVLxxsyPF6V3dMg7B48T24M6YJo/viewform)

## MRS. MITCHELL RECOMMENDS...

\*Galahad Series: The Comet's Curse (Book 1) by Dom Testa

*The Comet's Curse is the first book in the Galahad series about a shipload of teenagers sent off to settle a new world around the star Eos. The reason for the voyage is that a comet named Bhaktull contaminated Earth with a mysterious virus that kills everyone over 18. One scientist, Dr. Zimmer, convinces world leaders to build a spaceship lifeboat, Galahad, and send 251 of the world's brightest kids to seed humanity outside the Solar System.*

**Genre: Science Fiction**

**Level: 6.0**

\*Legend by Marie Lu

*What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem.*

**Genre: Science Fiction**

**Level: 4.8**

\*Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

*16-year-old Miranda has a normal life in Pennsylvania living with her mother and brothers Jon and Matt. Soon, the news becomes focused on one subject: an asteroid predicted to hit the moon. People are excited about the opportunity to witness the astronomical event; however, the asteroid was denser than expected by scientists. Immediately after impact it becomes*

*apparent that something is very wrong: the moon has been pushed closer to the Earth by the impact.*

**Genre: Science Fiction**

**Level: 4.3**

\*The Unwanteds Series by Lisa McMann

*Every year in Quill, thirteen-year-olds are sorted into categories: The strong, intelligent Wanteds go to university, and the artistic Unwanteds are sent to their deaths.*

*Thirteen-year-old Alex tries his hardest to be stoic when his fate is announced as Unwanted, even while leaving behind his twin, Aaron, a Wanted.*

**Genre: Science Fiction**

**Level: 5.7**

\*My Inventions and Other Writings By Nikola Tesla

*Famous for his pioneering contributions to the electronic age, his lifelong feud with Thomas Edison, and his erratic behavior, Nikola Tesla was one of the most brilliant and daring inventors and visionaries of his time. My Inventions is Tesla's autobiography, with meditations on his major discoveries and innovations, including the rotating magnetic field, the magnifying transmitter, and the Tesla coil.*

**Genre: Nonfiction, Autobiography**

**Level: 8+**

MRS. ROGERS RECOMMENDS...

\*I Am Malala (Young Reader's Edition) by Malala Yousafzai

*When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl fought for her right to an education.*

*On October 9, 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price when she was shot in the head at point-blank range. This is the autobiography of Malala Yousafzai, the youngest person to ever receive the Nobel Peace Prize.*

**Genre: Nonfiction, Autobiography**

**Level: 7.1**

\*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

*"Not every thirteen-year-old girl is accused of murder, brought to trial, and found guilty. But I was just such a girl..." so begins the story of Charlotte Doyle, a girl caught up in murder and mutiny on the high seas in 1832.*

**Genre: Historical Fiction**

**Level: 6.9**

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel

*Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a Tamil boy from Pondicherry, India is on an ocean voyage when his ship is caught in a storm and sinks. He survives 227 days after the shipwreck while stranded on a small lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with only a savage Bengal tiger for company.*

**Genre: Realistic Fiction, Fantasy**

**Level: 7.2**

\*Sally Lockhart: The Ruby in the Smoke (Book 1) by Philip Pullman

*When her dear father is drowned in suspicious circumstances, Sally is left to fend for herself, an orphan and alone in the smoky fog of Victorian London. Though she doesn't know it, Sally is already in terrible danger. Soon the mystery and the danger will deepen - and at the rotten heart of it all lies the deadly secret of the ruby in the smoke.*

**Genre: Historical Fiction, Mystery**

**Level: 6.5**

\*The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire Moors, she finds it full of secrets. The mansion has nearly one hundred rooms, and her uncle keeps himself locked up. And at night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors.*

**Genre: Classic Fiction**

**Level: 6.8**

MR. POND RECOMMENDS...

\*Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

*Two boys--a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces--forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. A wonderful story of triumph over imperfection, shame, and loss.*

**Genre: Realistic Fiction**

**Level: 5.5**

\*Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

*From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, hallways hum "Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. Until they are not. Leo urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her--normal.*

**Genre: Realistic Fiction**

**Level: 4.2**

MS. HEAL RECOMMENDS...

\*Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two by Joseph Bruchak  
*Bruchak brings to life for young adults the stories of some of the unsung heroes of World War II — the young Navajo men who were a crucial part of the American effort in sending and receiving messages that used their native language.*

**Genre: Historical Fiction**

**Level: 6.5**

\*We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

*Two years after her accident, Cady returns to her family's summer home. Even as she reconnects with old friends, unsettling memories haunt her every step. (Very surprising ending!)*

**Genre: Fiction**

**Level: 5.1**

\*The Omnivore's Dilemma (Young Reader's Edition) by Michael Pollan

*In a smart, compelling format with updated facts, plenty of photos, graphs, and visuals, as well as a new afterword and backmatter, The Omnivore's Dilemma serves up a bold message to the generation that needs it most: It's time to take charge of our national eating habits—and it starts with you.*

**Genre: Nonfiction**

**Level: 7.0**

MR. BELL RECOMMENDS...

\*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

*Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.*

**Genre: Classic Fantasy**

**Level: 6.8**

MRS. REAMS RECOMMENDS...

\*Wonder by R.J. Palacio

*August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school—until now. He's about to start 5th grade at Beecher Prep, and if you've ever been the new kid then you know how hard that can be. The thing is Auggie's just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, despite appearances?*

**Genre: Realistic Fiction**

**Level: 5.0**

\*The Lost Hero (Heroes of Olympus Series, Book 1) by Rick Riordan

*Jason, Piper, and Leo are teen demigods who are just coming to understand and use their unique abilities as they learn how much depends upon their wits, courage, and fast-developing friendship. Together, the three friends must rescue Hera, queen of the gods in order to avoid disastrous consequences.*

**Genre: Fantasy**

**Level: 3.8**

\*The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

*Tells the story of humanity's repeated attempts to colonize the red planet. Most succumbed to a disease they called the Great Loneliness when they saw their home planet dwindle to the size of a fist. Those few that survived found no welcome on Mars. The shape-changing Martians thought they were native lunatics and duly locked them up. But more rockets arrived*

*from Earth, and more, piercing the hallucinations projected by the Martians.*

**Genre: Science Fiction**

**Level: 5.6**

\*Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

*Doomed to - or blessed with - eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing than it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.*

**Genre: Classics, Fantasy**

**Level: 5.0**

\*Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

*Since it was first published in 1987, the story of thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson's survival following a plane crash has become a modern classic. Stranded in the desolate wilderness, Brian uses his instincts and his hatchet to stay alive for fifty-four harrowing days.*

**Genre: Classics, Adventure**

**Level: 5.7**

*Suggested Reading for the Family: "What your Sixth/ Seventh/ Eighth or Fifth Grader needs to know"*

*Seven habits of Highly Effective Families/ Highly Effective Teens*

*Fish! Philosophy books*

*Happy Reading!*