

## Headwaters Academy 2020-2021 Sixth Grade Summer Reading List

Summer is a good time for exploring new books or for reading those that you never had time for during the busy school year. We hope that you find time to read a book or two from the list below ☺.

In addition, you will be expected to read *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'engle. **You must bring your own copy of the book with you to school during the first couple weeks of school**, and we will use it for the basis of writing and discussion. Please come prepared to discuss it during the first week of school. If you have read it in the past, please re-read it this summer. If you read it early in the summer, please review it before classes begin so the material is fresh in your mind.

As you read, keep in mind the following questions.

1. Why is communication so difficult for various characters in the book? Do you think this is meant to represent something?
2. Describe life for the citizens on Camazotz. What is most interesting to you about it?
3. Did you find the ending satisfying? Why or why not?

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade English I ask that you *actively* read texts, meaning that you interact with your reading. This can be done by making notes, asking questions, or commenting in the margins or on sticky note tabs. My hope is that when we discuss the book in September, you can revisit the thoughts you had while reading it and participate in class discussions. There is no right or wrong way to interpret this story: please come with your own thoughts and an open mind.

### **Additional Reading:**

All books on the list have either been read by us or have been recommended by the American Library Association or other professionals.

#### *Freak The Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick

At the beginning of eighth grade, Max, a slow learner who is HUGE for his age, and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when combining forces they make a powerful team.

#### *Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer

Sixteen-year-old Hope and her aunt move to a small town in Wisconsin to join the "short order dance" of life at the Welcome Stairways Diner. In the course of just a few months, Hope encounters issues as diverse as her customers: corruption in politics, a new love, serious illness and the meaning of family. Newbery Honor Book

#### *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach

Jonathan Livingston Seagull is no ordinary bird. He believes it is every gull's right to fly, to reach the ultimate freedom of challenge and discovery, finding his greatest reward in the joy of flight and the power of dreams.

#### *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke

A girl and her father, a bookbinder who can "read" fictional characters into real life, are abducted by one of the characters, who tries to force them into his service.

#### *The Shakespeare Stealer* by Gary Blackwood

Widge, a likeable orphan, finds himself in the middle of an adventure to steal and copy the play HAMLET from Shakespeare. He soon discovers that life in the Globe Theatre is much better than the other places he has apprenticed.

#### *Music of the Dolphins* by Karen Hesse

The thoughts of a young girl, who was raised by dolphins from 4 years old after a plane crash, are recorded by a scientist as she is reintroduced to a civilized way of life.

#### *Hana's Suitcase: A True Story* by Karen Levine

The director of a newly opened Holocaust museum in Japan and her students become intrigued with a suitcase from a concentration camp found among the museum's artifacts. The story of a Czech girl, Hana Brady, a victim of the Holocaust, unfolds through the search for information about a suitcase.

#### *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Luis Stevenson (classic)

The classic story about a respected doctor who creates a drug that transforms him into a murderous criminal.

*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza Ortega is blessed. She has fancy clothes, a beautiful home filled with servants, and the promise of one day presiding over all of Rancho de las Rosas. Then tragedy strikes with the Great Depression.

*Homeless Bird* by Gloria Whelan

The story of a 13-year-old girl in India who dares to defy fate when, in the middle of her arranged marriage, she discovers she's been horribly misled and that her life has been sold for a dowry. She decides to set out on her own and becomes an outcast because of it. Based on the stories of real-life 13-year-old widows in India, it illustrates the harsh reality of feudal customs that persist even today. A 2000 National Book Award winner.

*Time Like A River* by Randy Perrin

Margie Belzer, 13, is studying for her Bat Mitzvah when her mother comes down with a mysterious illness. As the doctors search for an answer, Margie travels back in time to do her own research in this beautiful novel written by a father and his two young daughters.

*When I Was Your Age: Original Stories About Growing Up* edited by Amy Ehrlich

Ten superb award-winning writers tell stories drawn from their own childhood memories. Funny, heartbreaking, or both at once, their stories are full of feelings familiar to every one. Set in the past, they reveal how the experience of being a child changes through time, and how much it stays the same.

*Along the Tracks* by Tamar Bergman

In World War II, after the Nazis invade Russia, Yankele is separated from his family. He somehow manages to survive for four years on his own as he travels from one railroad station to another with bands of other lost and abandoned children. This remarkable story is based on a true experience.

*The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech

Sophie and her cousin Cody keep journals during their voyage aboard the sailboat, Wanderer, on the way to see their ailing grandfather in England. This is a Newbery Honor Book.

*Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff

12-year-old Hollis Woods has been sent to (and has run away from) one foster home after another all her life. She is an amazing artist. With descriptions of her drawings, Hollis tells a moving story of a deeply bonding relationship with her newest foster mother, artist Josie, and her dream of a perfect family. This is a 2003 Newbery Honor Book.

*Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson

Cole Matthews is an angry and defiant young man. Because of his violent crime against another 9th grader, he is facing a prison sentence. But then a Tlingit Indian parole officer named Garvey offers Circle Justice, based on Native American traditions, in which victim, offender, and community all work together to find a healing solution, he takes the offer and thinks that he can somewhat "wiggle" out of his punishment. When Cole challenges the giant White Bear and is mauled almost to death, Cole awaits his fate and begins the transition from anger to humility.

*Woodson* by Gary Paulsen

This is the compelling memoir of Paulsen's intimate relationship with Minnesota's North Woods and the dog team he trained for the Iditarod.

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott (classic)

The March sisters come of age in Concord during the Civil War.

*The Once and Future King* by T.H.. White (classic)

The magnificent legend of King Arthur is retold as a novel for modern readers. Arthur's anguish over war, the love story of Guinevere and Lancelot, and the evil Mordred comprise the story of Camelot.