

***Melvin H. Kreps Middle  
School***

**Summer Reading Program  
2009**



# **Table of Contents**

- [Philosophy of the Melvin H. Kreps Summer Reading Program](#)
- [Program Overview](#)
- [Booklists for Middle School Students](#)
- [Parent Helpful Hints on Summer Reading](#)

# **Melvin H. Kreps Required Summer Reading Program**

## **Program Rationale**

Summer is a great time to read for young and old alike. The Melvin H. Kreps Middle School encourages all its students to read over the summer months. One of the best predictors of student success both in school and in society is the level of which students progress in reading and writing. Students need to realize that people read for many reasons including; enjoyment, information, inspiration, and making connections to their lives.

The Melvin H. Kreps Middle School Summer Reading compliments our regular reading program at school. The school year emphasizes independent reading of various genres. Books are chosen by the students based on interest and readability level. Students practice skills which good readers apply, study literary techniques, themes, authors and literary elements. Students analyze literature and participate in literature discussions.

During the summer, students will be given a choice of what they read. Each student is expected to read two books. One book must be any form of fiction and one must be a nonfiction selection. We have provided a reading list of books , both fiction and nonfiction, that students can use as a guide when choosing their books. Included in this list are themes that represent topics the students will be studying next year in Social Studies and Science. The school encourages students to go to the public library when choosing books since libraries house a vast variety of books.

Part of the school reading program involves students writing about what they are reading. We are including some reference sheets for students so they can interact with their reading and apply the strategies they will use all year in sustained silent reading and independent reading pursuits. Each student upon their return to school in September might be asked to present a book talk, participate in a book project from a list of multiple intelligence activities to demonstrate their understanding of their book, or share in reading discussions based on the books they have read. They will also be asked to take an Accelerated Reading test on the fiction book they read. This option will be extended to them throughout the summer months, so students can readily quiz on books without waiting until September. .

Student will fill out the Summer Reading Log to include all the books they read this summer. While we are only requiring that students read two books, we certainly encourage our students to read several books this summer. Keeping a running record of books they have enjoyed throughout the summer will assist the teachers in dialoguing with students about their reading preferences, genre selections, and personal goals.

We invite parents and guardians to read young adult literature with their children. Sharing books can lead to great family discussions and build strong family connections.

## **Program Overview**

### **Program Selections**

Students are requested to read **one fictional novel** and **one non fiction** book this summer. The books may be selected from the suggested lists or the student may choose a book that they borrow from a library or purchase at a book store. We hope that our students are interested in the books they choose whether they are from the lists developed by the Kreps School summer reading committee or from their own selection.

A brief summary of each book listed below is available on the Kreps Library Website under Summer Reading 2009.

### **How the Program Works**

Each book chosen for the summer reading lists have a point value associated with it. The point values have been assigned by the Accelerated Reader© software program and are based on a combination of word count, vocabulary difficulty, average sentence length, and total pages.. When a student has completed reading a book from the list, she or he should take the corresponding quiz on Accelerated Reader. The district's computer labs will be open for students to take these quizzes at a schedule to be promulgated after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. A student who is unable to come to school during the scheduled times will be able to take the quizzes within the first month of school. Students will not be allowed to take the Accelerated Reader quizzes at home.

### **Books Not On The List**

Students are first and foremost encouraged to choose books that interest them. The library has taken great efforts to catalogue through the Accelerated Reader system, and students are encouraged to self select from these titles. Students who wish to read books that are not on the list should first check to make sure the book is included in the Accelerated Reader program. To determine this, go to the Accelerated Reader we site:

[www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com)

Enter the title of the book in the search box. The results will display all of the books in Accelerated Reader that contain those words. Information about the book's level of difficulty and point value are also found in this database.

## Suggested Reading Lists

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

#### *Fiction Books*

##### **Easy Reading**

Sharon G. Flake. Money Hungry; sequel Begging for Change

Harry Mazer. Boy at War: a Novel of Pearl Harbor

Natasha Friend. Perfect

Walter Dean Meyer. Slam

Neal Shusterman. Dread Locks 1<sup>st</sup> book in Dark Fusion Trilogy

David Lubar. Dunk

##### **Average Difficulty**

S. E. Hinton. The Outsiders

Sheila Moses. The Legend of Buddy Bush

Scott Westerfeld. The Secret Hour 1<sup>st</sup> book in Midnighter Trilogy

Gordan Korman. No More Dead Dogs

Stephanie Meyer. Twilight

Lois Lowry. Gathering Blue

Ellen Raskin. The Westing Game

Scott Westerfeld. Uglies

##### **Challenging**

Walter Daen Meyer. Monster

Yann Martel. Life of Pi

Catherine Gilbert Murdock. Dairy Queen; sequel The Off Season

Richard Adam. Watership Down 1<sup>st</sup> book in series

Clare Dunkle. Hollow Kingdom 1<sup>st</sup> book in Hollow Kingdom Trilogy

#### *Nonfiction Books*

Russell Friedman. The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and Struggle for Equal Rights (P)

Russell Friedman. The Adventures of Marco Polo

Tanya Bolden. Maritcha: A Nineteenth Century American Girl

Candace Fleming. Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look At Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life

James Griblin. Good Brother, Bad Brother



Walter Dean Myers. The Harlem Hellfighters: When Pride Met Courage  
Jennifer Armstrong. Photo by Brady: A Picture of the Civil War  
Yen Man. Chinese Cinderella (P)  
James Cross Giblin. Life and Death of Adolf Hitler  
Davis Simpson. We Beat the Street (P)  
Ryan White. Ryan White, My Own Story (P)  
Walter Dean Myer. Bad Boy (P)  
Jon Krakauer. Into Thin Air: a Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster (P)  
Anne Frank. The Diary of a Young Girl (P)  
Roald Dahl. Going Solo (P)  
Spencer Johnson. Who Moved My Cheese?  
Jodee Blanco. Please Stop Laughing at Me (P)  
Frank B. Gilbreth. Cheaper by the Dozen (P)

*\*(P) denotes available in paperback*

### **Suggested curriculum related topics**

#### **Social Studies:**

- Civics
- Immigration
- Economics
- Genocide
- Foreign Policy
- Civil Rights

#### **Science:**

- Chemistry
- Sound/ Light
- Genetics And Evolution
- Environmental Issues

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

#### ***Fiction:***

#### **Easy Reading**

David Lubar. Sleeping Freshman Never Lie  
Jerry Spinelli. Crash  
Jerry Spinelli. Stargirl  
Jane Yolen. The Girl in the Cage  
Edward Bloor. Tangerine  
Julie Ann Peters. Define Normal

#### **Average Difficulty**

Nancy Osa. Cuba 15  
Mike Lupica. Travel Team; sequel Summer Ball



Kenneth Oppel. Airborn; sequel Skybreaker  
Lois Duncan. Killing Mr. Griffin  
Carl Hiaasen. Hoot  
Sharon Creech. Walk Two Moons

### **Challenging**

L. A. Meyer. Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventure of Mary Jacky (5  
Eric Esckelsen. Offside  
Cynthia Kadohata. Kira Kira  
Lois Duncan. Summer of Fear  
Christopher Paolini. Eragon; sequel Eldest  
Nancy Farmer. The House of the Scorpion

### **NONFICTION BOOKS**

National Geographic. 5,000 Miles to Freedom  
Marfe Ferguson Delano. Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein  
Paul Robert Walker. Remember Little Bighorn: Indian Soldiers and Scouts  
Catharine Thimmesh. Team Moon: How 400,00 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon  
Deborah Hopkinson. Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America  
Al Gore. An Inconvenient Truth (P)  
Kielburger/Major. Free the Children (P)  
Peter Nelson. Left for Dead: a Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis  
(P)  
Samantha Abeel. My Thirteenth Winter: a Memoir (P)  
Nathaniel Philbrick. Revenge of the Whale: the True Story of the Whaleship Essex (P)  
John Fleischman. Phineas Gage: a Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science (P)  
Jerry Spinelli. Knots in My Yo-Yo String (P)  
Elizabeth Yates. Amos Fortune, free man (P)  
Livia Bitton-Jackson. I Have Lived a Thousand Years (P)

*\*(P) denotes paperback available*

### **Suggested curriculum related topics**

#### **Social Studies:**

- American history: colonial period through post reconstruction

#### **Science:**

- Energy/Electricity
- Weather
- Ecosystems
- Cells/ Bacteria/Plants
- Chemistry

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

### ***Fiction:***

#### **Easy Reading**

##### **Fiction:**

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Shiloh sequel Shiloh's Season

\*Kate DiCamillo. Because of Winn-Dixie

Lisa Yee. Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time

Tony DiTerlizzi Spiderwick Chronicles - any in series

Frances O'Roark Dowell. The Secret Language of Girls

Betty Hicks. Busted



#### **Average Difficulty**

\*Paul Christopher Curtis. Bud Not Buddy

Gary Paulsen. Hatchet; sequels Brian Books

Pam Munoz Ryan. Esperanza Rising John H. Ritter. The Boy Who Saved Baseball

Andrew Clements. Things Not Seen

Cornelia Funke. The Thief Lord or Inkheart

#### **Challenging**

E. L. Konigsburg. The Outcast of 19 Schuyler Place

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Blizzard's Wake

Peter Abraham. Down the Rabbit Hole

Joseph Delaney. Revenge of the Witch 1<sup>st</sup> book in the Last Apprentice series

Sarah Weeks. So B. It

Jonathan Stroud. The Amulet of Samarkand 1<sup>st</sup> Book in the Barthimaeus Trilogy

#### **NONFICTION BOOKS**

Da Chen. China's Son: Growing Up in the Cultural Revolution (P)

Gary Paulsen. Guts (P)

Gary Paulsen. My Life in Dog Years (P)

Joseph Leukton. Facing the Lion: Growing up Maasai on the African Savanna

Susan Goldman Rubin. Andy Warhol: Pop Art Painter

Albert Marrin. Oh, Rats: The Story of Rats and People (6.2)

Peter Schoeder. Six Million Paper Clips (5.9) (P)

Andrea Warren. Surviving Hilter: a Boy in Nazi Death Camp (6.1) (P)

Roald Dahl. Boy: Tales of Childhood (6) (P)

Susan Campbell Bartoletti. Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine, 1845-1850 (8.1)

Sy Montgomery. The Tarantula Scientist (5.8)

Bethant Hamilton. Soul Surfer: a True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back to the Board (6) (P)

Mark Pfetzer. Within Reach: My Everest Story (6) (P)

*\*(P) denotes books available in paperback*

### **Suggested curriculum related topics**

#### **Social Studies:**

- World Studies/ Geography

#### **Science:**

- Force and motion
- Topography
- Tectonics
- Human body

### ***Nationally Recognized Award Winning Books:***

[Newbery Winners and Honor Books](#)

[Printz Award Winners and Honor Books](#)

[Coretta Scott King Winners and Honor Books](#)

[Alex Award Winners and Honor Books](#)

## Genre Specific Authors

Use [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com) to discover titles from each of the authors noted below:

Authors are alphabetized and rated for *general* reading level:

\*Easy    \*\*Average    \*\*\*Challenging

### ADVENTURE

Avi\*\*  
Bass, L.G.\*\*\*  
Cooney, Caroline\*\*  
Flanagan, John\*\*  
Funke, Cornelia\*\*  
Higson, Charlie\*\*  
Hobbs, Will\*\*  
Horowitz, Anthony\*\*  
Hughes, Dean\*\*  
Lawrence, Ian \*\*  
Mazer, Harry\*\*  
Mikaelson, Ben\*\*  
Mowll, Joshua\*\*  
Muchamore, Robert\*\*  
Patterson, James\*\*  
Paulsen, Gary\*\*  
Ryan, Chris\*\*  
Shan, Darren\*  
Stevenson, Robert Louis\*\*\*  
Stewart, Trenton Lee\*\*  
Voight, Cynthia\*\*\*  
Yancey, Rick\*\*

### CLASSICS

Alcott, Louisa May\*\*\*  
Bronte, Charlotte\*\*\*  
Christie, Agatha\*\*\*  
Dickens, Charles\*\*\*  
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan\*\*\*  
Kipling, Rudyard\*\*\*  
Montgomery, L.M.\*\*  
Shelley, Mary\*\*\*  
Stevenson, Robert Louis\*\*\*  
Stoker, Bram\*\*\*  
Tolkien, J.R.R.\*\*\*  
Verne, Jules\*\*\*

### FANTASY

Alexander, Lloyd\*\*  
Babbitt, Natalie\*\*  
Banks, Lynne Reid\*  
Barron, T.A. \*\*  
Barry, Dave \*\*  
Bass, L.G.\*\*\*  
Beddor, Frank\*\*\*  
Bray, Libba\*\*\*  
Brennan, Herbie\*\*  
Carman, Patrick\*\*  
Colfer, Eoin\*\*  
Collins, Suzanne\*\*  
Cooper, Susan\*\*\*  
Crossley-Holland,  
Kevin\*\*\*  
DiCamillo, Kate\*  
Durst, Sarah Beth \*\*  
Farmer, Nancy\*\*\*  
Flanagan, John\*\*  
Funke, Cornelia\*\*  
Hoffman, Mary\*\*\*  
Howe, James\*  
Jacques, Brian\*\*\*  
Jones, Diana Wynne\*\*\*  
Kerr, P.B.\*\*  
L'Engle, Madeleine\*\*\*  
Levine, Gail Carson\*  
Lubar, David\*\*  
MacHale, D.J.\*\*  
McCaffrey, Anne\*\*\*  
McKinley, Robin\*\*\*  
Meyers, Stephenie\*\*\*  
Nimmo, Jenny\*  
Nix, Garth\*\*\*  
Owen, James A.\*\*\*  
Paolini, Christopher\*\*\*

Pearson, Ridley\*\*  
Pierce, Tamora\*\*  
Pratchett, Terry\*\*  
Pullman, Phillip\*\*\*  
Rees, Celia\*\*  
Riordan, Rick\*\*  
Rowling, J.K. \*\*  
Sage, Angie\*\*  
Shusterman, Neal\*\*  
Springer, Nancy \*\*  
Stroud, Jonathan\*\*\*  
Tolkien, J.R.R.\*\*\*  
Westerfeld, Scott\*\*  
Wrede, Patricia\*\*  
Yancey, Rick\*\*  
Yep, Laurence\*\*  
Yolen, Jane\*  
Zevin, Gabrielle\*\*\*  
Zusak, Markus\*\*\*

### HISTORICAL FICTION

Anderson, Laurie Halse\*\*  
Avi\*\*  
Bartoletti, Susan\*\*  
Bunting, Eve\*  
Crossley-Holland, Kevin\*\*\*  
Curtis, Christopher Paul\*  
Cushman, Karen\*\*  
Donnelly, Jennifer\*\*\*  
Giff, Patricia Reilly \*  
Gratz, Alan\*\*  
Hahn, Mary Downing\*\*  
Holm, Jennifer \*\*  
Kadonaga, Cynthia \*\*  
Konigsburg, E.L. \*\*  
Lasky, Kathryn\*\*\*  
Lawrence, Ian \*\*

Levine, Gail Carson\*  
Lisle, Janet Taylor\*\*  
MacLachlan, Patricia\*  
Mazer, Harry\*\*  
Morpugo, Michael\*\*  
Myers, Walter Dean\*\*  
Paterson, Katherine\*\*  
Rees, Celia\*\*  
Rinaldi, Ann\*\*\*  
Whelan, Gloria\*\*  
Yep, Laurence\*\*  
Yolen, Jane\*\*  
Zusak, Markus\*\*\*

## HORROR FICTION

Brewer, Heather\*\*  
Cooney, Caroline\*\* Duncan,  
Lois\*\*  
Shan, Darren\*  
Shusterman, Neal\*\*  
Shelley, Mary\*\*\*  
Sleator, William\*  
Stevenson, Robert Louis\*\*\*  
Stoker, Bram\*\*\* Westerfeld,  
Scott\*\*\*

## HUMOR

Avi\*\*  
Bauer, Joan\*\*  
Brennan, Herbie\*\*  
Byars, Betsy\*  
Clements, Andrew\*  
Creech, Sharon\*\*  
Curtis, Christopher Paul\*\*  
Cushman, Karen\*\*  
Danziger, Paula\*\*  
Fine, Anne\*  
Gantos, Jack\*  
Gutman, Dan\*  
Howe, James\*  
Kinney, Jeff\*  
Korman, Gordon\*  
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds\*\*  
Peck, Richard\*\*  
Pratchett, Terry\*\*  
Rennison, Louise\*\*  
Sachar, Louis\*  
Snickett, Lemony\*  
Spinelli, Jerry\*\*

## MYSTERIES

Abrahams, Peter\*\*  
Avi\*\*  
Balliett, Blue\*\*  
Bellairs, John\*  
Bunting, Eve\*  
Christie, Agatha\*\*\*  
Donnelly, Jennifer\*\*\*  
Doyle, Sir Arthur  
Conan\*\*\*  
Duncan, Lois\*\*  
Glenn, Mel\*\*  
Hahn, Mary Downing\*\*  
Hiaasen, Carl\*\*  
Holm, Jennifer \*\*  
Horowitz, Anthony\*\*  
Howe, James\*  
Miller, Kirsten\*\*  
Nixon, Joan Lowery\*\*  
Paulsen, Gary\*\*  
Peck, Richard\*\*  
Plum-Ucci, Carol\*\*\*  
Shan, Darren\*\*  
Springer, Nancy\*\*  
Updale, Eleanor \*\*\*  
Voight, Cynthia\*\*\*  
Winerip, Michael

## NON-FICTION

Adamson, Joy\*\*\*  
Ballard, Robert\*  
Bartoletti, Susan\*\*  
Blumenthal, Karen\*\*  
Crutcher, Chris\*\*\*  
Demi\*\*  
Feinstein, John\*\*\*  
Fradin, Dennis  
Brindell\*\*  
Fradin, Judith Bloom\*\*  
Fritz, Jean\*  
Gantos, Jack\*  
George, Jean  
Craighead\*\*  
Giblin, James Cross\*\*  
Hawass, Zahi\*\*  
Herriot, James\*\*\*  
Hickam, Homer\*\*  
Krull, Kathleen\*\*

Lasky, Kathryn\*\*  
Lauber, Patricia\*  
Meltzer, Milton \*\*  
Murphy, Jim\*\*  
Paulsen, Gary\*\*  
Peck, Richard\*\*  
Rylant, Cynthia\*  
Stanley, Diane\*\*

## POETRY

Creech, Sharon\*  
Frost, Helen\*\*\*  
Glenn, Mel\*\*  
Grandits, John\*\*  
Grimes, Nikki\*\*  
Koertge, Ron\*\*  
Rylant, Cynthia\*  
Woodson, Jacqueline\*\*  
Yolen, Jane\*\*

## SCIENCE FICTION

Card, Orson Scott\*\*\*  
Clements, Andrew\*  
Crichton, Michael\*\*\*  
DuPrau, Jeannie\*\*  
Farmer, Nancy\*\*\*  
Haddix, Margaret Peterson\*\*  
Kostick, Conor\*\*\*  
L'Engle, Madeleine\*\*\*  
McCaffrey, Anne\*\*\*  
Nix, Garth\*\*\*  
Patterson, James\*\*  
Pfeffer, Susan Beth\*\*  
Shusterman, Neal\*\*  
Stewart, Trenton Lee \*\*  
Verne, Jules\*\*\*  
Waugh, Sylvia\*

## SPORTS FICTION

Brooks, Bruce\*\*  
Brouwer, Sigmund\*  
Christopher, Matt\*  
Crutcher, Chris\*\*\*  
Dygaard, Thomas\*\*  
Feinstein, John\*\*  
Gratz, Alan\*\*  
Gutman, Dan\*

Lipsyte, Robert\*\*  
Lewis, Michael\*\*\*  
Lupica, Mike

## **REALISTIC FICTION**

Anderson, Laurie Halse\*\*  
Avi\*\*  
Bauer, Joan\*\*  
Birdsall, Jeanne\*  
Brashares, Anne\*\*  
Brian, Kate\*\*  
Brooks, Bruce\*\*\*  
Bruchac, Joseph\*\*  
Bunting, Eve\*  
Byars, Betsy\*  
Cabot, Meg\*\*  
Choldenko, Gennifer\*\*  
Cooney, Caroline\*\*  
Creech, Sharon\*\*  
Crutcher, Chris\*\*\*  
Curtis, Christopher Paul\*\*  
Danziger, Paula\*\*  
Dessen, Sarah\*\*\*  
DiCamillo, Kate\*  
Draper, Sharon\*\*  
Fine, Anne\*  
Frost, Helen\*\*\*  
Gantos, Jack\*  
Glenn, Mel\*\*  
Grimes, Nikki\*\*  
Henkes, Kevin\*  
Hiassen, Carl\*\*\*  
Hinton, S.E.\*\*  
Howe, James\*\*  
Hughes, Dean\*\*  
Kinney, Jeff\*  
Koertge, Ron\*\*  
Konigsburg, E.L.\*\*  
Korman, Gordon\*\*  
Lasky, Kathryn\*\*  
L'Engle, Madeleine\*\*\*  
Lenhard, Elizabeth\*\*  
Lipsyte, Robert\*\*  
Littman, Sarah\*\*  
MacLachlan, Patricia\*  
Mahy, Margaret\*\*  
Marsden, John\*\*  
Martin, Ann\*  
Mazer, Harry\*\*  
Mazer, Norma Fox\*\*  
Myers, Walter Dean\*\*

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds\*\*  
Paterson, Katherine\*\*  
Peck, Richard\*\*  
Philbrick, Rodman\*\*  
Rennison, Louise\*\*  
Ryan, Pam Munoz\*\*  
Rylant, Cynthia\*\*  
Sachar, Louis\*\*  
Schmidt, Gary D.\*\*  
Shusterman, Neal\*\*  
Sonnenblick, Jordan\*\*\*  
Spinelli, Jerry\*\*  
Strasser, Todd\*\*  
Tashjian, Janet\*\*\*  
Voigt, Cynthia\*\*\*  
Weaver, Will\*\*\*  
Weeks, Sarah\*\*  
Westerfeld, Scott\*\*\*  
Whelan, Gloria\*\*  
Wilhelm, Doug\*\*  
Winerip, Michael\*  
Woodson, Jacqueline\*\*  
Yep, Laurence\*\*  
Yolen, Jane\*\*  
Zusak, Markus\*\*\*

## Ways to Improve Reading At Home

Reading is an important way for children to expand their horizons, explore interests and form opinions about the world and their place in it. Daily reading time is essential to improving comprehension skills and expanding vocabulary – skills your child will need to succeed on important state exams in middle school and beyond.

Children who come from a home where the parents read personally, value reading, and have reading material readily available are much more likely to become readers themselves.

- **Make books available and accessible.** Children who become readers almost always come from homes where books and other reading materials are present throughout the house.
- **Take your children to the library** on a weekly or monthly visit, so they can choose their own books. Its Free – just join and receive your library card when you visit.
- Don't forget to **give books as gifts** at birthday time, holiday time, or whenever. There are so many inexpensive, good books out there and something given or received as a gift becomes more valuable and cherished. Watch out for summer reading tables at local book stores.
- **Read frequently.** Encourage older independent readers to read everyday and engage them in conversation about what they're reading.
- **Turn off the television** and provide quiet time in order to establish a nightly reading ritual for the whole family. Parents can help encourage daily reading time by modeling the behavior themselves.
- Remember that **comic books and magazines are a great way to encourage reading** and are very useful in teaching children to read. Books on tape and CD are also an excellent choice to encourage reading.
- **Read chapter books.** A good chapter book will entice a reader and make them want to come back for more and find out how the story ends.
- **Use movie or video tie-ins.** Use your child's interest to your benefit and read books that tie in to these characters. Also Don't dismiss genres like graphic novels.
- Help them **bookmark online news sites** and other Web pages that tap into their interests