



## 2010 Sixth Grade Summer Reading Charles Wright Academy

Please choose three (or more) of the following books to read over the summer.

Be ready to participate in classroom activities and discussions in your sixth grade reading class this fall. You do not have to write a book report over the summer. You should have a good understanding of the plot, characters and themes in each book. We suggest that you take notes to refresh your memory: descriptions of main characters, major plot events, lessons you learned, and themes you can identify from the books. These notes can be concise and will come in handy for the assignments that take place in reading class. Notes are not mandatory, but highly suggested.

All of these books can be found at public libraries, local bookstores or on-line. In addition, there are a limited number of copies available for check-out from the Middle School for two weeks at a time. If you are interested, please contact Treasea Miller.

You should choose books you have not already read. You should have your reading finished by the first day of classes on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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### ***The True Meaning of Smekday*** by Adam Rex

Where does one begin when asked to write a five-page essay on the meaning of Smekday? If you are 11-year-old Gratuity Tucci, you begin prior to the arrival of the aliens, before your mother started receiving cryptic messages through a mole in the back of her neck, and before all Americans are forced to move to reservations in Florida to make room for the influx of an alien race known as the Boov. In a rebellious snit, Tip decides to drive her mother's car to Florida, rather than take the Boov rocketpods, and finds herself caught up in a most outlandish road trip with her cat, Pig, and her very own renegade Boov, J.Lo, for company.

Science Fiction/Humor

### ***Hurt Go Happy*** by Ginny Rorby

Thirteen-year-old Joey Willis has been deaf since the age of six, and her mother won't allow her to learn American Sign Language. Her new friends, Dr. Charles Mansell, whose parents were deaf, and his baby chimpanzee, Sukari, use sign language to communicate. Joey secretly begins to learn to sign, against her mother's wishes. Later, when Sukari's life is threatened, Joey discovers that she is the only one who can save the chimp. . Realistic Fiction

### ***Peak*** by Roland Smith

In this high-altitude adventure, 14-year-old Peak Marcello's passion for climbing is clearly in the genes, but when he is arrested for scaling tall buildings, his mom and stepdad make a deal with the judge to ship him out of the country to live with her ex-husband and squelch the media attention that might inspire "Spider Boy" copycats. The teen's father, Josh, and his Himalayan expedition company are preparing teams to climb Mount Everest and suddenly Peak is faced with the possibility of becoming the youngest climber to reach the summit. Adventure

### ***A Tree Falls at Lunch Period*** by Gennifer Choldenko

For Kirsten McKenna, the world is crumbling. Her parents are barely speaking to each other, and her best friend has come under the spell of the school's queen bee, Brianna. Only Kirsten's younger science-geek sister is on her side. For Walker Jones, the goal is to survive at the new private school his mom has sent him to because she thinks he's going to screw up like his cousin. But Walk is a good kid. So is his new friend, Matteo, though no one knows why Matteo will do absolutely anything that Brianna asks of him. Then Kirsten discovers something that shakes her and Walk to their cores. Realistic Fiction

### ***Eyes of the Emperor*** by Graham Salisbury

Eddy Okana lies about his age and joins the Army in his hometown of Honolulu only weeks before the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. Suddenly Americans see him as the enemy—even the U.S. Army doubts the loyalty of Japanese American soldiers. Then the Army sends Eddy and a small band of Japanese American soldiers on a secret mission to a small island off the coast of Mississippi. Here they are given a special job, one that only they can do. Eddy's going to help train attack dogs. He's going to be the bait. Historical Fiction

### ***Marley: A Dog Like No Other*** by John Grogan

Marley, a lovable Labrador retriever, is always getting himself into trouble. Some may say he is the world's worst dog. But those who know and love Marley understand that nothing can stop his loyalty, exuberance, and passion--not even the Grogans' screen door! How this big, rambunctious dog becomes the heart of the Grogan family is the story of "Marley." Memoir/Humor

*NOTE: There is an adult version of this book (Marley and Me). Please look for the Middle School version in the Children's or Teen section.*

Look on the other side for more choices!



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### ***Football Genius*** by Tim Green

Troy White has a lot of frustrations. His father abandoned the family when he was little, his beloved Atlanta Falcons team seems destined for another losing season, and, on his own football team, his gifts as a quarterback are ignored while he sits on the bench, watching the coach's son on the field. Troy's most unusual gift is his ability to predict coming football plays with uncanny accuracy. When his mother is hired for a PR job with the Falcons, Troy sees an opportunity, yet he can't convince anyone to recognize his talents.

Sports

### ***The Keys to the Kingdom: Mister Monday*** by Garth Nix

Arthur Penhaligon's school year is not off to a good start. On his first day, he suffers an asthma attack while running cross-country and dreams that a mysterious figure hands him a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock. However, when he wakes up, he still has the key. That's when strange things begin to happen. Mister Monday dispatches terrifying, dog-faced Fetchers to retrieve it, a bizarre sleeping illness sweeps the city, and only Arthur can see the weird new house that appears in his neighborhood. The seventh grader knows it all has something to do with the key, one of seven elusive fragments of the Will to which he has become heir apparent, and a mysterious atlas. When he ventures inside the house, he meets more strange characters than he could have imagined, none of whom are what they seem. And, of course, he must battle Monday, who will do anything to get the key back. With the help of the key, Arthur must fight his way out. Fantasy

### ***Fever 1793*** by Laurie Halse Anderson

It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Now they include Polly, the serving girl at the Cook Coffeehouse. But fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook doesn't get a moment to mourn the passing of her childhood playmate. New customers have overrun her family's coffee shop, located far from the mosquito-infested river, and Mattie's concerns of fever are all but overshadowed by dreams of growing her family's small business into a thriving enterprise. But when the fever begins to strike closer to home, Mattie's struggle to build a new life must give way to a new fight—the fight to stay alive. Historical Fiction

### ***The London Eye Mystery*** by Siobhan Dowd

Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye. But after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted and his older sister, Kat, become sleuthing partners, since the police are having no luck. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery. This is an unput-downable spine-tingling thriller—a race against time.

Mystery

### ***Princess Academy*** by Shannon Hale

Miri lives on a mountain where, for generations, her ancestors have quarried stone and lived a simple life. Then word comes that the king's priests have divined her small village the home of the future princess. In a year's time, the prince himself will come and choose his bride from among the girls of the village. The king's ministers set up an academy on the mountain, and every teenage girl must attend and learn how to become a princess. Miri soon finds herself confronted with a harsh academy mistress, bitter competition among the girls, and her own conflicting desires to be chosen and win the heart of her childhood best friend. But when bandits seek out the academy to kidnap the future princess, Miri must rally the girls together and use a power unique to the mountain dwellers to save herself and her classmates. Historical Fantasy

