

### Tips for Readers

Good readers know why they are reading and actively use **strategies** to understand the text. Examples of strategies include:

- asking **questions** of the text,
- **rereading** challenging portions of the text,
- making **connections** between your life and the text, and
- using **graphic organizers** during and/or after reading.

### Tips for Parents

- Schedule library/bookstore visits.
- Let your child choose what he/she wants to read.
- Help your child select books at an appropriate reading level. A general rule of thumb is that if a child struggles with more than five words on a page the text is too hard.
- When possible, connect reading to other summer activities.
- Read the same book as your child and have book chats along the way.

## The Purpose of a Summer Reading List

### Why read in the summer?

During the school year, students engage daily in processes that cultivate strong reading habits. Research shows that students actually lose one-three months of learning during the summer when they do not engage in academic activities. Reading is one way to keep the mind sharp during the summer months. In fact, the National Center for Education Statistics reports that fourth grade students who read for fun on their own time score higher on reading assessments than students who do not read on their own.

Mraz, M., & Rasinski, T. (2007). Summer reading loss. *The Reading Teacher*. 60.8, 784-789.  
National Assessment of Educational Progress. (2001). *The nation's report card: Fourth-grade reading 2000*. Retrieved on April 8, 2008, from <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pubs/main2000/2001499.asp>

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Students are encouraged to read widely this summer. The summer reading list is intended to give students and parents a starting point for selecting young adult literature. Choose books from this list or other young adult titles to enjoy this summer.

The books are recommended by reading teachers, librarians, and classroom teachers. **All titles are available at your local Arlington County Public Library.**

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## Middle School Summer Reading Book List Fall 2011



## For Students Entering Grades 6, 7, & 8

*Middle School ELA  
Summer Reading List*

Grade 6  
For Students Entering  
Grade 6 in the Fall of 2011

*The Underneath*—Appelt  
*Colibri*—Cameron \*  
*Artemis Fowl (series)*—Colfer \*  
*Elijah of Buxton*—Curtis \*  
*London Eye Mystery*—Dowd \*  
*Mockingbird*—Erskine \*  
*Coraline*—Gaiman  
*Book of a Thousand Days*—Hale \*  
*Middle School is Worse than  
Meatloaf*—Holm  
*Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*—Dorothy and  
Thomas Hoobler  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series)*—Kinney \*  
*The Big Field*—Lupica \*  
*The Rock and the River*—Magoon \*  
*Peter Pan in Scarlet*—McCaughrean  
*Trash*—Mulligan \*  
*One Crazy Summer*—Williams-Garcia \*

Grade 7  
For Students Entering  
Grade 7 in the Fall of 2011

*Return to Sender*—Alvarez \*  
*Mare's War*—Davis  
*Graveyard Book*—Gaiman \*  
*Scat*—Hiaasen \*  
*Crossing the Wire*—Hobbs \*  
*Stormbreaker (series)*—Horowitz \*  
*Circuit. Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*—Jimenez \*  
*Skulduggery Pleasant (series)*—Landy \*  
*Heat*—Lupica \*  
*Dairy Queen (series)*—Murdock \*  
*Guts*—Paulsen  
*Nation*—Pratchett \*  
*Pirates*—Rees \*  
*When You Reach Me*—Stead \*  
*So B. It*—Weeks \*  
*After Tupac and D Foster*—Woodson \*

Grade 8  
For Students Entering  
Grade 8 in the Fall of 2011

*Finding Miracles*—Alvarez \*  
*Tequila Worm*—Canales  
*Seedfolks*—Fleischman \*  
*Gone (series)*—Grant  
*Pop*—Korman \*  
*A Mango-Shaped Space*—Mass \*  
*Shackleton's Stowaway*—McKernan  
*Sunrise over Fallujah*—Myers \*  
*A Step From Heaven*—Na \*  
*The Other Side of Truth*—Naidoo  
*Click*—Park  
*True Meaning of Smekday*—Rex \*  
*Flygirl*—Smith  
*The Thief (series)*—Turner \*  
*Leviathan (series)*—Westerfield \*  
*American Born Chinese*—Yang

**Titles marked with an asterisk\* are available  
as audio books. Check with your local  
librarian for more information.**