

## Purpose of the Middle School Summer Reading Program for Lindbergh Schools

The purpose of our summer reading program is to promote recreational reading and encourage book discussion among students and teachers. Not only does the program incorporate many skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening), but it also allows for differentiation as *you* are responsible for selecting the book that *you* want to read. Your parents/guardians will be responsible for approving your book selection for classroom discussion and age appropriateness. As you read, you will also be responsible for completing a book summary sheet that will help you present the book to your classmates in a brief oral presentation at the beginning of the next school year.

## Why do we have summer reading?

- Studies have indicated the need to continue to practice reading throughout the summer to avoid learning loss among all students.
- We have worked hard to try to develop a meaningful, more pleasurable reading experience that allows students to make their own choices and to pursue a personal topic/genre of reading interest.

## What if I don't know what to read?

The librarians and teachers have worked hard to compile suggested reading lists to give you ideas. If those lists don't inspire you, scan the book displays at the library or a local book store. Visit St. Louis County/City Library in person or online for book recommendations. Try going online for suggestions at one of the following websites:

- Truman Readers Award  
<http://www.maslonline.org/?1415FinalNoms>  
Mark Twain Readers Award
- <http://www.maslonline.org/?1415FinalNoms>
- St. Louis County Library Teen Zone  
<http://www.slcl.org/teens>
- John Newbery Medal  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal.cfm>
- Coretta Scott King Award  
<http://www.ala.org/emiert/coretta-scott-king-book-awards-all-recipients-1970-present>

Please remember that books must be age appropriate. While we do believe in Dr. Suess's literary merit, it does not meet the requirements for middle school level literature.

## Why should I do this?

- If you think about it, you are getting the satisfaction of discussing something about you, your interests, and your reading experience with other students. It's a nice way to re-enter the school year.
- You should feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. You should feel the satisfaction of being a contributor, showing others what you're capable of doing, and beginning the school year with a positive start.
- Your contribution to our summer reading program will be recognized and appreciated by the Lindbergh School District.

## What if I don't complete the Summer Reading Program by the assigned time?

We have worked hard to make this a program that is attainable for *all* Sperreng and Truman students. There are very few limitations on the type of book that you must read, so pick a book that you are interested in and read it at the beginning of the summer to ensure that you will get it done. If for some reason you are absent on the assigned presentation time and/or do not complete the assignment on time, you will be required to make it up in your English class.

## Process

1. **Select a Book:** If you need help finding a book, check out a public library's book displays, ask for suggestions from a friend/parent/librarian/teacher, or search online for book reviews or bestsellers. Remember, you can read fiction or nonfiction. It's up to you! Books must be age appropriate.
2. **Parent/Guardian Approval:** The book summary sheet must be completed in full with a parent/guardian's signature to indicate that she/he has approved the book for age-appropriateness and classroom discussion.
3. **Read Your Book:** Relax and enjoy reading the book *you* selected!
4. **Complete the Book Summary Sheet:** Complete the student book summary sheet while you're reading the book. This will serve as a guide for your oral presentation and should be written in complete sentences. If you read additional books, please add that information to the summary sheet. Students who read 5 books (or more) will be entered into a raffle to win prizes.
5. **Present Your Book:** During the second week of school, on Thursday, August 21, you will present your book in your Flyer Time group. At this time, your teacher and other students may ask you questions and/or have a brief discussion about your book.
6. **Submit Your Summary Sheet:** Evidence of the completion of your summer reading assignment (completed summary sheet and presentation made in a serious, appropriate manner) will be forwarded by your Flyer Time teacher to your English teacher and, later, the library.

## Additional Information

- **Required Reading:** The following titles are required reading for students during the school year, so please do not read these books for this assignment: *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, and *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.
- **Incomplete Summary/Absent Students:** Students who are absent for the presentation or who submit an incomplete summary sheet should complete the assignment within a week of the presentation day. Late presentations will be made in students' English classes, and completed summary sheets must be turned in at that time. At that point, any students who still have not completed the requirements will have their names submitted to their grade level principal and will be required to complete the assignment in Homework Recovery which takes place after school.
- **Questions/Concerns:** Information about the reading program is available in Sperreng's and Truman's guidance offices and on Sperreng's and Truman's websites (library pages).