



# SUMMER READING 2007

**CH-UH City School District**

**Grades 6-8**

June 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As summer begins, we all look forward to family activities. One of the most valuable activities that you can enjoy with your own children is to share the reading experience with them. Studies have shown that children who read during the summer will maintain and grow their reading skills. With this in mind, the District is continuing its summer reading requirement. Summer reading titles are organized around grade level themes related to Civility. Students are invited to read books from our recommended list, or choose appropriate reading materials preferably aligning to the theme attached to their grade level.

The following sub-themes will be used for specific grade level spans as follows:

- K-2: *Celebrating Differences*
- 3-5: *Caring About Others*
- 6-8: *Friendship*
- 9-12: *Making a Difference*

Students will record their reading on the Summer Reading Log. We hope everyone joins the "Dozens" Club! Automatic membership is provided to all students who can document that they have read at least twelve books from June 9<sup>th</sup> through August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Books can be found at local libraries, including the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Libraries and the Cuyahoga County Public Libraries, as well as at local bookstores. Additional copies of the book lists are available on our website at [www.chuh.org](http://www.chuh.org). The recommended books at each grade level represent different reading levels and genres (i.e. mystery, fairy tales, tall tales, nonfiction, etc.) and are written by a selection of the best children's authors, ensuring that your child will find something that interests him/her. Additionally, students are encouraged to select appropriate books and reading materials that appeal to their interests.

In order to help your child select a book that is appropriate for independent reading, ask him or her to read a portion to you and then ask a few questions to test their understanding of what they have read. Generally, if there is difficulty reading more than *five* (5) words on a page, it may be too difficult. In addition to being a valuable educational experience, summer reading above all should be FUN for you and your child!

In the fall, teachers will follow-up on summer reading, and parents will be asked to provide feedback, including additional titles that could be added to our recommended list. The vision is that the summer reading list will be continually upgraded to include new excellent titles and authors while maintaining entrance to classic literature.

Enjoy your summer! The librarians at all the public libraries are very willing to help assist families select books. The public libraries also have wonderful summer reading programs for all readers that can extend the summer reading experience. Enrolling your child would be another fun, recommended activity that promotes reading and the love of books! We appreciate your support as we strive to develop a community of lifelong readers!



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**Summer Reading Log**

Name:	
School:	Grade:

**I read these books that are aligned to my grade level's theme:**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i># Pages</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

**Additional books I also enjoyed:**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i># Pages</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		



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**Recommended Reading List / Grades 6-8**

**Magyk (and sequels)** Angie Sage 6-8  
Follow the fantasy adventures of Septimus Heap, who battles the Darke Magyk forces of the Necromancer.

**The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants** Ann Brashares 8  
During their first summer apart, four teenage girls, best friends since earliest childhood, stay in touch through a shared pair of secondhand jeans with magical powers.

**Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul** Anthology 6-8  
These anthologies contain stories, poems, and cartoons every teenager can relate to and learn from -- without feeling criticized or judged.

**The Pinballs** Betsy Byars 6-8  
Three lonely foster children learn to care about themselves and each other.

**My Name is Sally Little Song** Brenda Woods 6-8  
Seminole Indians aid a slave family who escape from a Georgia Plantation in 1801.

**Hoot** Carl Hiaasen 6-8  
Ray and his friends try everything they can to stop the building of a Waffle House that would destroy the home of rare burrowing owls. Some hilarious situations occur.

**Sledding Hill** Chris Crutcher 6-8  
Eddie Proffit fights narrow-minded censorship of his favorite book at school relying on the friendship and advice of his best friend, Billy, even though Billy is dead.

**Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes** Chris Crutcher 8  
The daily class discussions about the nature of man, the existence of God, suicide and other contemporary issues serve as a backdrop for a high-school senior's attempt to answer a friend's dramatic cry for help.

**Eragon** Christopher Paolini 6-8  
Young man revives the lost art of dragon riding in this fantasy novel!

**Clay** David Almond 8  
Davie and Gourdie's new friend has a monstrous idea to protect them from the neighborhood bully.

**Peter and the Starcatchers** David Barry/Ridley Pearson 6  
This prequel to the well-known original adventures tells the story of how Peter Pan came to be.

**We Beat the Street** Davis, Jenkins & Hunt 7-8  
Three boys rely on their friendship to survive the pitfalls of inner city life and eventually become doctors.

**Counting on Grace** Elizabeth Winthrop 6-8  
Forced into working in the cotton mills, 12 yr, old Grace takes a stand against child labor after her friend is badly hurt.

**Harris & Me** Gary Paulsen 7-8  
Hilarious stories from the summer that Gary spent on the family farm with his cousin, Harris.

**The Foxman** Gary Paulsen 6-8  
A town boy sent to live on a remote wilderness farm forms a friendship with an elderly, disfigured man who teaches him many things.

**Lizzie Bright & The Buckminster Boy** Gary Schmidt 6-8  
Turner Buckminster and Lizzie Griffin's friendship teaches a hard lesson about intolerance and prejudice in a small town in Maine in 1912.

**Al Capone Does My Shirts** Gennifer Choldenko 6-8  
Moose must leave his friends and move to a new home on Alcatraz Island where he finds all kinds of adventures and meets the famous gangster, Al Capone.

**Over A Thousand Hills I Walk With You** Hanna Jansen 8  
The true story of a girl who witnesses and survives the genocide in Rwanda.

**With Every Drop of Blood** James Collier 6-8  
While trying to transport food to Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War, fourteen-year-old Johnny is captured by a black Union soldier.

**Crash** Jerry Spinelli 6-8  
The hilarious, poignant story of cocky seventh-grade superjock Crash Coogan.



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***Stargirl*** Jerry Spinelli 6-8

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

***Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*** Jordan Sonnenblick 7-8

Steven's busy with playing drums and his crush on the hottest girl in school and does not notice his best friend Annette's feelings for him. When his little brother becomes ill, she helps keep him together during a difficult year in his family.

***The Red Pony*** John Steinbeck 6-8

A classic book of four related stories by John Steinbeck, published in 1937, including "The Gift".

***Pedro & Me*** Judd Winick 8

A graphic novel about 2 friends who meet as housemates on MTV's Reality Series "The Real World". This book chronicles their friendship and Pedro's death from AIDS.

***Just as Long As We're Together*** Judy Blume 6

Stephanie's relationship with her best friend, Rachel, changes during her first year in junior high as she tries to conceal a family problem and meets a new girl from California.

***New Boy*** Julian Houston 8

Rob overcomes bigotry as the first African American student in a Connecticut boarding school.

***Blood Red Horse*** K.M. Grant 6-8

Two brothers fighting in the Crusades encounter a mystical horse who teaches them about honor and courage.

***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*** Kate DiCamillo 6-8

A very vain, self-centered rabbit learns to love and care for others through many adventures over the course of several years.

***Ida B*** Katherine Hannigan 6-8

Ida B is a delightfully funny character who is coping with going to a public school after being home schooled her whole life.

***A True and Faithful Narrative*** Katherine Sturtevant 6-8

Meg discovers the power of her words when she undertakes rescuing Edward after he has been captured and sold as a slave.

***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*** Kimberly Holt 6-8

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

***Holes*** Louis Sachar 6-8

Stanley Yelnats tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

***Turnabout*** Margaret Peterson Haddix 6-8

Two old women become close friends after taking part in an experiment that allows them to grow young again.

***The Friendship*** Mildred Taylor 6-8

Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s.

***House of the Scorpion*** Nancy Farmer 6-8

Science fiction look at cloning and it's impact on society through the eyes of a very important clone.

***The Road to Paris*** Nikki Grimes 6-8

A young African American foster child finds happiness and acceptance with a white family in a small town.

***The Dark Hills Divide*** Patrick Carmen 6-8

In the 1st Book in the Land of Elyon trilogy, Alexa uses a secret key and new found powers to save her town from evil forces.

***Invisible*** Pete Hautman 8

"Andy and I had some bad luck with fires when we were kids" is one of the clues that something tragic happened to Dougie and his best friend, Andy.



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**Remembering the Good Times** Richard Peck 8  
Trav, Kate, and Buck make up a trio during their freshman year in high school, but their special friendship may not be enough to save Trav as he pressures himself relentlessly to succeed, in his own eyes as well as in the eyes of his parents and the world

**Freak the Mighty** Rodman Philbrick 6-8  
At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

**The Friends** Rosa Guy 7  
Problems have developed between Phyllisia and her best friend. She learns the problems are not caused by her mom's death or her dad's behavior.

**Double Dutch** Sharon Draper 6-8  
Three eighth-grade friends, preparing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump rope competition in their home town of Cincinnati, Ohio, cope with Randy's missing father, Delia's inability to read, and Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies.

**The Battle of Jericho** Sharon Draper 8  
A high school junior and his cousin suffer the ramifications of joining what seems to be a "reputable" school club.

**All of the Above** Shelley Pearsall 6-8  
Based on a true story of students at Cleveland's Alexander Hamilton High School who try to break the world record for building the largest tetrahedron.

**Flight of the Raven** Stephanie Tolan 6-8  
Realistic thriller in which Elijah, a gifted young African American boy, must use his telepathic powers to work against the Free Mountain Militia who hold him captive.

**Listen** Stephanie Tolan 6-8  
The development of a friendship with a stray dog helps Charley heal from a horrible car accident and the loss of her mother.

**Surviving the Applewhites** Stephanie Tolan 6-8  
Jake Semple has to choose between juvenile detention or home schooling with the eccentric Applewhite family.

**Ruby Holler** Sharon Creech 6-8  
After many foster homes, twins Dallas and Florida are sent to Ruby Holler where they find a home and many adventures.

**Under the Persimmon Tree** Susan Fisher Staples 8  
The friendship of two young girls in a refugee camp in Pakistan illustrates the effect of war on different lives.