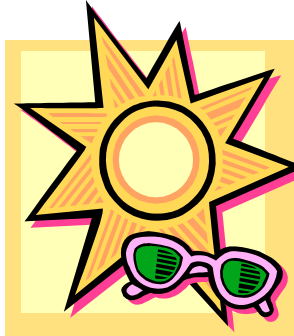


Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the temperatures rise and thoughts turn to summer, we all look forward to the relaxing activities summer vacation brings. One way to relax is to find a good book and get lost in a new adventure. Summer reading is a great opportunity for parents to support their children's lifelong reading habits and share in the joy that a good book brings. We hope that you will take the time to talk with your child about the reading he or she has enjoyed over the past several months and make plans together for summer reading. Reading is a skill that takes practice - lots of practice - just like running a marathon, learning to swim or playing an instrument. Summer reading helps students of all ability levels to sharpen their skills and to become recreational readers for life.

To support summer reading the Lebanon Schools and the Jonathan Trumbull Public Library have compiled lists of summer reading choices for students at all grade levels. Over the summer, students are required to read at least two books which may be the reader's own choice or chosen from the Summer Reading Lists.

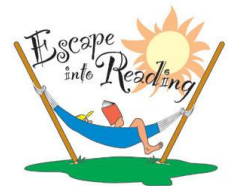


Please participate in the book selection process with your child to ensure that the book's theme, reading level, and content are age appropriate and respect your family's values and interests. In the fall, students are asked to return their completed summer reading journal that is attached here. In grades 5-8, students will engage in classroom activities with focus on their summer reading choices.

Thank you for supporting our summer reading initiative. We hope that you share our enthusiasm for the summer reading experience.

Copies of the summer reading lists and the reading journal will be distributed with the year-end newsletter and can also be found online at <http://www.lebanonct.org/district/lms/lms.htm>

Happy Reading,
The Summer Reading
Committee
Martha Shea
Linda Slate
Jeannette Picard
Chris Andrews



Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body - Sir Richard Steele

2011 Seventh Grade Summer Reading List

MR. ANDREWS' TOP PICKS:



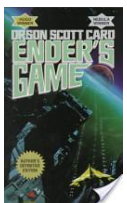
CLICK by David Almond, et al
When famous photographer George Keane passes away, his grandchildren, Jason and Maggie, are both deeply affected, though they express it in very different ways. The grandfather leaves them gifts. For Jason, he leaves a collection of pictures he took of famous people from the world of sports, including the likes of Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan, all autographed especially for him. For Maggie, an ornamental box with seven compartments, each containing a different kind of seashell. These gifts end up uncovering old secrets and changing the course of their lives in unexpected ways. *Click* is a story told in ten chapters, each written by a different author.



A DAY NO PIGS WOULD DIE
by Robert Newton Peck
When young Rob Peck saves a neighbor's cow, the neighbor gives him a pig as a reward. Pinky is Rob's constant companion as he juggles backbreaking farm work with schooling that is so important to his father. Pinky is a pet and a friend, but on a farm, every animal must have its use. Will the support of a loving family and the plainspoken Shaker teachings of his father, Haven, be enough to see Rob through on the day no pigs would die?

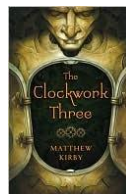


ALABAMA MOON by Watt Key
For as long as ten-year-old Moon can remember, he has lived out in the forest in a shelter with his father. They keep to themselves, their only contact with other human beings an occasional trip to the nearest general store. When Moon's father dies, Moon follows his father's last instructions: to travel to Alaska to find others like themselves. But Moon is soon caught in a world he doesn't know or understand. As the spirited and resourceful Moon encounters constables, jails, institutions, lawyers, true friends, and true enemies, he adapts his wilderness survival skills and learns to survive in the outside world, and even, perhaps, make his home there.



ENDER'S GAME by Scott Orson Card
One of the greatest science fiction novels ever. Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy. An expert at simulated war games, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin believes that he is engaged in one more computer war game when, in truth, he is commanding the last Earth fleet against an alien race seeking Earth's complete destruction. Child-hero Ender Wiggin must fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race if mankind is to survive.

Lebanon Middle School



CLOCKWORK THREE

by Matthew Kirby
As mysterious circumstances bring Giuseppe, Frederick and Hannah together, their lives soon interlock like the turning gears in a clock and they realize that each one holds a key to solving the others' mysteries.



THE COMPOUND

by S.A. Bodeen
Nine-year-old Eli, his sisters, and parents move into the Compound, an expansive underground bunker built by Eli's billionaire father as a refuge from nuclear attack. Waiting for the outside environment to be safe to reenter, fifteen-year-old Eli is starting to have doubts about his father's motives, explanations and sanity. Can Eli trust his father?



THE GARDENER

by S.A. Bodeen
Mason isn't supposed to know about the greenhouse—but he does. He isn't supposed to meet the beautiful girl who doesn't need food or water to survive—but he did. Now, Mason is on the run with the girl. And the Gardener, the mysterious mastermind of an institution that grows humans, wants them both—dead or alive.



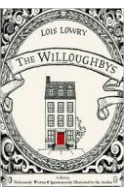
UNWIND

by Neal Shusterman
Connor's parents want to be rid of him because he's a troublemaker. Risa has no parents and is being unwound to cut orphanage costs. Lev's unwinding has been planned since his birth, as part of his family's strict religion. Brought together by chance, and kept together by desperation, these three unlikely companions make a harrowing cross-country journey, knowing their lives hang in the balance. If they can survive until their eighteenth birthday, they can't be harmed — but when every piece of them, from their hands to their hearts, are wanted by a world gone mad, eighteen seems far, far away.



THE MAZE RUNNER

by James Dashner
Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up in an elevator with no memory except for his first name. He's arrived in "the glade," an area surrounded by stone walls that open to a maze every morning. With him in the glade are about 60 boys, all searching for an escape route. And then a girl appears with a message, and things begin to change.



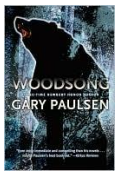
THE WILLOUGHBYS

by Lois Lowry
A tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, in which the four Willoughby children set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

2011 Seventh Grade Summer Reading List

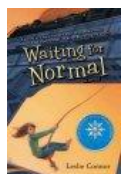
MR. LASKARZEWSKI

SUGGESTS:



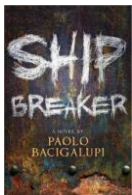
WOODSONG by Gary Paulsen
A LIFE AS EXCITING AS FICTION!
Gary Paulsen, three-time Newbery Honor author, is no stranger to adventure. He has flown off the back of a dogsled and down a frozen waterfall to near disaster, and waited for a giant bear to seal his fate with one slap of a claw. He has led a team of sled dogs toward the Alaskan Mountain Range in an Iditarod -- the grueling, 1,180-mile dogsled race -- hallucinating from lack of sleep, but determined to finish. Here, in vivid detail, Paulsen recounts several of the remarkable experiences that shaped his life and inspired his award-winning writing.

MS. PICARD RECOMMENDS:



WAITING FOR NORMAL by Leslie Connor
Her mother's mental illness, a friend's cancer, and her own dyslexia don't keep 12-year-old Addie from looking on the bright side of life even though home is a trailer and she misses her stepfather and two younger sisters.

MRS. SLATE SUGGESTS:



SHIP BREAKER by Paolo Bacigalupi
Everyone in Nailer's impoverished coastal town is looking for a Lucky Strike -- an escape hatch from a lifetime of hard labor and uncertainty. So when Nailer discovers a beached clipper ship, he's ecstatic. Scavenged for parts, it'll make him the richest person in town. But only if he kills the ship's one surviving passenger.

MRS. SHEA SUGGESTS:



THE MAILBOX by Audrey Shafer
Twelve-year-old Gabe grew up in the foster care system until a social worker located his Uncle Vernon two years before. When he comes home to discover that his uncle has died of a heart attack, he's terrified of going back into the system--so he tells no one. The next day, he discovers a strange note in his mailbox: I HAVE A SECRET. DO NOT BE AFRAID. And his uncle's body is gone. What will happen to Gabe, and who left this mysterious note?



TAKE ME TO THE RIVER by Will Hobbs
Rafting down the canyons of the Rio Grande along the Mexican border, fourteen-year-old Dylan and his cousin Rio encounter a hurricane and a fugitive kidnapper with a little boy in tow.

Lebanon Middle School

GREAT READS



ROMAN MYSTERIES by Caroline Lawrence
This series of fast-moving historical adventures takes readers to ancient Rome, where conspiracies, skullduggery and even murder await. Four young friends have plenty of mysteries to solve, and with rampaging lions, prowling poisoners and jewel thieves on the loose, any child who loves a good story will be gripped! There are now 17 novels in this series.

MY BROTHER, MY SISTER AND I

by Yoko Watkins
Living as refugees in Japan in 1947 while trying to locate their missing father, thirteen-year-old Yoko and her older brother and sister must endure a bad fire, injury, and false charges of arson, theft, and murder.

TOO GOOD TO MISS!

EMERALD ATLAS

by John Stephens
An enchanted atlas may explain why siblings Kate, Michael, and Emma have been living in orphanages for the past ten years -- and what happened to their parents.

HIDE & SEEK

by Katy Grant
In the remote mountains of Arizona where he lives with his mother, stepfather and two sisters, 14-year-old Chase discovers two kidnapped boys and gets caught up in a dangerous adventure when he comes up with a plan to get them to safety.

I AM A GENIUS OF UNSPEAKABLE EVIL AND I WANT TO BE YOUR CLASS PRESIDENT

by Josh Lieb
Running for seventh grade class president looks easy to Oliver Watson. With his good looks, intelligence, and wealth, he can control his classmates, teachers, and parents. But can he control the outcome of an election? (2011 Nutmeg Book Nominee)

LIFE AS WE KNEW IT

by Susan Pfeffer
In this survival story, an asteroid hits the moon, knocking it closer toward Earth, which results in cataclysmic natural disasters. Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. How should her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, volcanic ash blocks out the sun, and summer turns to Arctic winter?

RUNAWAY STORM

by D.E. Knobbe
A rite of passage story that starts out as a rebellious solo kayaking adventure but turns perilous as 15-year-old Nate faces fellow runaways, a shipwreck and smugglers. An exciting survival tale that leaves you wanting more!

2011 Seventh Grade Summer Reading List

MISSING IN ACTION by Dean Hughes

Discriminated against for his half-Navajo heritage, Jay Thacker moves to a small Utah community during World War II where his well-respected grandfather improves his popularity, a situation that is challenged by his friendship with a Japanese-American boy from a nearby internment camp.

WARLOCK by Michael Scott

(Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel: Book 5)

In the fifth installment of this bestselling series, the twins of prophesy have been divided, and the end is finally beginning. With Scatty, Joan of Arc, Saint Germain, Palamedes, and Shakespeare all in Danu Talis, Sophie is on her own with the ever-weakening Nicholas and Perenelle Flamel. She must depend on Niten to help her find an immortal to teach her Earth Magic. The surprise is that she will find her teacher in the most ordinary of places.

THRONE OF FIRE (KANE CHRONICLES)

by Rick Riordan

To stop Egyptian god SET from going after their father, siblings Carter and Sadie embark on a dangerous journey across the globe—a quest which brings them ever closer to the truth about their family, and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

GUYS READ: FUNNY BUSINESS by Jon Scieszka

A collection of humorous stories featuring a teenaged mummy, a homicidal turkey, and the world's largest pool of chocolate milk.

PRINCESS OF THE MIDNIGHT BALL

by Jessica Day George

Galen, a soldier recently returned from the war, now works in the royal palace where he meets 12 beautiful princesses. As innocent as the king's twelve daughters seem, they harbor a secret. Will Galen be the one to uncover the activity that leaves their slippers in tatters, as if worn for years? Or will he, like the others, fail... and die for his trouble? (2011 Nutmeg Book Nominee)

THE RIVALRY: MYSTERY AT THE ARMY-NAVY GAME by John Feinstein

Teen sportswriters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson are assigned to cover the football game between long time rivalries Army and Navy, and after noticing the actions of secret service agents, they begin to suspect that the president, who is going to attend the event, is in danger.

SAVING ZASHA by Randi Barrow

In the wake of World War II, a Russian boy discovers that keeping a German shepherd alive means keeping a deadly secret.

STORM RUNNERS by Roland Smith

Chase Masters and his father are Storm Runners racing across the country in pursuit of hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Anywhere bad weather strikes, they are not far behind. Chase is learning more on the road than he ever would just sitting in a classroom. But when the hurricane of the century hits, he will be tested in ways he never could have imagined.

Lebanon Middle School

NONFICTION FUN

CHEW ON THIS by Eric Schlosser

A look at fast food, what's in it, how it's made and what it does to our bodies.

KAKAPO RESCUE: SAVING THE WORLD'S STRANGEST PARROT

by Sy Montgomery

On remote Codfish Island off the southern coast of New Zealand live the last 91 kakapo parrots on earth. Originally this bird numbered in the millions before humans brought predators to the islands. Now on the isolated island refuge, a team of scientists is trying to restore the kakapo population.

SHIPWRECK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD : THE EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORY OF SHACKLETON AND THE ENDURANCE by Jennifer Armstrong

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

SOUL SURFER by Bethany Hamilton

Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to recover and return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith, after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen.

TRUCE: THE DAY THE SOLDIERS STOPPED FIGHTING by Jim Murphy.

The first part of this book sparsely and effectively outlines the causes of the Great War. Murphy then moves into a close-up view of the trenches before providing an account of the 1914 Christmas Truce.

CANDY BOMBER: THE STORY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT'S "CHOCOLATE PILOT"

by Michael Tunnell

World War II was over, and Berlin was in ruins. US Air Force Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen knew the children of the city were suffering. They were hungry and afraid. The young pilot wanted to help, but what could one man in one plane do?

CLAUDETTE COLVIN : TWICE TOWARD JUSTICE by Phillip Hoose

If you haven't heard of **Claudette Colvin**, you are in for a spectacular read as you learn about her life and participation in the historic Montgomery bus boycott.

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS: WORLD WAR I by Russell Freedman

While historians continue to debate the causes of the First World War, there is no disagreement that it ushered in an era of modern warfare with weapons capable of mass destruction and death.