



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 asked 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, grade 8 students are asked to return the Summer Reading Journal provided with this letter and they must also complete the attached Book Report for **two books read**. In September, upon returning to school, students will also be required to complete an in class Summer Reading project which Ms. Millerd, the Language Arts

teacher, will assign in the first week of school. Students will receive recognition for the number of books read.

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 Middle School Summer Reading Committee

Martha Shea
Ashley Millerd
Jeannette Picard
Linda Slate





**MS.
MILLERD
SUGGESTS:**

THE COMPOUND (Bodeen)

Eli and his family have lived in the underground Compound for six years. The world they knew is gone. Eli's father built the Compound to keep them safe. Now they can't get out. He won't let them!

FOREST OF HANDS AND TEETH (Ryan)

In Mary's world, there are simple truths. Now she must choose between her village and her future, between the one she loves and the one who loves her. And she must face the truth about the Forest of Hands and Teeth. Could there be life outside a world surrounded by so much death? This is the first book in the trilogy. **Be sure to read the sequels now available.** (MATURE READERS)

HOLD STILL (LaCour)

Caitlin is having a difficult time coping with the suicide of her best friend, Ingrid. Her parents keep trying to help her by creating projects for her and offering her space, but she cannot seem to feel normal again. One day, Caitlin discovers Ingrid's journal under her bed. As she reads each entry she finds out a lot about Ingrid she never knew. Will reading the journal help Caitlin move on with her life? (MATURE READERS)

HUNGER GAMES (Collins)

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death. In the sequel **Catching Fire**, there are rumors of rebellion among the districts, and Katniss and Peeta are horrified to discover that they are the faces of that rebellion. The final book of this trilogy, **Mockingjay**, is now available.

I AM NUMBER FOUR (Lore)

In rural Ohio, friendships and a beautiful girl prove distracting to a 15-year-old who has hidden on Earth for ten years waiting to develop the Legacies, or powers, he will need to rejoin the other six surviving Garde members and fight the Mogadorians who destroyed their planet, Lorian. Watch for the sequel **The Power of Six** coming out in August!

IF I STAY (Forman)

In a single moment, everything changes. 17-year-old Mia has no memory of the accident. She can only recall riding along the snow-wet Oregon road with her family. Then, in a blink, she finds herself watching as her own damaged body is taken from the wreck.... The sequel **Where She Went** has just been released! (MATURE READERS)

IRON KING (Kagawa)

Meghan Chase has never fit in at her small-town high school, and now, on the eve of her 16th birthday, she finally discovers why. For when her half-brother is kidnapped, Meghan is drawn into a fantastical world she had never imagined--the world of Faery. The sequels **Iron Daughter** and **Iron Queen** have been released. Don't miss them!

THE KANE CHRONICLES, BOOK TWO:

THE THRONE OF FIRE (Riordan)

In this exciting second installment of the three-book series, Carter and Sadie, offspring of the brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane, embark on a worldwide search for the Book of Ra, but the House of Life and the gods of chaos are determined to stop them.

THE MAZE RUNNER (Dashner)

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. He and other Gladers are surrounded by an enormous, ever-changing stone maze... and solving it is their only way out. Also read the Scorch Trials and watch for the final installment!

SARAH'S KEY (de Rosnay)

American journalist Julia Jarmond researches the brutal 1942 Nazi roundup in Paris and stumbles upon a connection between her family and one of the victims, which compels Julia to learn more about the girl's life. (MATURE READERS)

SHIVER (Stiefvater)

When Grace was little, a yellow-eyed wolf saved her life. Years later, she meets Sam, a teenage boy whose familiarity takes her breath away. He's the wolf who saved her; Grace knows it. And now it's her turn to save him—because each werewolf gets only so many seasons as a human, and this fall might be Sam's last. The sequel, **Linger**, is now available. **Forever**, the final book in the trilogy will be released in July. (MATURE READERS)

TIMERIDERS (Scarrow)

Maddy should have died in a plane crash. Liam should have died at sea when the Titanic sank. Sal should have died in a tragic fire. But a mysterious man whisked them away to safety. And they weren't just rescued from their terrible fates. . . they were recruited for the agency of TimeRiders. Can Maddy, Liam, and Sal fulfill their destinies as keepers of time to save the world from utter destruction? Book Two **Day of the Predator** is coming soon!

WHAT HAPPENED TO GOODBYE

(Dessen)

Since her parents' bitter divorce, McLean and her dad, a restaurant consultant, have been on the move-four towns in two years. Estranged from her mother and her mother's new family, McLean has followed her dad in leaving the unhappy past behind. And each new place gives her a chance to try out a new persona: from cheerleader to drama diva. But now, for the first time, McLean discovers a desire to stay in one place and just be herself, whoever that is. Perhaps Dave, the guy next door, can help her find out.

MATCHED (Condie)

Cassia is about to discover who the Society has selected as her ideal mate. Then she'll discover that the Society has made a mistake.

13 LITTLE BLUE ENVELOPES (Johnson)

When Ginny receives thirteen little blue envelopes and instructions to buy a plane ticket to London, she knows something exciting is going to happen. What Ginny doesn't know is that she will have the adventure of her life and it will change her in more ways than one. Life and love are waiting for her across the Atlantic, and the thirteen little blue envelopes are the key to finding them in this funny, romantic, heartbreaking novel. And find out what happened to the 13th envelope in the sequel - *The Last Little Blue Envelope*.

Ms. PICARD SUGGESTS:

YELLOW STAR (Roy)

True story of Roy's Aunt Sylvia who was one of the twelve children who survived the Holocaust during World War II in the ghetto in Lodz, Poland.

UNDER THE SAME SKY (DeFelice)

While trying to earn money for a motor bike, fourteen-year-old Joe Pederson becomes involved with the Mexicans who work on his family's farm and develops a better relationship with his father.

Mrs. SLATE SUGGESTS:

DIVERGENT (Roth)

One choice decides your friends, defines your beliefs, and determines your loyalties . . . forever. Or, one choice can transform you. Beatrice Prior has a decision to make. It will either be the best decision of her life or it will break her. After Beatrice gets the results from her faction aptitude test, she must choose a faction to join for the rest of her life. Will she stay with Abnegation- her home faction where she feels like she doesn't belong? Or will she make a leap of faith and switch factions and forsake all ties with her family?

MR. LASKARZEWSKI SUGGESTS:

I HAVE LIVED A THOUSAND YEARS

(Bitton)

After liberation from Auschwitz, fourteen-year-old Elli, her brother, and their mother attempt to rebuild their lives in Czechoslovakia. But it doesn't take long for Elli to realize that even though the war is over, anti-Semitism is not, so she and her family decide to escape to America along with thousands of other Jews. Little do they know what agonies and adventures await them still. Elli's memoir of her experiences after Auschwitz will captivate readers as they follow her through heartache, frustration, adventure, excitement, love, and ultimately, triumph.

MRS. SHEA SUGGESTS:

THEODORE BOONE: THE ABDUCTION

(Grisham)

Theodore Boone is back in a new adventure, and the stakes are higher than ever. When his best friend, April, disappears from her bedroom in the middle of the night, no one, not even Theo Boone - who knows April better than anyone - has answers. As fear ripples through his small hometown and the police hit dead ends, it's up to Theo to use his legal knowledge and investigative skills to chase down the truth and save April. Filled with the page-turning suspense that made John Grisham a number one international bestseller and the undisputed master of the legal thriller, Theodore Boone's trials and triumphs will keep readers guessing until the very end.

Ms. GAUCHER SUGGESTS:

FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS (Bradley)

Author James Bradley has captured the triumph, the heartbreak, and the legacy of the six young men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima. Here is their story.

MRS. STEVENS SUGGESTS: MARLEY: A DOG LIKE NO OTHER

(Grogan)

John and Jenny were just beginning their life together. They were young and in love, with a perfect little house and not a care in the world. Then they brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow furball of a puppy. Life would never be the same!

ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN (Stein)

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs. He has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. A heart-wrenching, but deeply funny and uplifting story of family and loyalty as only a dog can tell it.

MRS. WILSON SUGGESTS:

KEEPER (Peet)

In a newspaper office, Paul Faustino, South America's top football writer, sits opposite the man they call El Gato, the cat, the world's greatest goalkeeper. On the table between them stands the World Cup. In the hours that follow, El Gato tells his incredible life story.

CODE ORANGE (Cooney)

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City, and attracted the attention of terrorists who will use the disease as a weapon.

THE LIGHTNING THIEF (Riordan)

Percy is sent to Camp Half Blood where he journeys to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

THE RED PYRAMID (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.

TOO GOOD TO MISS!!**ANGEL** (Patterson)

In this seventh book in the bestselling series, evil scientists are still trying to convince Max that she needs to save the world, this time by providing the genetic link in speeding up the pace of evolution. Worse, they're trying to convince her that her perfect mate is Dylan, the newest addition to the flock. The problem is that despite herself, Max is starting to believe it. Fang travels the country collecting his own gang of evolved humans, but the two separate flocks must unite to defeat a frightening doomsday cult whose motto is Save the Planet: Kill the Humans. And this time, the true heroine, for once, might just be little Angel.

COUNTDOWN (Wiles)

It's 1962, and it seems that everyone is living in fear. Eleven-year-old Franny Chapman lives with her family in Washington, DC, and can feel the fear of the nation in the days surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis. Amid the pervading threat of nuclear war, Franny must face the tension between herself and her younger brother, figure out where she fits into her family, and learn to look beyond outward appearances. Interspersed throughout are photographs, speeches and slogans of the time adding another dimension to the story.

DOWNSIDERS (Shusterman)

In a story of life underneath New York City, a world called Downside, a fully-functioning society exists. Inevitably, the two worlds collide when Tolan meets Lindsay, a Topsider. But a forbidden romance could mean punishment by death to any Downsider who breaks the rules.

KICK (Myers)

Thirteen-year-old Kevin Johnson is a good kid, a great friend, and a star striker for his Highland, New Jersey soccer team. He has never been in any serious trouble... until the night he ends up in jail. Enter Sergeant Brown, a cop assigned to Kevin's case. Can he help Kevin turn things around before it's too late?

MESSENGER (Lowry)

The exciting sequel to *The Giver*. Life in the Village is about to change. Matty has been living with the blind man known as Seer for several years now. Matty had come to the Village as a wild young boy but has since grown into a fine young man. But things have been changing lately. People have been changing. Now they want to close the Village. They want no more strangers coming in. Matty and Seer do not understand what is going on but they know it is serious. And they are determined to bring Seer's daughter, Kira into the Village before it is closed forever.

MISSING IN ACTION (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.

PAYBACK TIME (Deuker)

Overweight, somewhat timid Mitch reluctantly agrees to be the sports reporter for the Lincoln High newspaper because he is determined to be a writer, but he senses a real story in Angel, a talented football player who refuses to stand out on the field--or to discuss his past.

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER (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.

THE ROCK AND THE RIVER (Magoon)

The year is 1968 and the Civil Rights Movement is in full swing in Chicago, Illinois. Teenager Sam Childs is caught between his father, who follows the non-violent path of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his older brother who has joined the Black Panther Party and its sometimes violent methods. Will Sam choose the rock or the river?

THE RUNNING DREAM (Van Draanen)

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run?

SHIP BREAKER (Bacigalupi)

In the near-future, salvager Nailer has the chance of a lifetime when a yacht washes up after a storm. When he finds a survivor on board, he must decide whether to save her life or enrich his own. (**Mature Readers**)

TRASH (Mulligan)

Raphael and Gardeo, both 14, with a younger boy, Rat, investigate the origins of a bag Raphael finds when sorting through trash in a third-world country's dump.

THREE BLACK SWANS (Cooney)

When 16-year-old Missy Vianello decides to convince her classmates that her cousin Claire is really her long-lost identical twin, she has no idea that the results of her prank will be so life-changing.

VIOLA IN REEL LIFE (Trigiani)

Aspiring filmmaker 14-year-old Viola is the child of devoted documentary filmmakers, but her parents' overseas assignment brings her to Prefect Academy, a boarding school for girls. Viola is sure that she'll hate Prefect, but she befriends her roommates, learning that she can flourish in a new environment.

WARLOCK (Scott)

(Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel: Book 5)
In the fifth installment of this bestselling series, the twins of prophecy 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.