



Cobb Middle School

2017 Summer Reading



All 6th grade students are expected to read ONE of the three books listed below for the 2017-2018 school year. Although summer provides a break from the daily structured learning routines at school, we want to ensure that students continue to build and expand their love of reading. The language arts department has compiled the following list of books for your student's selection. These books are based on current student interests and should keep your student engaged!

Students will take a summer reading assessment in their language arts class on the first Friday of when school starts. The test will assess general level knowledge of the book that was selected. To help with this, students are encouraged to create a "legal" cheat sheet about their novel choice. The "legal" cheat sheet cannot be any larger than an index card. Students can write notes on the front and back of their index card. The "legal" cheat sheet will not be graded; it will solely be used to assist students during their assessment. On the back of this handout here is a list of guided questions that can be used to help direct students as to what they need to know for their assessment.

The books below were selected by the language arts department and fall within the appropriate grade level Lexile range. A Lexile measure is a valuable piece of information that assigns a readability level to a text, like a book or magazine article. A Lexile text measure is based on two strong predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: word frequency and sentence length. Many other factors affect the relationship between a reader and a book, including its content, the age and interests of the reader, and the design of the actual book. The Lexile range for middle school is 665L-1100L. The Lexile band is not the only factor in determining the appropriateness of a book for middle school students. Other things to consider are your child's interests and the subjects dealt with in the book.

Rising 6th Grade Novel Choices:

***The Skin I'm In* by Sharon Flake (Lexile: 670):** Maleeka Madison is a seventh grader who has low self-esteem because of her dark skin color. She is tall, skinny, and dark-skinned. That's a problem for her, because it's such a problem for everyone else at school, it seems. To make her life easier, Maleeka befriends the toughest girl in school. The problem is, bullies force you to pay more than you'd like, so life for Maleeka just gets harder, until she learns to stand up for herself and love the skin she's in.

***Transall Saga* by Gary Paulsen (Lexile: 630):** Mark's solo camping trip to the desert begins as any other camping trip, until a mysterious beam of light appears. The trip turns into a terrifying and thrilling adventure when the light beam transports Mark into another time, and what appears to be another planet! Although he is searching for his way back to earth, in the meantime he is forced to make a life in this unknown world. He meets primitive tribes and shares the joy of human bonds, but this end of isolation in the new world also brings war and a struggle for power.

***Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine (Lexile: 630):** Caitlin has Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon was killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way things were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word closure--and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be so black and white after all.

Per School Board Policy 2240, Leon County Schools recognizes that certain instructional materials may conflict with a student's or parent's value system. In such cases, a parent may request in writing an alternative summer reading assignment. Please direct inquiries to Mr. Roberson or Mr. McDaniel.

(Summer Reading Discussion Questions on Back)

Summer Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the title of the novel? (underline or *italicize* the book's title)
2. Who is the author of the novel?
3. What is the setting of the novel? (remember, there are two parts to the setting: time and place)
4. Create a list of the main characters from the novel.
5. Describe the main character (appearance and personality).
6. How does the main character's perspective shift from the beginning of the book to the end?
7. Create a plot summary of the novel (15-20 main events covering the entire book).
8. Create a list of the main conflict(s) from the novel: describe them as man vs. ____ (man, nature, society, the unknown, or himself) and describe them in reference to the book's characters.
9. What is the resolution to the novel's central conflict?
10. What is the central theme or themes represented throughout the novel?
11. What external conflicts do the characters in the novel face?
12. Identify the protagonist and antagonist in the novel.
13. How does the setting affect the character's struggles and conflicts?
14. Describe the main problem the protagonist has to overcome, and the obstacles to overcoming it.
15. What is the mood of the novel?