

8th Grade Summer Reading 2018

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Note to Parents

One of our district's primary goals is to develop lifelong readers and learners. For this reason, we like to offer students a variety of books from which to select.

*Each middle school student is required to select **at least one** book from his or her grade level's summer reading list. Each student should read this book for enjoyment while keeping the grade level guiding questions and theme in mind. It is the student's responsibility to record evidence from the text and a brief explanation of how it relates to the grade level theme on the attached handout. This will help your child be prepared to write and speak about the text upon his or her return to school in September.*

Thank you for encouraging your child's reading. We look forward to building on the foundation you have helped establish during the summer.

Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues by Patricia and Frederick McKissack

The history of the Negro Leagues is the story of legendary heroes such as Cool Papa Bell, who some say was the fastest runner ever to steal a base, and Satchel Paige, whose fastball was called a Bee Ball because all the batter heard was a buzz as it zinged over the plate. Players were forced to endure segregated, second-rate living and playing conditions, but their talent, courage, and determination were always first-rate.

Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

When track star Jessica loses her leg in a school bus accident, she is devastated that she will never run again. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Her family, friends and teammates support her as she returns to school and practice. However, it is her friendship with Rosa, a girl with cerebral palsy, which helps Jessica accept the limitations and discover the gifts of her new life.

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

Meet Maxwell Kane, a timid soul stuck in the body of a teenage giant with size 14 shoes. Haunted by a dark secret in his past, he hides out in the basement room, avoiding the world. But when a new kid moves in next door, Max's life changes forever. The two outcasts from the "normal" world team up to become "Freak the Mighty". Like knights of old, they defend the weak, right every wrong – and solve the mystery of Max's past – proving once and for all that courage comes in all sizes.

Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – The World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steven Sheinken

In 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, a group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

In vivid poems, Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the writer she was to become.

You can find the books at these locations:
Cherry Hill Public Library • www.chplnj.org
856-667-0300

Barnes & Noble • www.barnesandnoble.com
Cherry Hill – 856-486-1492
Marlton – 856-596-7058
Moorestown – 856-608-1622

For more resources about the books, please visit
<https://www.teachingbooks.net/ql9vnm6>

Username: chclc
Password: books



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Name _____

8th Grade Theme: Resiliency - the ability to positively respond to a challenging situation

Guiding questions:

- What characteristics and qualities help a person deal with conflict and change?
- How does conflict lead to change?
- How does an individual's point of view affect the way he or she deals with conflict?
- How might it feel to live through a conflict that disrupts your way of life?
- What problem-solving strategies can individuals use to manage conflict and change?

Directions: The book you have chosen to read this summer will help you to learn about resiliency. Consider how resiliency is exemplified through character, setting, and/or plot development as you read your book. Complete the double-entry journal below with textual evidence and reasoning. Be sure to include examples from the beginning, middle and end of the book. Feel free to use an extra sheet of paper if you run out of room to write.

Title: _____ Author: _____

Textual evidence that exemplifies the theme of resiliency.	Describe how the evidence in the text relates to the theme of resiliency and explain why.
<p>Example from <i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick <i>Freak goes, "Whew! That was a close encounter of the turd kind," and it takes me a second to get the joke, but then I'm laughing, amazed he can be so cool about it, like it was no big deal that Tony D. was after us.</i> Page # <u>31</u></p>	<p><i>Tony D. and his friends were harassing Max and Freak as they walked home. Max was scared, but Freak stuck up for himself and talked back to Tony D. After, Freak is able to laugh about the incident. This shows resiliency because Freak continues to stay positive, and looks for humor in the situations that challenge him.</i></p>
<p>Page(s) # _____</p>	
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Textual evidence that exemplifies the theme of resiliency.	Describe how the evidence in the text relates to the theme of resiliency and explain why.
<p style="text-align: right;">Page(s) # _____</p>	
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