



BALMORAL HALL SCHOOL

SUMMER READING LIST FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 6 SEPTEMBER, 2010

FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST OF SUGGESTED SUMMER READING, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO READ A MINIMUM OF ONE BOOK PLUS THE REQUIRED READING. BE PREPARED TO OFFER ORAL OR WRITTEN RESPONSES WHEN SCHOOL RESUMES IN THE FALL.

REQUIRED READING:

HOLEMAN, LINDA. PROMISE SONG

The year is 1900 and orphaned 14-year-old Rosetta and her beloved younger sister Flora sail from England as “home girls.” They are sent to Canada so that they can have a chance at family life. Their dreams are shattered when Flora is adopted, but Rosetta is deemed to be too old. She is to become a farm worker, far from Flora’s new home. Rosetta learns that true sisterhood can take many forms. The support the two young women offer one another makes each one stronger until they find a way to follow their dreams. Rosetta's pluck and determination make her an admirable heroine.

OR

LITTLE, JEAN. ORPHAN AT MY DOOR

Eleven-year-old Victoria Josephine Cope is a relatively privileged child living in 1897 Guelph, Ontario. Hers is a loving and sheltered existence, a stark contrast to the world inhabited by Marianna Wilson. Marianna is a Bernardo Home child, one of many orphans dispatched from London to help Canadian families. Her arrival at the Cope home precipitates a series of eye-opening experiences for Victoria, who rushes to record her thoughts and feelings at the discovery of a world of cruelty and prejudice. This fictional diary, Jean Little's Orphan at My Door, becomes an introduction to a part of history that's just as alien to children today. Orphan at My Door was named the Canadian Library Association 2001 Book of the Year for Children.

FICTION:

BLUME, JUDY. BLUBBER

Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it’s like when she, too, becomes a target. Self-esteem and individuality come up against popularity and conformity. Told with warmth and humour.

BURNETT, FRANCES HODGSON. THE SECRET GARDEN

Readers love this classic tale of magic as little Mary Lennox explores a locked and abandoned secret garden. This spunky ten-year-old orphan goes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors, where she discovers an invalid cousin, her first friendship, and her own true self.

COOPER, SUSAN. THE DARK IS RISING

On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers he is the last of the Old Ones, dedicated to fighting the forces of evil. Will searches for the six magical signs that will be needed for the battle between the Dark and the Light.

DANA, BARBARA. YOUNG JOAN

Joan, a girl growing up in the French countryside during the Hundred Years' War, begins to hear voices telling her she is destined to reunite her torn country in opposition to the English invaders.

ELLIS, SARAH. OUT OF THE BLUE

Megan struggles to accept her newly discovered half-sister, Natalie, who was given up for adoption, at birth, twenty-four years ago. A solid believable depiction of contemporary family life.

GREENWOOD, BARBARA. A QUESTION OF LOYALTY

While her father is in Toronto helping to quell the Mackenzie rebellion, Deborah finds a wounded rebel in the barn, and must choose between loyalty to her father and the wounded boy.

JOHNSTON, JULIE. HERO OF LESSER CAUSES

In 1946 twelve-year-old Keely is devastated when her older brother Patrick is paralyzed by polio, and she starts a campaign to reawaken his waning interest in life. Action, tragedy, and humour.

KONIGSBURG, E. L. VIEW FROM SATURDAY (NEWBERY AWARD)

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. Wrought with deep compassion and a keen sense of balance, this imaginative novel affirms the existence of small miracles in everyday life.

KOSS, AMY. GIRLS

Each of the girls in a middle-school clique reveals the strong, manipulative hold one of the group exerts on the others, causing hurt and self-doubt among the girls. Authentic characters lead readers to question the value to be placed on belonging to the group, popularity, and individualism.

L'ENGLE, MADELEINE. A WRINKLE IN TIME (NEWBERY AWARD)

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government. A well-loved classic of warmth, love, and mystery.

McNICOLL, SYLVIA. **BRINGING UP BEAUTY**

Twelve-year old Elizabeth's life gets even more complicated when the family agrees to foster Beauty, a black lab puppy, before she's trained as a guide dog. Elizabeth swears she won't love Beauty, but life has a way of taking its own lead in the most unexpected ways.

NAYLOR, PHYLLIS REYNOLDS. **SHILOH** (NEWBERY MEDAL)

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. A story of courage and compassion.

OPPEL, KENNETH. **SILVERWING**

The thrilling story of Shade, a young silverwing bat, who is separated from his colony during the long winter migration, and finds himself on an incredible journey. Epic story of adventure and suspense. Sequels.

SPINELLI, JERRY. **MANIAC MAGEE** (NEWBERY MEDAL)

Jeffrey Lionel Magee can hit a ball farther than anyone, outrun dogs, untie any knot and manage on his own with amazing grace. "Kid's got to be a maniac," the folks in Two Mills say and legend springs up around this exceptional boy. Presents a humourous poignant look at race relations in a thoroughly readable tale.

TOLKIEN, J.R.R. **THE HOBBIT (AND SEQUELS)**

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. Classic fantasy- the epic battle between good and evil.

NONFICTION:

BALLARD, ROBERT. **EXPLORING THE TITANIC**

The story of the Titanic's first and final voyage as well as her rediscovery and exploration.

BROWN, H. **BABYSITTER'S HANDBOOK: THE CARE & KEEPING OF KIDS**

Find out how you can become the best babysitter on your block with this bestselling title from American Girl. Learn how to calm kids, feed finicky eaters, control tantrums, entertain, change diapers, and more! Plus: Sitter secrets and other professional advice will keep kids and parents asking for you! Includes an address book, list of books and DVDs to share, reward stickers, notepads, business cards etc.

FREIDMAN, DEBORA. **PICTURE THIS: FUN PHOTOGRAPHY AND CRAFTS**

A great introduction to the techniques of lighting, angle, and composition for the beginner photographer. Related crafts add to the fun.

GORRELL, CAROLINE. **NORTH STAR TO FREEDOM**

This book follows the history of slavery in Canada and the bitter fight for its abolition. Personal accounts add a strong human interest element to this thoroughly researched and clearly written book.

GRAYDON, S. MADE YOU LOOK: HOW ADVERTISING WORKS AND WHY YOU SHOULD KNOW

Advertising, explains Graydon, is increasingly "the water in which we swim," a reference to a Ghanaian proverb, and some of the most sought-after fish in the pond are consumers in the 8-14 demographic. This lively analysis seeks to raise preteens' awareness of themselves as targets and vectors of advertising messages. It outlines the common techniques advertisers use to manipulate consumer appetites and then provides a quick list of questions young consumers can use to help ensure that their purchasing decisions are tempered by a healthy degree of critical thinking.

WYATT, VALERIE. THE SCIENCE BOOK FOR GIRLS AND OTHER INTELLIGENT BEINGS

An introduction to the fun science of everyday life, like what happens during digestion and how soap works. Includes experiments to explain science ideas and stories about women scientists and what they do. Includes helpful suggestions for adults on how to share science with girls in everyday situations.

BIOGRAPHIES:

DAHL, ROALD. BOY

Presents humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood which includes summer vacations in Norway and an English boarding school.

LITTLE, JEAN. LITTLE BY LITTLE

Nearly blind from birth, Jean Little constantly faced new difficulties. Encouraged by her parents, she began to write. She now is one of Canada's leading children's authors renowned for her sensitivity and humour.

POETRY:

FLIESCHMAN, P. JOYFUL NOISE: POEMS IN TWO VOICES (NEWBERY MEDAL)

A collection of poems describing the characteristics and activities of a variety of insects.

Designed to be read by two, the poems are comical, evocative, and imaginative.

MYTHOLOGY:

YOLEN, JANE, YOUNG HEROES SERIES:

-ATALANTA AND THE ARCADIAN BEAST

-JASON AND THE GORGON'S BLOOD

-HIPPOLYTE AND THE CURSE OF THE AMAZONS

-ODYSSEUS AND THE SERPENT MAZE