



# BALMORAL HALL SCHOOL

## SUMMER READING LIST FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 7 SEPTEMBER, 2010

FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST OF SUGGESTED SUMMER READING, PLEASE READ A MINIMUM OF **TWO BOOKS PLUS THE REQUIRED READING**. BE PREPARED TO OFFER ORAL OR WRITTEN REPSONSES WHEN SCHOOL RESUMES IN THE FALL.

### **REQUIRED READING:**

McEWAN, IAN. **DAYDREAMER**

It seems to many people that ten-year-old Peter Fortune spends most of his days with his head in the clouds living a quiet, perhaps boring life. Only Peter knows of the fantastic adventures he experiences when he lets his mind wander and he begins to daydream. Through his daydreams, Peter learns to see the world from numerous points of view. McEwan's vivid and poetic writing, celebrating the creative abilities of a gifted 10-year-old, reveals a profound understanding of childhood.

BELL, WILLIAM. **ZACK**

The son of a Jewish father and black mother, high school senior Zack has never been allowed to meet his mother's family, but after doing a research project on a former slave, he travels from his home in Canada to Natchez, Mississippi to find his grandfather. The real power of the story, the answer to racism, lies in the individuality of the characters and in the immediacy of Zack's contemporary first-person narrative. A wry mix of laughter, anger and tears.

CREECH, SHARON. **WALK TWO MOONS** (NEWBERY MEDAL)

Thirteen-year-old Sal Hiddle is on a journey with her grandparents to find her mother. On the way, Sal tells her grandparents the story of her friend Phoebe, who receives messages from a "lunatic" and whose mother has also disappeared. This touching story of love, loss, and growth works with fully realized characters.

CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER PAUL. **BUD, NOT BUDDY** (NEWBERY AWARD)

An orphaned runaway, Bud, copes with the adult world with his numbered "rules and things". His few treasures from his former life with "Momma," are kept in a battered suitcase. One, a flyer advertising a musical group, leads him on a fantasy journey to an amazing reality. A 1999 Gold Award Winner.

FRIESEN, GAYLE. **JANEY'S GIRL**

As fourteen-year-old Claire and her mother drive across the country, Claire tries to unravel some of the mysteries about her family. But families have more secrets than Claire realizes, and real-

life relationships are more complicated than a young girl's dreams. Friesen tells an involving story, particularly strong in revealing the emotions of other characters besides Claire. A coming-of-age novel with a twist.

GEORGE, JEAN CRAIGHEAD. **JULIE OF THE WOLVES** (NEWBERY MEDAL)

While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the north slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack. Like many teenagers, this girl is searching for answers. Her choices, however, may determine whether she lives or dies. Compelling reading.

HOLUBITSKY, KATHERINE. **ALONE AT NINETY FOOT**

Fourteen-year-old Pam is struggling to come to terms with the emotional overload that her mother's death has brought to her life. A thoughtful, passionate, often funny, sometimes sad story of how she puts her life back together.

JORDAN, SHERRYL. **THE HUNTING OF THE LAST DRAGON**

In England in 1356, as a monk records his every word, a young reluctant hero, Jude, tells of his journey with a young Chinese noblewoman to kill the last dragon. A story within a story - a combination of fantasy, romance, and historical fiction. Makes absorbing reading.

LUNN, JANET. **SHADOW IN HAWTHORN BAY**

When fifteen-year-old Mary journeys from Scotland to Canada in search of her cousin, she makes a tragic discovery and alienates the townsfolk. A heroine with great strength of character. Mysterious historical fiction.

McCAFFREY, ANNE. **DRAGONSONG** (HUGO AND NEBULAR AWARD)

Forbidden by her father to indulge in music in any way, Menolly runs away taking shelter with the planet's fire lizards who, along with her music, open a new life for her. McCaffrey is one of the best-loved writers of fantasy

McCLINTOCK, NORAH. **SCARED TO DEATH**  
(MANITOBA YOUNG READERS CHOICE AWARD)

Just days after she came to Chloe for help, Tessa is found dead. As Chloe gets closer to finding the killer, the killer is watching her. Daughter of the investigating detective, Chloe has much to learn about the truth behind the mystery and the people involved.

PAULSEN, GARY. **THE ISLAND**

When Wil's father gets a new job necessitating a move, Wil makes the journey two-fold. He takes this opportunity to make an inner journey to learn more about himself as he retreats to an uninhabited island on the lake. There he reflects, writes, and paints. The outside world must still be dealt with: parents, town bullies, and his new friend Susan.

PERKINS, LYNNE RAE. **CRISS CROSS** (NEWBERY AWARD)

There is a great deal of humor in this gentle story about a group of childhood friends facing the crossroads of life and how they wish to live it. Young teens will certainly relate to the self-consciousnesses and uncertainty of all of the characters, each of whom is straining toward clarity and awareness. The book is profusely illustrated with Perkins's amusing drawings and some photographs.

SMITH, BETTY. **A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN** (CLASSIC)

In this moving novel, a young girl growing up in colourful turn-of-the-century Brooklyn, Francie Nolan is an appealing protagonist – romantic, resourceful, hungry for beauty. Her struggle to survive and thrive is told with humour and pathos.

STEINBECK, JOHN. **THE RED PONY** (CLASSIC)

Ten-year-old Jody carefully grooms and trains the red pony colt his father has given him, until he unwisely leaves it out in the corral during a rainstorm. He desperately tries to nurse the pony back to health. A gripping story of a young boy with courage to explore deeper meaning.

TWAIN, MARK. **THE PRINCE AND PAUPER** (CLASSIC)

When young Edward VI of England and a poor boy who resembles him exchange places, each learns something about the other's very different station in life. This adventure of drama and narrow escapes is filled with Twain's wit and humour.

WILDER, THORNTON. **THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY** (PULITZER PRIZE)  
(CLASSIC)

A Franciscan Brother searches into the lives of five people hurled into the gulf below when a bridge collapsed about two hundred years before. This search explores the true meaning of the human condition.

YOLEN AND HARRIS. **GIRL IN A CAGE**

As English armies invade Scotland in 1306, eleven-year-old Princess Marjorie, daughter of the newly crowned Scottish King, Robert the Bruce, is captured by England's King Edward Longshanks and held in a cage on public display. This heroine models ingenuity and strength of character.

### **HISTORICAL FICTION:**

AUCH, MARY JANE. **ASHES OF ROSES**

Sixteen-year-old Margaret Rose Nolan, newly arrived from Ireland, finds work at New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory shortly before the 1911 fire in which 146 employees died. The *School Library Journal* describes this book as "Fast-paced, populated by distinctive characters, and anchored in Auch's convincing sense of time and place, this title is a good choice for readers who like historical fiction."

AVI. **THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE** (NEWBERY HONOR)

As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew. Awash with shipboard activity, intense feelings, and a keen sense of time and place, the story is a throwback to good old-fashioned adventure yarns on the high seas

CUSHMAN, KAREN. **CATHERINE CALLED BIRDY** (NEWBERY HONOR)

The fourteen-year-old daughter of a rustic knight records the events of her days in the year 1290, writing perceptive, scathing, and often raucously funny observations about her family, friends, and would-be suitors. A delightful, rebellious heroine determined not to marry the man of her father's choice.

PATERSON, KATHERINE. **LYDDIE**

Thirteen-year-old Lyddie has much to contend with working at a fabric factory in the 1840's. Her fierce spirit helps her face loneliness, illness, and loss at too early an age. She is all too aware of the issues of inequality to women and slavery. She finds hope and courage that reading education will lead to a better future.

## **ANIMAL/ADVENTURE**

ARMSTRONG, W.M.H. **SOUNDER** (NEWBERY AWARD)

Wrongly accused, an innocent black man and his son are helped in their escape from pursuers by a loyal and tenacious hound. An uplifting portrayal of hope and strength of character in the face of profound human tragedy.

HERRIOT, JAMES. **ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL**

A country veterinary surgeon describes the joys and trials of his profession and recalls his early career and experiences with his unique clientele. His compassionate stories are touching, humorous, and enlightening. Storytelling at its finest.

LONDON, JACK. **CALL OF THE WILD** (CLASSIC)

The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is stolen and shipped to the Klondike gold fields during the Gold Rush of the 1890's. Buck has to learn to survive in the brutal world of the frozen north, and deal with humans – some fair, others cruel.

LONDON, JACK. **WHITE FANG**

A young man tries to fulfill his father's wish to find gold in the treacherous Yukon Valley of Alaska. Along the way he befriends a veteran gold miner and a magnificent wolf dog named White Fang. Half dog, half wolf, White Fang has not known kindness before this young man's arrival. Can he overcome the cruelty and brutality of his past and accept human kindness?

## **BIOGRAPHY**

FILIPOVIC, ZLATA. **ZLATA'S DIARY**

In September 1991, shortly before war broke out on the streets of Sarajevo, eleven-year-old Zlata Filipovic began to keep a diary. In a voice both innocent and wise, she wrote of the horror of war, the death of friends, a shortage of food, and days spent in fear – and issued a compelling plea for peace that has moved parents and children and will continue to awaken the conscience of the world.

