



# BALMORAL HALL SCHOOL

## SUMMER READING LIST FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 8 SEPTEMBER, 2010

FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST OF SUGGESTED SUMMER READING, PLEASE READ A MINIMUM OF **2 BOOKS PLUS THE REQUIRED READING**. ONE BOOK MUST BE FROM THE NONFICTION SECTION. BE PREPARED TO OFFER ORAL OR WRITTEN RESPONSES WHEN SCHOOL RESUMES IN THE FALL.

### **REQUIRED READING:**

LOWRY, LOIS. **GATHERING OF BLUE**

Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg, lives in a world where the weak are cast aside. When she is given a task that no other community member can carry out, Kira soon realizes that she is surrounded by many mysteries and secrets. No one must know of her plans to uncover the truth about her world—and to find out what exists beyond it.

### **FICTION**

ADAMS, RICHARD. **WATERSHIP DOWN**

Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

ANDERSON, LAURIE HALSE. **SPEAK**

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

AVI. **CRISPIN** (NEWBERY AWARD)

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

BENNETT, JAY. **SKINHEAD**

A plea from a dying man he has never seen before involves nineteen-year-old Jonathan in a life-and-death struggle with white-supremacist skinheads.

BRASHARES, ANN. **THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS**

During their first summer apart, four teenage girls, best friends since earliest childhood, stay in touch through a shared pair of secondhand jeans that magically adapts to each of their figures and affects their attitudes to their different summer experiences.

CORMIER, ROBERT. **THE CHOCOLATE WAR**

A young high school student refuses to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and learns about intimidation and peer pressure first hand.

DICKINSON, PETER. **BONE FROM A DRY SEA**

In two parallel stories, an intelligent female member of a prehistoric tribe becomes instrumental in advancing the lot of her people, and the daughter of a paleontologist is visiting him on a dig in Africa when important fossil remains are discovered.

DUNCAN, LOIS. **DAUGHTERS OF EVE**

The advisor of an exclusive high school girl's club uses her devoted club members as instruments of revenge against all men.

JORDAN, SHERRYL. **THE RAGING QUIET**

Suspicious of sixteen-year-old Marnie, a newcomer to their village, the residents accuse her of witchcraft when she discovers that the village madman is not crazy but deaf and she begins to communicate with him through hand gestures.

HINTON, S. **THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW**

Sixteen-year-old Mark and Byron have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to disintegrate.

HINTON, S. **THE OUTSIDERS**

The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

KADAHATA, C. **KIRA KIRA** (Newbery Award)

Katie Takeshima worships her older sister, Lynn, who knows everything and takes care of Katie while their parents are working long hours in their small Georgia town in the late 1950s. It's Lynn who shows Katie the glittering beauty (*kira-kira*) of the stars and who prepares Katie for the prejudice she will encounter as one of the few Japanese American kids in their school. But when Katie is 10, Lynn, 14, falls ill, and everything changes. This quiet, powerful story lingers long after the last page is turned.

MCNAUGHTEN, JANET. **THE SECRET UNDER MY SKIN**

In the year 2368, in the harsh, bleak government work camp where she lives, Blay Raytree refuses to give up her name, or her passion for reading. Then she is chosen to be a tutor to Marrella, a bio-indicator whose environmental sensitivities set her apart. She is introduced to a new life, and ends up joining an ideological war she was scarcely aware of as secret after secret explodes around her.

MIKLOWITZ, GLORIA. **THE WAR BETWEEN THE CLASSES**

Seventeen-year-old Emiko, brought up in a strict Japanese-American family, is in love with handsome blond Adam, although she realizes her old-fashioned father expects her to find a Japanese husband.

PARK, LINDA. **A SINGLE SHARD** (NEWBERY MEDAL)

Park molds a moving tribute to perseverance and creativity in this finely etched novel set in mid-to late 12<sup>th</sup> century Korea. She charts Tree Ear's transformation from apprentice to artist and

portrays his selflessness during a pilgrimage to Songdo to show Min's work to the royal court. Readers will feel the hunger and cold that Tree ear experiences, as well as his shame, fear, gratitude, and love. A well-crafted novel with an unusual setting.

PECK, RICHARD. **THE TEACHER'S FUNERAL: A COMEDY IN THREE PARTS**

When the local teacher dies, Russell's older sister takes over her position. This alarming development calls for action and even retaliation, but Russell finds Tansy more than a match for his mischief, pranks, and ill-considered plans. Peck is in his element here. The dry wit and unpretentious tone make the story's events comical, its characters memorable, and its conclusion unexpectedly moving.

PECK, ROBERT NEWTON. **A DAY NO PIGS WOULD DIE**

To a thirteen-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns "doing what's got to be done", especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.

PULLMAN, PHILIP. **THE GOLDEN COMPASS**

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

REISS, JOHANNA. **THE UPSTAIRS ROOM**

A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two and a half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II.

RENNISON, LOUISE. **ANGUS, THONGS, AND FULL FRONTAL SNOGGING**

Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

WOLFF, VIRGINIA EUWER. **BAT 6**

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one sixth grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface. This novel speaks volumes about courage, responsibility, and reconciliation all in a book about softball

## **HISTORICAL FICTION**

CUSHMAN, KAREN. **THE MIDWIFE'S APPRENTICE**

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

MEYER, CAROLYN. **MARY, BLOODY MARY**

Mary Tudor, who would reign briefly as Queen of England during the mid-sixteenth century, tells the story of her troubled childhood as daughter of King Henry VIII.

UCHIDA, YOSHIKO. **JAR OF DREAMS**

A young girl grows up in a closely-knit Japanese American family in California during the 1930's, a time of great prejudice.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **SUZUKI, DAVID. DAVID SUZUKI: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

The book begins with his life-changing encounters with racism while interned in a Canadian concentration camp during World War II and continues through his troubled teenage years and later successes as a scientist and host of PBS's *The Nature of Things*. With characteristic candor and passion, he describes his growing consciousness of the natural world and humankind's precarious place in it; his travels throughout the world and his meetings with international leaders, from Nelson Mandela to the Dalai Lama; and the abiding role of nature and family in his life.

## **NONFICTION**

### **CARTER, DOROTHY. HIS MAJESTY, QUEEN HATSHEPSUT**

A fictionalized account of the life of Hatshepsut, a Queen in ancient Egypt who declared herself King and ruled as such for more than twenty years.

### **CROWE, CHRIS. GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER: THE EMMETT TILL CASE**

The Emmett Till case was not the sole cause of the civil rights movement, but it was the final indignity that caused the flood of outrage to overflow the dam of racial injustice. Crowe's research is extensive and his writing is well suited to his audience. The black-and-white photographs add tension and realism to the story.

### **HOPPING, LORRAINE JEAN. BONE DETECTIVE: THE STORY OF FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST DIANE FRANCE**

Diane France loves bones. Why? Because they talk to her. Every skeleton she meets whispers secrets about the life—and death—of its owner. Diane can hear those secrets because she's a forensic anthropologist, a bone detective. She has the science skills and know-how to examine bones for clues to a mystery: Who was this person and how did he or she die?

### **OPDYKE, IRENE GUT. IN MY HANDS: MEMORIES OF A HOLOCAUST RESCUER**

Recounts the experiences of the author who, as a young Polish girl, hid and saved Jews during the Holocaust.

### **SCHWAGER, TINA AND MICHELE SCHUERGER. GUTSY GIRLS: YOUNG WOMEN WHO DARE**

Twenty-five young women share their adventures in such activities as skydiving, building homes, and mountain climbing, demonstrating the value of courage, commitment, and a positive attitude.