

The Woodward School



THE WOODWARD SCHOOL
1894

Middle School - Grade 8 Summer Reading 2020



June 2020

Dear Grade 8 Woodward Students and Families:

Summer reading is assigned to promote reading outside the classroom, and in certain cases, to prepare students for specific courses in the upcoming academic year.

Over the summer, all students are expected to read the books required for English and Science – a total of six books. Of course, reading more is enthusiastically recommended!

There is a Reading Log at the back of this booklet where you should list the titles of the books that you read over the summer. You and your parent or guardian are asked to sign the Reading Log form attesting that you have read those books. **Please bring the completed form to your English instructor on September 10th.** Enjoy your summer and reading!

Sincerely,

Jane Shanny
Middle School Academy Chair

Kevin Coughlin
English Department Chair

Lisa Prostack
Science Department Chair

English

Summer Reading is a crucial part of maintaining the skills your student developed through the previous school year and is also a good habit for life-long learners to develop.

All English students have reading assignments, which must be completed and turned in on September 10th. These should be handwritten on the first page of a composition notebook students are asked to bring with them and in the format shown further in this letter.

The books on the Summer Reading list are also the books required for the entirety of the 2020-2021 English course. This ensures that students have ample time to read and enjoy the books at their own pace and improves their ability to participate more in-depth during class. On the next page you will find the ISBN for each book and we recommend those particular editions. On the first day of school, students will receive a general calendar, giving an overview of when each book will be needed in class, and they will also get another reminder a month prior to when that book is needed.

Students should bring to English class, in addition to their composition notebook (not spiral-bound), a 1-inch binder with dividers.

Enjoy your summer and reading! I look forward to meeting you and your student in September.

Kate Palleschi
Middle School English

8th Grade English Summer Reading Book List:

Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc

David Elliot

ISBN 978-1-328-98759-4

The Poet X

Elizabeth Acevedo

ISBN 978-0-06-266281-1

The Firefly Letters

Margarita Engle

ISBN 978-1-250-11096-1

Brown Girl Dreaming

Jacqueline Woodson

ISBN 978-0-14-751582-7

Grade 8 English Summer Reading Assignment: please follow this format for each of your four summer reading books.

Title	<i>Wonderstruck</i>
Author	Brian Selznick
Your Personal Opinion	I really enjoyed this book. I liked that it is told through both pictures and words, and I loved that it featured Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing characters! It's a fun read and I think everyone would find something to like about it.
Describe the Main Character	Ben and Rose are the main characters, even though they live decades apart. Ben lost part of his hearing in an accident after his mother died, and he runs away to New York City to find his absent father. Rose was born Deaf and is searching for her idol, a famous silent film actress.
Describe the Setting	Ben's story takes place in New York City in the 1970s, especially inside the American Museum of Natural History, while Rose's story takes place in the 1920s.
Describe the Plot	Ben and Rose live their lives decades apart, but both are searching for a missing person, and both find their answers in the form of museums. They both feel lost and alone, especially because of their shared disability, and through the book they not only find the answers they're looking for but also a place where they feel like they belong.
Describe Your Favorite Character	My favorite character is Jamie, a friend that Ben makes at the American Museum of Natural History. His father works at the museum and Jamie spends his days wandering the museum, both the parts open to the public and the parts hidden away. I love the idea of being able to explore that world, and I found his friendship with Ben really nice.
Favorite Quote	"Maybe, thought Ben, we are all cabinets of wonders."

Science

Science Summer Reading - Students Entering Grade 8 Physical Science

Welcome to Physical Science! The following books will get you thinking about what we will learn this year. These books can be ordered from www.barnesandnoble.com or www.amazon.com. Both books on the list are required.

As you read, you will list fun facts you have learned. Please use the attached forms to list your facts. This packet is due the first week of school and you will receive points toward your first term grade.

Have fun!

Book List

A Crash Course in Forces and Motion with Max Axiom, Super Scientist
Emily Sohn
ISBN-13: 9781515746386

The Dynamic World of Chemical Reactions with Max Axiom, Super Scientist
Agnieszka Biskup
ISBN-13: 9781429656351

Science Summer Reading

Students Entering Grade 8

Student Name: _____

Book Title: A Crash Course in Forces and Motion with Max Axiom, Super Scientist
Author: Emily Sohn

As you read, list the **Fun Facts** you have learned from each section.

Fun Facts from Section 1: Forces That Move Us

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

Fun Facts from Section 2: Motion Is a Weighty Issue

- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Fun Facts from Section 3: Give and Take

- 5. _____
- 6. _____

Fun Facts from Section 4: Around and Around We Go

- 7. _____
- 8. _____

Fun Facts from More About Forces and Motion

- 9. _____
- 10. _____

Science Summer Reading

Students Entering Grade 8

Student Name: _____

Book Title: The Dynamic World of Chemical Reactions with Max Axiom

Author: Agnieszka Biskup

As you read, list the **Fun Facts** you have learned from each section.

Fun Facts from Section 1: Reactions Around Us

1. _____

2. _____

Fun Facts from Section 2: Matter, Atoms and Molecules

3. _____

4. _____

Fun Facts from Section 3: Changing Matter

5. _____

6. _____

Fun Facts from Section 4: Dynamic Reactions

7. _____

8. _____

Fun Facts from More About Chemical Reactions

9. _____

10. _____

Middle School Free Read Recommendations

Classics

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*

The four March sisters experience joy and sorrow while growing up during the Civil War in mid-nineteenth-century New England.

Other works by Alcott: *Jo's Boys*, *An Old-Fashioned Girl*, *Rose in Bloom*

Burnett, Francis Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*

Mary, a 10-year old orphan, is sent to live on the Yorkshire moors. During her stay, she meets many interesting people and uncovers an abandoned, mysterious garden.

Other works by Hodgson: *A Little Princess*

Cormier, Robert. *The Chocolate War*

Jerry Renault refuses to join the school's annual fund raising drive. As a result, he suffers devastating consequences and arouses the wrath of the school bullies.

Other works by Cormier: *I Am the Cheese*

London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild*

A dog named Buck is stolen and sold into a brutal existence. He reverts to the wild and becomes the leader of a pack of wolves.

Other works by London: *White Fang*, *To Build a Fire*

Steinbeck, John. *The Red Pony*

Jody encounters life and death through the ownership of a beautiful red pony.

Other works by Steinbeck: *The Pearl*

Verne, Jules. *Around the World in Eighty Days*

Phileas Fog wagers half his fortune and abandons his quiet life to circle the earth in a mere 80 days.

Other works by Verne: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*

Contemporary

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*

Junior is determined to take control over the fate he thought he was destined to live.

You may also enjoy: *An American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

Avi. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

Charlotte returns home to Rhode Island in 1832 and experiences many interesting events on the journey at sea.

You may also enjoy: *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

Applegate, Kathryn. *The One and Only Ivan*

A gorilla in captivity meets a new friend who helps him see things from a new perspective.

You may also enjoy: *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, and *Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker*

A teenage boy experiences a high-stakes adventure where loyalty is tested.

Other works by Bacigalupi: *The Drowned Cities* (sequel to *Ship Breaker*)

Budhos, Marina. *Tell Us We're Home*

Jaya, Maria and Lola attend school in a wealthy town where their mothers work for some of the children's families. Each girl is tested by systematic injustices.

You may also enjoy: *The Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers

Carmichael, Clay. *Wild Things*

Recently orphaned Zoe is sent to live with her surly uncle. Both soon learn about love, trust and the importance of family.

You may also enjoy: *Invisible Lines* by Mary Amato and *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper

Gantos, Jack. *Dead End in Norvelt*

Jack has an incredibly wild two-month adventure when he is grounded “for life” and sent to help a feisty neighbor in an unusual chore – typing obituaries.

You may also enjoy: *Twice Toward Justice* by Claudette Colvin

Marchetta, Melinda. *Jellico Road*

After someone she trusts disappears, Taylor is forced to solve pieces of a puzzle that will connect her past and future.

You may also enjoy: *Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell

McCaughrean, Geraldine. *The White Darkness*

Sym’s dream of traveling to the Antarctic becomes real as she sets off on an ideal adventure that soon turns into a nightmare.

You may also enjoy: *Peak* by Roland Smith

Perkins, Lynne Rae. *Criss Cross*

The two lives of Debby and Hector intersect when they are faced with the crossroads of life and how they each wish to live it.

You may also enjoy: *Kira-Kira* by Kadohata and *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

Historical Fiction

Compestine, Yin Chang. *Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party*

Ling leads a happy life in China until Chairman Mao’s officers move into her apartment. For the next four years Ling’s world unravels as she tries to grow up in a world filled with mistrust, hatred and fear.

You may also enjoy: *Climbing the Stairs* by Padma Venkatraman

Cooney, Caroline. *Goddess of Yesterday*

Anaxandra is taken hostage to the island of Siphnos where she is a companion for the Princess Callisto. When the Trojan War begins, she must assume multiple disguises to survive.

You may also enjoy: *Shadow Spinner* by Jane Fletcher

Lai, Thannha. *Inside Out and Back Again*

Ha loves her hometown of Saigon. She finds joy in her traditions, comfort in the warmth of her friends and the beauty surrounding her. All she loves becomes threatened when the Vietnam War begins and forces Ha and her family to flee.

You may also enjoy: *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper.

Lasky, Kathryn. *True North: A Novel of the Underground Railroad*

Fourteen-year-old Afrika, a run-away slave from a Virginia plantation, and Lucy, a socialite from Boston become allies and embark on a dangerous journey to cross the Canadian border.

You may also enjoy: *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Explorers* by Jennifer Armstrong

Levine, Gail Carson. *Dave at Night*

When Dave’s father dies, he is sent to the cold and strict Hebrew Home for Boys in Harlem. Dave becomes entranced by the Harlem buzz, jazz musicians and mystifying strangers.

You may also enjoy: *Chains* and *Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson

Miller, Sarah. *Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller*

Feisty Annie Sullivan arrived at Ivy Green with an impossible task – teaching a child who was deaf, blind and as ferocious as any wild animal. A story of how Sullivan’s brazen determination fostered a deep connection with Helen Keller.

You may also enjoy: *The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had* by Kristin Levine

Paterson, Katherine. *Bread and Roses Too*

When her widowed mother and older sister join the strikes at the Lawrence mill, Rosa is sent to Vermont to live with a foster family. On Rosa’s journey she meets Jake who wants to pose as her brother.

You may also enjoy: *Day of Tears* by Julius Lester

Rinaldi, Ann. *A Break with Charity*

Susanna desperately wants to join the group of girls who meet every week at the parsonage. She soon discovers that the girls set off a torrent of accusations and falsely accuse many innocent people of witchcraft. Susanna is forced to choose between loyalty and telling the truth.

Other works by Rinaldi: *The Fifth of March: A Story of the Boston Massacre*, *The Secret of Sarah Revere*

Spinelli, Jerry. *Milkweed*

A poor Jewish gypsy boy yearns to be a Nazi in occupied Warsaw until he witnesses horror. He faces heartbreak with courage and is forced to survive as an orphan of the Holocaust.

You may also enjoy: *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne

Taylor, Mildred T. *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*

An African American family struggles to stay together in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s.

Other works by Taylor: *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*

Vanderpool, Clare. *Moon Over Manifest*

Abilene is sent to Manifest, Kansas to live with a friend while her father works a railroad job. Disappointed with the town at first, she discovers a cigar box full of mementos that changes her whole experience.

Other works by Vanderpool: *Navigating Early*

Mystery

Abrahams, Peter. *Down the Rabbit Hole: an Echo Falls Mystery*

Ingrid uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her hometown of Echo Falls.

Sequels include: *Behind the Curtain* and *Into the Dark*

Broach, Elyse. *Shakespeare’s Secret*

Hero is named after a character in a Shakespearean play. She sets out to determine the connection between a diamond found in her new house and Shakespeare’s identity.

You may also enjoy: *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliet

Christie, Agatha. *And Then There Were None*

Ten strangers with dark secrets are lured to a secret island and murdered one by one.

Other works by Christie: *Murder on the Orient Express: A Hercule Poirot Mystery*

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*

A collection of murder mysteries stars Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick, Dr. Watson.

Other works by Doyle: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Tales*

A man appears at the home of his childhood friend Roderick Usher and encounters strange and evil happenings.

You may also enjoy: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Science Fiction and Fantasy

Dahl, Roald. *Matilda*

Matilda possesses special powers she will use to rid her school of the evil Miss Trunchbull.

Other works by Dahl: *James and the Giant Peach* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

DuPrau, Jean. *The City of Ember*

Lina and her friend Doon must decipher an ancient cryptic message in order to save their city of Ember.

Sequels include: *The People of Sparks* and *The Prophet of Yonwood*

Gaiman, Neill. *Coraline*

Coraline enters a door to a world that seems similar to her own but is indeed disturbingly different.

You may also enjoy: *Peter Pan: Peter Pan and Wendy in Kensington Garden* by J.M. Barrie

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*

Meg, Charles Wallace and Calvin O'Keefe are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while working on a secret mission for the government.

You may also enjoy: *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster and *Holes* by Louis Sachar

Lewis, C.S. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Four siblings step through a wardrobe door into the land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion to triumph over the evil white witch.

Sequels include: *The Magician's Nephew* and *The Horse and His Boy*

Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass*

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

Sequels include: *The Subtle Knife* and *The Amber Spyglass*

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Harry is a neglected orphan whose destiny is to prove his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Sequels include: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

Poetry

Dickinson, Emily. *The Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson*.

This collection includes more than four hundred poems that were published between Emily's death and 1900. The poems express Dickinson's concepts of life and death and her love of nature.

You may also enjoy: *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman

Frost, Robert. *Robert Frost's Poems*

This anthology features Frost's best works that celebrate the New England countryside, Frost's appreciation of everyday people and his understanding of the human experience.

Other works by Frost: *The Road Not Taken* and *Other Poems*

Giovanni, Nikki. *Ego-Tripping and Other Poems for Young People*

An insightful and fun collection of poetry that captures the essence of the African American experience

Other works by Giovanni: *Chasing Utopia: A Hybrid*

Johnson, Celia. *100 Great Poems for Girls*

This collection of poetry is a great introduction for those encountering poetry for the first time.

You may also enjoy: *Poems to Learn by Heart* by Caroline Kennedy

Silverstein, Shel. *Where the Sidewalk Ends: Poems and Drawings*

This collection of poems is both funny and profound.

Other works by Silverstein: *Falling Up*

Drama

Chase, Mary. *Harvey*

The title character is a large white rabbit that can only be seen by Elwood P. Dowd.

You may also enjoy: *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesserling

Christie, Agatha. *The Mousetrap*

A group is stranded in a boarding house during a snowstorm. One individual happens to be a murderer.

You may also enjoy: *Dial M for Murder* by Frederick Knott

Lawrence, Jerome. *Inherit the Wind*

This play tells the story about what happens when American freedom is threatened.

You may also enjoy: *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller

Shaw, George Bernard. *Pygmalion*

Professor Henry Higgins tries to teach Eliza Doolittle how to be a lady.

You may also enjoy: *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams

The Woodward School
Summer Reading Log

Name _____

Entering Grade 8

Please list titles and authors of all books read - both required and free choice.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Please bring this title list complete with signatures to your English instructor on September 10th. You may add to this list on the back of the page as necessary.