



Summer Reading List for 2020-2021 School Year Students Entering Grade 7

Dear Future Seventh Grader & Parents of a Future Seventh Grader:

Studies have shown that students can lose a month or more of academic progress if they do not continue reading over the summer. This combined with the challenges of our abrupt shift to remote instruction place a priority on staying actively engaged in reading as preparation for next year. As a school, we are committed to providing your child with a rigorous learning environment, which includes maintaining high expectations over the summer. Therefore, the Literacy teachers at Baldi Middle School have instituted a *recommended summer reading* for all students.

Directions: Please select *one novel* from the list below. The list provides three options with three different Lexile levels. The Lexile level corresponds with the difficulty of a text. If you need help selecting a novel, speak with your current Literacy teacher who can point you in the right direction. *You are not required to purchase the novel. [You may borrow an online version of the book from a library](#) or [find a free version online for download](#). If any family anticipates challenges acquiring one of the texts below, please share that concern with your current Literacy teacher.*

1. **Freak the Mighty: Rodman Philbrick (Lexile: 1000)**

A wonderful story of triumph over imperfection, shame, and loss. Large, awkward, learning-disabled Maxwell Kane, whose father is in prison for murdering his mother, and crippled, undersized Kevin are both mocked by their peers; the cruel taunting they endure is all too realistic and believable. The boys establish a friendship-and a partnership. Kevin defends them with his intelligence, while Max is his friend's "legs," affording him a chance to participate in the larger world. Inspired by tales of King Arthur, they become knights fighting for good and true causes. But Kevin's illness progresses, and when he dies, Max is left with the memories of an extraordinary relationship and, perhaps, the insight to think positively about himself and his future. The author writes with empathy, honoring the possibilities of even peripheral characters; Kevin and Max are memorable and luminous. Many YA novels deal with the effects of a friend dying, but this one is somewhat different and very special.

2. **The Giver: Lois Lowry (Lexile: 760)**

Featuring photographic artwork from the feature film on the cover, this handsome edition of *The Giver* is perfect for fans of the movie and the literary classic. Lois Lowry's 1994 Newbery Medal-winning tale has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on Jonas who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.

3. **The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson and the Olympians Book 1: Rick Riordan (Lexile: 740)**

Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse-Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him.

Choice Board Activities:

Choose 1 of the Choice Board Options below to complete during the summer.
The deadline for submission will be by the end of the first week of school.

Choice 1: Notes

As you read your novel, take notes in a notebook or a Google Document/Slides on the following:

1. Main Characters
2. Critical Minor Characters
3. Plot (Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution)
4. Sequence of events
5. Conflicts throughout the novel
6. Setting and/or how the setting changes throughout the novel
7. Characters interactions with one another: feelings, emotions, actions
8. Possible themes or lessons

Choice 2: Journaling

As you read your novel, journal in a notebook or a Google Document/Slides the following:

- Pick a quote from each chapter that stands out to you.
- Write a 5-7 sentence reaction to that quote:
 - Why did you pick this quote?
 - What do you like about it?
 - What does it make you think of?
- Optional: write a poem inspired by the quote you chose

Choice 3: Creative Writing

After you read your novel, in a notebook or a Google Document/Slides do the following:

- Write an alternate ending to the novel.
 - The ending should be creative and involve the characters having a completely different experience than what the story tells.
- Your creative writing piece should be 1-2 pages long.
- Optional: write a 5-7 sentence paragraph explaining why you made your choices.

Choice 4: Comic Strip

After you read your novel, draw a comic strip in a notebook or an online software on the following:

- Choose 3 important events from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel to draw in your comic strip chronologically
- Your comic strip should be:
 - Original, creative, and colorful
 - Include dialogue bubbles, thought bubbles and/or narration captions
- Optional: write a 5-7 sentence paragraph explaining why you chose those scenes.

Students will be expected to bring in their completed choice board activity by the end of the first week of school. All students who submit a completed choice board activity will be eligible for the:
Summer Reading Incentive!