



2016 Mayfield City Schools Summer Reading List

For Students Entering Seventh Grade

***Students are to obtain and read a book written by one of the following authors over the course of the summer.**

***Students will be expected to have their chosen text on the first day of school.**

***Students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the text during the first week of school.**

Read the synopsis for each author below. We encourage families to research each author and preview the recommended titles, and we further recommend that parents assist their child in making an informed and careful decision for their students' summer reading.

Choose a book written by one of the authors listed below:

Sharon M. Draper (Genre-Realistic Fiction) is a professional educator as well as an accomplished writer. She was a visiting author several years ago at MMS! She has been honored as the National Teacher of the Year, is a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literary Awards, and is a New York Times bestselling author. Her books deal with realistic ideas and situations pertinent to the real lives of young adults. As such, some of her content may deal with mature themes.

- **Recommended titles: Out of My Mind, Panic, Tears of a Tiger, Battle of Jericho**

Neal Shusterman (Genre-Humor, Sci-Fi, Realistic Fiction) grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where he began writing at an early age. After spending his junior and senior years of high school at the American School of Mexico City, Neal went on to UC Irvine, where he made his mark on the UCI swim team, and wrote a successful humor column. Within a year of graduating, he had his first book deal, and was hired to write a movie script. In the years since, Neal has made his mark as a successful novelist, screenwriter, and television writer. As a screen and TV writer, Neal has written for the "Goosebumps" and "Animorphs" TV series, and wrote the Disney Channel Original Movie "Pixel Perfect".

- **Recommended titles: Unwind, Challenger Deep, Everlost, The Schwa was Here**
- **DO NOT READ THE SHADOW CLUB as we will possibly read this during classes.**

Walter Dean Myers (Genre-Realistic Fiction) is a pioneer of young adult fiction. His novels about urban teens and the challenges they face have won him both a devoted readership and dozens of book awards. His eighty-plus titles include *Monster*, *Scorpions*, and a memoir of his own youth, *Bad Boy*. Once thought to have been aimed at the so-called "at-risk" reader, Myers's books have stood the test of time as "poignant, tough stories for and about kids who don't appear in most storybooks," asserted Sue Corbett in a Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service report. Again, his stories often derive their important lessons from tough topics and themes.

- **Recommended titles: Scorpions, Monster, Hoops**

Joyce McDonald (Genre-Realistic Fiction) Born in San Francisco, CA, and raised in Chatham, NJ, Joyce McDonald received her BA and MA from the University of Iowa, and went on to complete her Ph.D. at Drew University. She is the author of several books for children and young adults, among them the award winning *Swallowing Stones*, and the Edgar Award Nominated *Shades of Simon Gray*. For over twelve years, Joyce served on the Rutgers University Council on Children's Literature. She and her husband live in Forks Township, PA.

- **Recommended titles: Swallowing Stones, Comfort Creek, Shadow People**

The following authors are listed for students identified as gifted OR for proficient readers seeking a challenge. Gifted students should check Mrs. Bean's website for any additional posted assignments.

Ray Bradbury (Genre-Science Fiction) In a career spanning more than seventy years, Ray Bradbury has inspired generations of readers to dream, think, and create. A prolific author of hundreds of short stories and close to fifty books, as well as numerous poems, essays, operas, plays, teleplays, and screenplays, Bradbury was one of the most celebrated writers of our time. Bradbury's classic style and timeless themes make his writing appropriate for highly competent 7th grade readers.

- **Recommended titles: Fahrenheit 451, Something Wicked This Way Comes, The Martian Chronicles, Dandelion Wine**

Neil Gaiman (Genre-Fantasy, Sci-Fi) was born in Hampshire, UK, and now lives in the United States near Minneapolis. As a child he discovered his love of books, reading, and stories, devouring the works of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, James Branch Cabell, Edgar Allan Poe, Michael Moorcock, Ursula K. LeGuin, Gene Wolfe, and G.K. Chesterton. A self-described "feral child who was raised in libraries," Gaiman credits librarians with fostering a life-long love of reading: "I wouldn't be who I am without libraries. I was the sort of kid who devoured books, and my happiest times as a boy were when I persuaded my parents to drop me off in the local library on their way to work, and I spent the day there. I discovered that librarians actually want to help you: they taught me about interlibrary loans." Gaiman is a British author, and as such, British slang is used in the books. This can make some of them challenging for struggling readers.

- **Recommended titles: The Graveyard Book (ok for grade level readers), Neverwhere, The Sleeper and the Spindle, Stardust**

John Green (Genre-Realistic Fiction, Humor) is the New York Times bestselling author of *Looking for Alaska*, *An Abundance of Katherines*, *Paper Towns*, and *The Fault in Our Stars*. He is also the coauthor, with David Levithan, of *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*. He was 2006 recipient of the Michael L. Printz Award, a 2009 Edgar Award winner, and has twice been a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Green's books have been published in more than a dozen languages. Green's books often deal with mature themes and content, which many have praised for lending realism and emotional appeal to his novels.

- **Recommended titles: An Abundance of Katherines, The Fault in Our Stars**

Robyn Schneider is a writer, actor, and online personality. She is a graduate of Columbia University, where she studied creative writing, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where she studied medical ethics. She lives in Los Angeles, California, but also on the internet.

- **Recommended titles: The Beginning of Everything, Extraordinary Means**

OR, for gifted readers looking for a significant challenge, feel free to access this list:
http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/101_books_for_college_bound_readers.htm

101 Great Books for College-Bound Students