

**PENN-DELCO SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTHLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING
GRADE 8
2016**

Spring 2016

Dear Parents and Students:

All of us who are involved in teaching reading and English acknowledge the value of reading all year long – not just during the school year. For that reason, we have developed a required summer reading assignment because we believe it will help students meet academic challenges in the coming year and encourage them to develop independent reading habits.

Students are required to read two books – one that is required for all students and one that the student chooses from a list. As part of our One Book, One School initiative, all students at Northley will be reading *Eleven* for this upcoming school year.

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Directions for students entering Grade 8:

- 1. Read the required book and read one book from the list of choices**
- 2. Divide both books into thirds. While reading, complete Summer Reading Logs for each of the 3 sections. You must complete a total of 6 Reading Logs, 3 per book. Reading Logs will be collected for credit on the 1st day of school to either the English or reading teacher. Responses should be thorough and specific, reflecting on main events, theme, and characters; as well as, personal connections and ideas. PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN ZERO CREDIT FOR ALL STUDENTS INVOLVED.**
- 3. In addition to completing the Summer Reading Logs, students will be assessed on their knowledge of both books during the 1st week of school. These assessments may include a project, discussions, test, and/or writing assignment.**
- 4. Take Reading Counts quizzes on both books.**

Student may take Reading Counts quizzes during the summer or in September when they return to school.

This packet of information is available on the Penn-Delco website at www.pdsd.org.

We advise students who purchase their books to keep them. They will find it helpful to have the books available to refer to when they return to school and start working on assignments related to their summer reading

Sincerely,

The Eighth Grade Language Arts Teachers

HONORS CLASSES

Required book (for all students): ELEVEN (Tom Rogers) Alex Douglas always wanted to be a hero. But nothing heroic ever happened to Alex. Nothing, that is, until his eleventh birthday. When Alex rescues a stray dog as a birthday gift to himself, he doesn't think his life can get much better. But this day has bigger things in store for both of them. This is a story about bullies and heroes, about tragedy and hope, about enemies with two legs and friends with four, and pesky little sisters and cranky old men, and an unexpected lesson in kindness delivered with a slice of pizza.

Choice book list for the second book: For the book of choice, we recommend that parent and student discuss the selection for its appropriateness for the individual student. While books are selected carefully, some students/families may be more sensitive to certain topics than others.

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH (Avi) This novel tells the story of a ninth grader's suspension for singing the National Anthem during homeroom. It becomes a national news story.

BAT BOY (Mike Lupica) Brian's dad, a former big league pitcher, left Brian and his mom years earlier, and the boy still longs for his return. This summer, Brian has won a coveted spot as a batboy for the Detroit Tigers during home games at Comerica Park.

DAIRY QUEEN (Catherine Gilbert Murdock) – A teenage girl decides to try out for the Red Bend football team. What complicates matters is that she has been working with Brian Nelson, the cute quarterback for Hawley, her school's rival.

THE KIDNAPPING OF CHRISTINA LATTIMORE (Joan Lowery Nixon) She spots the masked man in the dark, lonely parking lot--but too late. Grabbed and drugged, Christina is kidnapped and held for ransom. When her family pays, she thinks her ordeal is over. But then she realizes that her family thinks *she* planned the kidnapping! How will Christina prove her innocence?

THE MISFITS (James Howe) – Skeezie, Addie, Joe and Bobby are not the most popular kids in the school, but at least they are helping each other survive the seventh grade. Together they may change the school forever.

NOTES FROM A MIDNIGHT DRIVER - Jordan Sonnenblick - Sixteen-year-old Alex is only trying to get even with his parents when he takes his mother's car and gets in trouble with the law. His punishment ends up changing his life.

SAY GOODNIGHT, GRACIE - Julie Deaver - This novel (Deaver's first) traces the friendship of Morgan and Jimmy who have been together since they were babies until a horrible tragedy separates them.

STARGIRL (Jerry Spinelli) -How do classmates at Mica High react to a bizarre new student named Stargirl who makes cards and delivers gifts to strangers? Will she win them over, or will they destroy her?

THEY CAGE THE ANIMALS AT NIGHT (Jennings Michael Burch) – This is the autobiography of a young man and his difficult life.

THINGS NOT SEEN (Andrew Clements) - Teens, especially those not in the über-popular set, know all about feeling invisible. But what would happen if you actually did wake up invisible one day? Fifteen-year-old Bobby is faced with this curious predicament.

ACCELERATED/LEARNING SUPPORT

Required book (for all students): ELEVEN (Tom Rogers)

Choice book list for the second book: For the book of choice, we recommend that parent and student discuss the selection for its appropriateness for the individual student. While books are selected carefully, some students/families may be more sensitive to certain topics than others.

BOOST (Kathy Mackel) – At six foot two inches, thirteen-year-old Savvy is selected to play on an 18U basketball team. Her teammates are jealous of her abilities and the opponents push her around. After steroids are found in her gym bag, Savvy is suspended.

A BOY AT WAR: A NOVEL OF PEARL HARBOR (Harry Mazer) – While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenager Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack. Through the chaos of the following days, he tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

CRISS CROSS (Lynne Rae Perkins) – Debbie wants something to happen soon. Hector wants to impress Meadow. Lenny wants to fix things. In this lyrical Newberry-winning book, teenagers in a small town drift through the summer wondering who they are and what their futures hold.

FLUSH (Carl Hiaasen) – In this fast-paced and funny Florida adventure, Noah’s father has been jailed for sinking the “Coral Queen,” a boat he believes is dumping sewage into the ocean. With the help of his sister, Abbey, who has a bad habit of biting, and Shelly, a tattooed bartender, Noah sets out to prove that his father’s allegations are true.

GREGOR THE OVERLANDER - Suzanne Collins - What if Alice fell down an air vent in a New York City apartment building instead of down a rabbit hole? Collins considers a similar possibility in her exceptional debut novel, a well-written, fast-moving, action-packed fantasy.

MILLION DOLLAR SHOT (Dan Gutman) – Eddie Ball enters the poetry contest sponsored by Finkle Foods and wins. He must make a basket from the foul line at the NBA finals to win a million dollars.

NOTE: STUDENTS IN ACCELERATED CLASSES MAY SELECT A CHOICE BOOK FROM THE HONORS CHOICE LIST.

The following library and bookstore has been given copies of the required summer reading lists:

☒ Aston Public Library

☒ Barnes & Noble (Concord Mall)

Student Name: _____ Book Title: _____

Period: _____ Section (circle): 1 2 3 Pages: _____ - _____

Summer Reading Log

Directions: *Three* Reading Logs must be completed for *each* Summer Reading novel. Please divide each book into thirds, and complete the following chart for ALL reading sections.

Five EVENTS that happen: (Detailed summary of the main action in the section) 1.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Five WONDERINGS: (Big questions or ideas to clarify; reflect on the main points & main ideas) 1.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Two IMPORTANT PASSAGES and a thorough EXPLANATION for each (consider interesting, funny, puzzling, or important passages that stood out while reading & make personal connections):

Page: _____

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