

**Middle Township
Elementary School #2**

Summer Reading Program



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Summer can be a season full of good times and fun memories, but did you know that kids may experience learning losses when they don't read during the summer? Research indicates students who do not read over the course of the summer run the risk of losing ground in their reading achievement. Studies show that children who read books over the summer do better on reading tests in the fall than those who do not read over the summer. Students are encouraged to enjoy **quality literature** and to continue developing their independent reading skills.

Motivating your child to read doesn't have to be costly, and can even be free if you visit your local library. It is important for your child to have the opportunity to choose his/her own reading materials. A child will be much more motivated to read if the material is something he/she is interested in. Children who read throughout the summer *gain* skills, can start the new school year with a better understanding of language and the world around them, and discover the joy of reading. The more they *like* to read, the more they *will* read. It's not hard to help your children keep their interest in reading and learning.

Middle Township's Summer Reading Program increases opportunities for discussion about literature and can provide a meaningful experience for your child when reading a book of his own choosing. Enclosed is a list of books your child can choose from for their summer reading assignment. These books are available at the Cape May County Library, book stores, and online at sites like Amazon.com and Scholastic.com.

Have a great summer, and happy reading!

Assignment

All students will have the freedom to choose their book for summer reading with parent approval. Students may select a book from Middle Township Elementary #2's grade specific book list.

Assessment

Students will be responsible for creating a character trading card based on a character in their summer reading book and be able to present the card to the class in September. After classroom presentations, all trading cards will be displayed in the halls of Elementary #2. Creating a Character Trading Card will assess students' comprehension of the story and their analytical skills in character development. The due date for the Character Trading Card is September 9, 2011. This assignment will count as a project grade for the subject of reading for the first marking period.

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3rd Grade Summer Reading List

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble... Though she is fond of her people, a girl prefers to live among the wild horses where she is truly happy and free.

Anansi, the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti by Gerald McDermott... In trying to determine which of his six sons to reward for saving his life, Anansi the Spider is responsible for placing the moon in the sky.

Liang and the Magic Paintbrush by Demi...A poor boy who longs to paint is given a magic brush that brings to life whatever he pictures.

The Seven Treasure Hunts by Betsy Byars...Two boys make up a series of treasure hunts for each other , with disastrous and hilarious results.

Marvin Redpost (Class President) or any of the Marvin Redpost books by Louis Sachar... Even though they have all come to school in holey clothes, Marvin and his third grade class manage to impress their surprise visitor--the President of the United States.

Blue Ribbon Blues by Jerry Spinelli...Ever since her family moved to Aunt Sally's farm, Tooter's known that farm life is definitely not for her. There's no pizzeria for miles, her nearest neighbor is a dumb boy, and even her own pet chicken hates her! So Tooter decides to show everyone what she's made of by winning the blue ribbon at the County Fair's goat show. Now all she has to do is keep her little brother...and his paint brush--away from her prize goat!

Tooter Pepperday by Jerry Spinelli... Hating to leave her familiar surroundings, Tooter resorts to sabotage when her family moves from their suburban home to Aunt Sally's farm.

Cool Zone with the Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume... More adventures at school and at home with Jake, a first-grader, and his older sister Abigail, known to each other as the Pain and the Great One.

Pinky and Rex or any of the Pinky and Rex books by James Howe... Rex and her best friend Pinky, each the proud possessor of twenty-seven stuffed animals or dinosaurs, find their visit to the museum and its gift shop complicated by Pinky's little sister Amanda.

Brigid, Bewitched by Kathleen Leverich... When Brigid wishes for a fairy godmother to give her the courage to jump off the high diving board, she encounters a large silver cat and a strange girl named Marable who gives her advice.

Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto...Maria tries on her mother's wedding ring while helping make tamales for a Christmas family get-together. Panic ensues when hours later, she realizes the ring is missing.

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4th Grade Summer Reading List

Flossie and the Fox by Patricia McKissack... A wily fox, notorious for stealing eggs, meets his match when he encounters a bold little girl in the woods who insists upon proof that he is a fox before she will be frightened.

Amos and Boris by William Steig... Amos the mouse and Boris the whale have little in common except that they are both mammals and save each other's lives.

Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle by Betty MacDonald ...From her upside-down house, the eccentric Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle issues to parents her marvelous cures for such common children's diseases as Won't-Put-Away-Toys-itis, Answerbackism, and Fighter-Quarrelitis.

The House Gobbaleen by Lloyd Alexander...Poor luckless Tooley longs for some help from the Friendly Folk, so when an odd little man shows up, Tooley is delighted. But Hooks worsens Tooley's bad luck. It's up to Tooley's wise cat to get rid of Hooks—by summoning the dreaded House Gobbaleen!

The Fortune-Tellers by Lloyd Alexander... A carpenter in the West African country of Cameroon goes to a fortune teller and finds the predictions about his future coming true in an unusual way.

No Flying in the House by Betty Brock...Annabel Tippens seems like an ordinary little girl, with short blond hair and very good manners. But Annabel is actually quite unusual. Instead of parents, she has Gloria, a tiny white dog who talks and wears a gold collar. Annabel never wonders why her life is different, until one day a cat named Belinda tells her the truth -- she's not just a little girl, she's half fairy! But now that she knows the truth, will her whole life have to change?

Socks by Beverly Cleary...Socks is the name of a character created by Beverly Cleary. He is a young tabby cat with four white paws, and he lives happily with a young married couple, Marilyn and Bill Bricker. The center of the Bricker household, Socks rules it affectionately but firmly.

Fourth Grade Fuss by Johanna Hurwitz...A yard sale, ice skating, class pictures, and a surprise party are a few of the things that make fourth grade fun for Julio and his friends, but they must get serious about studying as the statewide end-of-year test approaches.

Wanted...Mud Blossom by Betsy Byars ...Convinced that Mud is responsible for the disappearance of the school hamster that was his responsibility for the weekend, Junior Blossom is determined that the dog should be tried for his "crime."

The Case of the Dirty Bird by Gary Paulsen...The first story in an amusing new series from Newbery-winner Gary Paulsen. Dunc and Amos aren't impressed with the old parrot in the pet store, even when they learn that the bird speaks four languages, has outlived ten of its owners, and is probably 150 years old. But when it starts mouthing off about buried treasure, Dunc and Amos pay full attention.

Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar ...Presents humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

The Vicar of Nibbleswicke by Roald Dahl... The vicar's speech impediment leads to holy hysteria in an otherwise quiet country parish.

Go Fish by Mary Stolz... After spending the day fishing in the Gulf of Mexico with Grandfather, eight-year-old Thomas has a quiet evening on the porch hearing more about his African heritage.

The Skirt by Gary Soto... When Miata leaves on the school bus the skirt that she is to wear in a dance performance, she needs all her wits to get it back without her parents' finding out that she has lost something yet again

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5th Grade Summer Reading List

The Best Bad Thing by Yoshiko Uchida... At first dismayed at having to spend the last month of her summer vacation helping out in the household of recently widowed Mrs. Hata, Rinko discovers there are pleasant surprises for her, but then bad things start to happen.

The Cartoonist by Betsy Byars ...Threatened with the loss of his private place in the attic of his crowded home, a young boy determines to keep it at all costs.

Mudshark by Gary Paulsen... Principal Wagner confidently deals with a faculty washroom crisis, a psychic parrot, and a terrorizing gerbil, but when sixty-five erasers go missing, he enlists the help of the school's best problem solver and locator of lost items, twelve-year-old Lyle Williams, aka Mudshark.

Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School by Louis Sachar ...Kids will have fun solving more than 50 mathematical brain teasers while reading this great collection of stories from Wayside School-where students laugh as much as they learn.

The Dragon in the Ghetto Caper by E.L. Konisburg... Andy finds a sidekick for his detective work when he meets Edie Yakots. The two spend most weekday afternoons together, never realizing that a crime is being committed right under their noses.

The Twits by Roald Dahl...The misadventures of two terrible old people who enjoy playing nasty tricks and are finally outwitted by a family of monkeys.

A Summer to Die by Lois Lowry... Thirteen-year-old Meg envys her sister's beauty and popularity. Her feelings don't make it any easier for her to cope with Molly's strange illness and eventual death.

Blubber by Judy Bloom...Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it's like when she, too, becomes a target.

Taking Sides by Gary Soto...Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburban neighborhood.

Bluish by Virginia Hamilton ...Ten-year-old Dreenie feels both intrigued and frightened when she thinks about the girl nicknamed Bluish, whose leukemia is making her pale and causing her to use a wheelchair.

Cousins by Virginia Hamilton... Concerned that her grandmother may die, Cammy is unprepared for the accidental death of another relative.

The Friendship by Mildred Taylor... Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s.

Never Say Quit by Bill Wallace... Angered when they are excluded from the soccer team, sixth-grader Justine and the rest of the school misfits form their own team and begin training with a coach who drinks heavily but gives them a special gift.

Character Trading Card

Front

Character's Name-
Story Title-
Draw a picture of the character-
Where does the story take place?

Back of Trading Card

What is the character's problem in the story?

What do you like most about this character?