

A Note from the English Department

On behalf of the English department, we would like to recommend that the paperback novels for summer reading and for the classes throughout the year be purchased through the MICDS Bookstore. If you choose not to purchase from the book store it would be helpful if you could purchase the same edition for consistent instructional purposes.

5th Grade Summer Reading List

In fifth grade this year you will be offered an extensive list of books, some new and some a few years old. Rather than requiring a specific book, we are requiring that you choose any three books from the list to read and complete the accompanying assignment using those three books. Summertime is a great time to catch up on the reading you haven't had time for during the school year. We encourage you to read more than the three books you choose from the list. We will have a visiting author in the coming year, so a number of his books are included on this list. Be sure to read at least one book by author Alan Gratz. He will be visiting in the fall. Select a **minimum** of three books to read from the list below.

The Lost Years of Merlin (one of my favorites with four sequels If you like medieval stories with fantasy elements, you'll like these books.)

by T. A. Barron

Prisoner B-3087 (Based on a true story, Yanek Gruener is forced to move from one concentration camp to another. Through all the evil he faces, he sees glimmers of hope. Will he make it?)

by Alan Gratz

The War that Saved My Life (Set during WWII in England, a young disabled girl escapes to the countryside and finds a new life. Sequel now out *The War I Finally Won*)

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Projekt 1065: A Novel of World War II (An Irish boy living in Nazi Germany is a spy in the Hitler Youth. He discovers a secret Nazi War mission that puts his own life in danger.)

by Alan Gratz

Stella by Starlight (Set in the segregated south during the Depression-era, Stella sees change coming and her world is upended.)

by Sharon Draper

Ban this Book (A shy fourth grade girl fights back when her favorite book is challenged by a well-meaning parent. Amy Anne and her friends start a battle that will make you laugh and pump your fists.)

by Alan Gratz

The Seventh Wish (An important story about a family who is suffering through a family member's addiction to opiates. A story handled in a delicate and age appropriate way.)

by Kate Messner

The Seventh Most Important Thing (Arthur T. Owen learns about the most important things in life in this wonderful story about making amends.)

by Shelly Pearshall

- The League of Seven Series* (In an alternate 1875 America electricity is forbidden, Native Americans and Yankees are united, and eldritch evil lurks in the shadows. Young Archie Dent knows there really are monsters in the world. When his parents and the rest of the Septemberists are brainwashed by one of the evil creatures, Archie must assemble a team of seven young heroes to save the world.) by Alan Gratz
- Another Kind of Hurricane* (a black boy who loses his home in Hurricane Katrina and a white boy in Vermont who loses his best friend in a tragic accident—come together to find healing.) by Tamara Ellis Smith
- This Side of Wild* (Gary Paulsen’s understanding and admiration of animals is well known, and in this book, he proves the ways in which they have taught him to be a better person.) by Gary Paulsen
- The Book Scavenger* (If you loved *Escape from Mr. Lemencello’s Library* you’ll love this story.) by Jennifer Chamblis Bertman
- Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka* (Childhood stories from one of the funniest kids’ writers.) by Jon Scieszka
- The Devil’s Arithmetic* (A Holocaust story by one of the best and most well-known children’s writers.) by Jane Yolen
- Heartlight* (a science fiction fantasy by a favorite author and friend, T.A. Barron. It’s about family, the environment, friendship.) by T.A. Barron
- A Wrinkle in Time* (A Newbery winner from long ago, but a great science fiction fantasy. I like to pair this with *Heartlight*. Great to compare and contrast. See the movie.) by Madeleine L’Engle
- Bearstone* (Colorado adventure in the mountains involving an elderly man and his foster teen (Native American.)) by Will Hobbs
- A Snicker of Magic* (Delightful story filled with special magic. One of my favorite books.) by Natalie Lloyd
- The Key to Extraordinary* (A great story about the importance of family and each member’s extraordinary destiny they learn through their dreams.) by Natalie Lloyd

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Armstrong at karmstrong@micds.org Enjoy the warmth of summer and stretch out with a good book!



Summer Reading Assignment

I hope you've been enjoying all the opportunities you've had to get lost in a great story. You have many choices. Using any three books from the accompanying list, you are going to write three entries using the strategy called Lifting a Line. Here's how it works: As you are reading your books, **highlight** or underline sentences that stand out to you for some reason. For example, in the book *A Snicker of Magic* by Natalie Lloyd, there were so many favorite lines that I've highlighted as I read.

I've chosen one here: **"Sometimes you don't need words to feel better; you just need the nearness of your dog."**

1. Go through your books and choose three lines-one from each book that you think you can write something about.
2. Using paper or the computer copy the sentence down exactly as it is written in the story, using quotation marks around it and adding the title of the book and the page number. The next part is the fun part.
3. Set a timer for 10 minutes and write what comes to your mind based on the first sentence you've chosen. Put your pencil on the paper and words come out of it. It doesn't count if you are sitting with your pencil in the air during the 10 minutes. You need to write for 10 whole minutes.
4. After the timer rings. Stop writing and reread what you have written. Make any corrections or changes so that your sentences are clear and spelling is correct.
5. Repeat this process for the other two books.

Here is what I have written from my chosen quote:

“Sometimes you don't need words to feel better; you just need the nearness of your dog.” From *A Snicker of Magic*

I missed having a dog. For so many years we had two dogs at a time. I cherished the love and companionship that they brought to me. Sometimes I just wanted to sit alone and have a quiet time to think and relax. I especially liked to do that if I'd had a stressful week. I was all out of words and talking just didn't seem right. One of my dogs Cali always seemed to sense when I needed her to sit with me and to let me stroke her deep yellow coat. I was always comforted at those times. Another of our dogs, Pokey always stayed on my bed with me if I wasn't feeling well. He was my protector, and he snuggled next to me, keeping me warm, never leaving my side. It never failed to make me feel better. A year ago, last November we welcomed a yellow lab puppy we named Charlie to our home. She is becoming a great companion, despite being naughty. She makes me happy every single day. Our yellow labs have always been my favorites. They are loyal and loving-the very best.

6. **Bring these three entries to your first day of Language Arts.** Do not bring them on the first day of school because they might get lost with all the things we'll be doing.
7. If you type your entries, double space them and use Times New Roman font, size 12. Indent paragraphs by using the Tab key. If you write them on paper, be sure to indent your paragraphs. Do not skip lines.
8. **Have fun finding special sentences and writing off the lines.** We will share these with each other in class. Happy reading and writing!!