

## How to Choose a Good Book

1. Find a book that is interesting. Search by genre, subject, reading level, and recommendation. Visit the summer reading website for online search tools.
2. Use the 5 Finger Rule to help identify a good fit! Open your book to any page and read the words on the page. Count the number of words you do not know on your fingers. If you hold up four or five fingers the book might be too difficult.
3. If you found a "just right" book, take it for a test drive and read a few pages or even a chapter.

## Where can I find books?

- Worcester Public Library
- Libby and Lily Mobile Libraries
- Borrow and take suggestions from friends!
- Summer Programs
- Bookstores such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon
- Goodwill and Salvation Army
- E-Books
- Digital Books

## Summer Reading Requirement for Grades 7 and 8:

- Read at least 3 Books or 800 Pages
- Three Activities
- Summer Reading is 10% of your first quarter ELA grade!

Visit the summer reading website for more information!

<https://sites.google.com/worcesterschools.net/>

## Notice and Note Stop and ask yourself...

**Contrasts & Contradictions:** When a character says or does something that is opposite (contradicts) what you expect them to do ask yourself, "Why is the character acting this way?" This could help you make a prediction or an inference about the plot and conflict.

**Again & Again:** When notice a word, phrase, object, or situation mentioned over and over again, ask yourself, "Why does this keep showing up again and again?" This will tell you about the theme and conflict, or it might foreshadow what will happen later.

**Memory Moment:** When the author interrupts the action with a flashback to the past and tells you a memory, ask yourself, "Why might this memory be important?" This will tell you about the theme, conflict, or it might foreshadow what will happen later.

**Aha Moment:** When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures something out, ask yourself, "How might this change things?" If the character solved a problem you discovered the conflict; if the character understood a life lesson, you discovered a theme.

**Words of the Wiser:** When a character takes the main character aside and gives advice, ask yourself, "What's the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?" Whatever the lesson is, you've probably found a theme for the story.

**Tough Questions:** When a character asks himself a difficult question, ask yourself, "What does this question make me wonder about?" This will help you predict will happen later in the story.

(Adapted from *Notice and Note* by Kylene Beers.)

## The Super 7 Effective Reading Habits

**Make Connections:** When I read I think "That reminds me of..."

**Create Images:** When I read "I picture in my mind..."

**Infer:** Even though it isn't said in the text, when I read "I know..." "I think..." or "I am guessing that..." or "I predict..."

**Monitor for Meaning:** When I get confused when I read "I can..." and "Let me review what I know..."

**Determine Importance:** When I read "I know the detail I just read is important because..."

**Synthesize:** When I read I notice things are connected and "I know this is a big idea because..." or "Aha..."

**Questioning:** When I read I ask myself questions about the book such as "I wonder why..." or "I am curious about..."



The Worcester Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Educational Institution and does not discriminate regardless of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness. The Worcester Public Schools provides equal access to employment and the full range of general, occupational and vocational education programs. For more information relating to Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action contact the Human Resource Manager, 20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609, 508-799-3020.

## WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Summer Reading



For Students Entering  
Grades 7 and 8  
**2017**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Summer reading is an exciting opportunity for students to enjoy good books. When teenagers discuss books with their parents/guardians they build new language skills, knowledge, and experiences. The Worcester Public Schools summer reading program includes a suggested reading list. Please encourage your child to explore different types of books and to read for at least 20 minutes each day. Students should submit their summer reading assignments to their teacher when school opens.

Please visit the WPS summer reading website for additional information! You can also download copies of all summer reading materials. Reading together this summer helps set the stage for future success in schooling. We appreciate your support!

## Requirement for Grades 7 and 8:

- Read at least 3 Books or 800 Pages
- Three Activities
- Summer Reading is 10% of your first quarter ELA grade!

Happy Reading!

Maureen Binienda  
Superintendent of Schools

Visit for more information:

<https://sites.google.com/worcesterschools.net/summerreading>

## **Biography / Autobiography**

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Fleming  
Bad Boy: A Memoir by Myers  
Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith by Heiligman  
Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Hoose  
Guts by Paulsen  
Persepolis by Satrapi  
Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science by Fleischman  
Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Jiang  
Savion by Glover  
Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood by Barakat  
The Greatest: Muhammad Ali by Myers  
The Life and Death of Crazy Horse; by Freedman  
The Power of One: Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine by Fradin  
The Upstairs Room by Reis  
Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali by Smith

## **Contemporary Fiction**

Also Known as Harper by Leal  
Bamboo People by Perkins  
Bird by Johnson  
Dicey's Song by Cynthia Voigt  
Double Dutch by Draper  
Drama by Telgemeier  
Esperanza Rising by Ryan  
Feathers by Woodson  
Guys Read: Funny Business by Scieszka  
Habibi by Nye  
Holes by Sachar  
Hoot by Hiaasen  
Hope Was Here by Bauer  
How Tia Lola Came to Stay by Alvarez  
Jack Henry (series) by Gantos  
Keeper by Peet  
Keeping the Night Watch by Smith  
Millicent Min, Girl Genius by Yee  
My Life in Pink and Green by Greenwalk  
Return to Slender by Alvarez  
Same Stuff as Stars by Patterson  
Slob by Potter  
Stargirl by Spinelli  
Tangerine by Bloor  
The Friends by Guy  
Zoobreak by Korman

## **Romance**

And Sometimes Why by Farrell  
Angel of Hope by McDaniel  
Come a Stranger by Voigt  
Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Brashares  
Scribbler of Dreams by Pearson

## **Sports**

A Whole New Ballgame: The Story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League by Mac  
Bat 6 by Wolff  
Home of the Braves by Klass  
Runner by Voigt  
The Contender by Lipsyte  
Whale Talk by Crutcher

## **Historical Fiction**

A Break With Charity by Rinaldi  
Amos Fortune, Free Man by Yates  
Catherine Called Birdy by Cushman  
Climbing the Stairs by Venkatraman  
Dragonwings by Yep  
Esperanza Rising by Munoz Ryan  
Fever 1973 by Anderson  
Gold Duct by Lynch  
Hope's Crossing by Goodman  
Hero on a Bicycle by Hughes  
Incantation by Hoffmann  
Inside Out and Back Again by Lai  
Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes  
Keeping Corner by Sheth  
Kim by Kipling  
Listening for Lions by Whelan  
My Brother Sam is Dead by Collier and Collier  
Nightjohn by Paulsen  
One Came Home by Timberlake  
One Crazy Summer by Williams-Garcia  
Other Side of the Truth by Naidoo  
Sing Down the Moon by O'Dell  
Soldier's Heart by Fleischman  
Stowaway by Hesse  
Sword Song by Sutcliff  
The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Philbrick  
The Rock and the River by Magoon  
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi  
To Be a Slave by Lester  
When I Crossed No-Bob by McMullan

## **Poetry**

Locomotion by Woodson  
Love That Dog by Creech  
The Surrender Tree by Engle  
Wachale! Poetry and Prose about Growing Up Latino by Stavans  
Yes! We Are Latinos! By Ada & Campoy

## **Mystery**

Chasing Vermeer by Balliet  
The Red Blazer Girls (series) by Beil  
Zora and Me by Bond  
Skeleton Man by Bruchac  
The Grace Mysteries (series) by Cavendish  
Dead Girls Don't Write Letters by Giles  
Alex Rider (series) by Horowitz  
The Boy Sherlock Holmes (series) by Peacock  
Liar and Spy by Stead

## **Informational Texts**

Freedom Riders by Bausum  
What the World Eats by S'Aluisio  
Bodies by the Ice by Deem  
We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March by Levinson  
Saving the Ghost of the Mountain by Montgomery  
The Elephant Scientist by O'Connell and Jackson  
Heroes of the Environment by Rohmer  
Courage Has No Color by Stone

## **Myths & Legends / Fantasy / Science Fiction**

Angel Experiment by Patterson  
A Tale Dark and Grimm by Gidwitz  
A Wrinkle in Time by L'Engle  
Artemis Fowl Series by Colfer  
Books of Ember (series) by DuPrau  
Breadcrumbs by Ursu  
Chronicles of Narnia by Lewis  
Coraline by Gaiman  
Doll Bones by Black  
Enderby Spring by Skelton  
Fahrenheit 451 by Bradbury  
Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm by Pullman  
Found by Haddix  
Gabriel by Nix  
Gilgamesh the Hero by McCaughrean  
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by Rowling  
House of the Scorpion by Farmer  
Hunger Games by Collins  
In the Forests of the Night by Atwater-Rhodes  
Jade Green by Naylor  
Life As We Knew It by Pfeffer  
Odd and the Frost Giants by Gaiman  
Outlaw: The Legend of Robin Hood by Lee  
Princess of the Midnight Ball by George  
Sea of Trolls by Farmer  
Sunwing by Opperl  
Sword of Shannara by Brooks  
The Beautiful Stories of Life by Rylant  
The Coming of the Dragon by Barnhouse  
The Dark is Rising by Cooper  
The Forest of Hands and Teeth by Ryan  
The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon by King  
The Golden Compass by Pullman  
The Illustrated Book of Myths by Philip  
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Irving  
The Underneath by Appelt  
The Wizard of Earthsea by LeGuin  
This Full House by Wolff  
Treasury of Egyptian Mythology by Napoli  
Trickster: Native American Tales by Dembicki  
Uglies (series) by Westerfield

## **Adventure / Survival**

Call of the Wild by London  
Downriver by Hobbs  
Reef of Death Zindel  
Sasquatch by Smith  
Storm Warriors by Carbon  
Treasure Island by Stevenson  
Wild Man Island by Hobbs

## **Nonfictional / Informational**

Never Cry Wolf by Mowat  
Blizzard: the Storm that Changed America by Murphy  
Slave Narratives: The Journey to Freedom by Landau  
Revenge of the Whales by Philbrick  
We Were There Too by Hoose  
Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Armstrong