

Canterbury Middle School
Grade 7 Summer Reading List 2017-2018

Book descriptions are from Amazon.com

Students will need to bring their own copies of the required books they read on the first day of school.

Required: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor

Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And it is also Cassie's story—Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.

Required - Choose one: *Fever 1793* or *Year of the Hangman*

***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

During the summer of 1793, Yellow Fever sweeps the streets of Philadelphia and Mattie Cook, a teenage girl, who lives above a family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather must learn how to move from daily chores to daily survival. Themes include love, courage and coming of age as the protagonist moves from childhood to adulthood.

***Year of the Hangman* by Gary Blackwood**

In 1776, the rebellion of the American colonies against British rule was crushed. Now, in 1777—the year of the hangman—George Washington is awaiting execution, Benjamin Franklin's banned rebel newspaper, *Liberty Tree*, has gone underground, and young ne'er-do-well Creighton Brown, a fifteen-year-old Brit, has just arrived in the colonies. Having been shipped off against his will, with nothing but a distance for English authorities, Creighton befriends Franklin, and lands a job with his print shop. But the English general expects the spoiled yet loyal Creighton to spy on Franklin. As battles unfold and falsehoods are exposed, Creighton must decide where his loyalties lie...a choice that could determine the fate of a nation.

Students may also read any or all of the books from the following list.

***Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. The title is symbolic of the plot.

***Peeled* by Joan Bauer**

Hildy Biddle dreams of being a journalist. A reporter for her high school newspaper, *The Core*, she's just waiting for a chance to prove herself. Lately eerie things are occurring in Banesville and the haunted old Ludlow house is the story that might get her that. Her struggles and perseverance make this a strong mystery story.

***Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos**

Plenty of excitement (and shocks) are coming Jack's way once his mom loans him out to help a feisty old neighbor with a most unusual chore—typewriting obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town. As one obituary leads to another, Jack is launched on a strange adventure involving molten wax, twisted promises, a homemade airplane, Girl Scout cookies, a man on a trike, voices from the past, Hells Angels . . . and possibly murder.

Belly Up by Stuart Gibbs

12 year old Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt Fitzroy has got a murder on his hands and trouble on his tail. Henry, the hippopotamus at the brand-new nationally known FunJungle, has gone belly up. Even though it's claimed he died of natural causes, Teddy smells something fishy and it sure ain't the polar bear's lunch. Dealing with the zoo's top brass proves to be nothing but a waste of time. They want to see any trace of Henry's death disappear like yesterday's paper. So Teddy sets out to find the truth. With the help of Summer McCracken, a feisty girl with secrets of her own, the two narrow down their prime suspects.

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Giff

Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. When Hollis is sent to Josie, she'll do everything in her power to make sure they stay together. Friendship is a powerful theme running throughout the plot of this novel.

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass

In one month Jeremy Fink will turn thirteen, but he isn't quite like most teenagers. On the other hand, his best friend, Lizzy, isn't afraid of anything, even if that might get her into trouble now and then. This summer, a mysterious wooden box arrives in the mail. According to the writing on the box, it holds the meaning of life! Jeremy is supposed to open it on his thirteenth birthday. The problem is, the keys are missing, and the box is made so that only the keys will open it without destroying what's inside.

The Agony of Alice by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Life, Alice McKinley feels, is just one big embarrassment. Here she is, about to be a teenager and she doesn't know how. Her mother has been dead for years so her only advice comes from her father, some people around town and her nineteen-year-old brother, who is a slob. She thinks she needs a gorgeous woman who does everything right, but rather than drawing Miss Cole, she draws the homely Mrs. Plotkins. Her first assignment is to create a journal of her thoughts and feelings. This journal all the embarrassing things that happen to her entitled, "The Agony of Alice."

When My Name Was Keoko by Linda Sue Park

Sun-hee and her older brother, Tae-yul, live in Korea with their parents. Because Korea is under Japanese occupation, the children study Japanese and speak it at school. Their own language, their flag, the folktales Uncle tells them—even their names—are all part of the Korean culture that is now forbidden. When World War II comes to Korea, Sun-hee is surprised that the Japanese expect their Korean subjects to fight on their side. But the greatest shock of all comes when Tae-yul enlists in the Japanese army in an attempt to protect Uncle, who is suspected of aiding the Korean resistance. Sun-hee stays behind, entrusted with the life-and-death secrets of a family at war. This is a WWII novel that is categorized as historical fiction.

The Amulet of Samarkand by Jonathan Stroud

Nathaniel is a magician's apprentice, taking his first lessons in the arts of magic. But when a devious hot-shot wizard named Simon Lovelace ruthlessly humiliates Nathaniel in front of his elders, Nathaniel decides to kick up his education a few notches and show Lovelace who's boss. With revenge on his mind, he summons the powerful djinni, Bartimaeus. But summoning Bartimaeus and controlling him are two different things entirely, and when Nathaniel sends the djinni out to steal Lovelace's greatest treasure, the Amulet of Samarkand, he finds himself caught up in a whirlwind of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion.

***They Dance in the Sky: Native American Star Myths*
by Ray A. Williamson and Jean Guard Monroe**

For countless generations, Native American storytellers have watched the night sky and told tales of the stars and the constellations. The stars themselves tell many tales—of children who have danced away from home, of six brothers who rescue a maiden from the fearful Rolling Skull, of the great wounded sky bear, whose blood turns the autumn leaves red, and many more.