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3419 Main Street  
Newberry, South Carolina 29108

May , 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Participating in sports and other outdoor activities in the summer is a wonderful way to support our physical health. Reading for pleasure is an enjoyable way to exercise our minds. With the end of the school year quickly upon us, we know that you are making plans for your child's summer break. However, the break from school activities often causes students to experience a lag in learning upon returning to school in the fall.

The School District of Newberry County would like to convey the importance of reading during these active summer months by asking all students to participate in the summer reading program.

We know that you share with us the desire for students to develop a lifelong love of reading; your support of the summer reading program will help us encourage this habit. Teachers will review the summer reading information with their students and help them to set a reading goal. The summer reading information will be available at <http://ncsd-summer-reading.weebly.com/>.

When students return to school next year, they will be responsible for responding to one of the books they read by completing one of the activities listed on the back of this letter. Our hope is that discussion of pleasurable reads and related articles will continue to promote lifelong reading habits and allow students to learn from one another.

Thank you for your help in supporting our efforts to promote a culture that values independent reading!

Sincerely,

Katrina L. Singletary  
Director of Secondary Education



# Summer Reading Choice Board

Choose one activity to complete for your Summer Reading. If you select an assignment, but do not have access to the web tools to complete the assignment you may create the assignment on paper.

|   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Create a collection of notes/pictures about a character from the book.<br/>(Padlet, mural.ly, Smore)</p> <p>Create a collection of notes/pictures that summarize the plot of the book.</p>   | <p>Create a collage of the major characters from the book, highlighting the character's memories, personality traits, and interests.<br/>(PicCollage, Photoshop, Gimp)</p>   | <p>Create a presentation that explains and illustrates an alternate ending to the book.<br/>(eMaze, PowToons, Prezi, Sway, Adobe Slate, PowerPoint)</p>  | <p>Create a slideshow or movie that chronologically summarizes each chapter of the book, including an image for each one.<br/>(Animoto, Photoshop, Photostory, iMovie, MovieMaker)</p> | <p>Create Journal Entries<br/>Seven– fifteen entries, at least 25 words each, that record your <u>reactions</u> to the reading (no plot summary). You can reflect, make predictions, and discuss connections to your book.</p> |
| <p>Create a podcast of you reading a part of the book and explaining why it has meaning to you.<br/>(Audacity, Adobe Voice)</p>   | <p>Create a trailer for the book.<br/>(MovieMaker, iMovie, Animoto, Photostory, Audacity)</p>  | <p><b>Free Choice-</b><br/>Bring your written project description to your teacher for approval. Once you have been given permission from your teacher, you may begin the project!</p>  | <p>Create a presentation about an important topic from the book.<br/>(eMaze, PowToons, Prezi, Sway, Adobe Slate, Slidebean, PowerPoint)</p>  | <p>Create a summary or an infographic summarizing the book.<br/>(Piktochart, Canva, Smore)</p>   |
| <p>Construct a mini-book that could act as a new reference source on your topic. Include all the parts of the book: cover, title page, table of contents, glossary, and index. For example, your chapters might state facts, opinions, causes and effects, diagrams or charts, etc. Your glossary will have important vocabulary related to your topic.</p> | <p>Create a poster board on your topic: book title (reference) and pictures, timelines, charts, diagrams, etc.<br/>Write a paragraph to describe why you chose the visuals you did as well as unknown facts, your opinions, and causes and effects about your topic.</p> | <p>Write a Journal from a character's point of view. Write as if the character was keeping a journal throughout different parts of the story. Use textual evidence and inference skills to write as the character and reflect on what has happened to them at different points in the novel. You should have at least 10 entries of two paragraphs each.</p> | <p>Create a Poem about your book.<br/>(16 Lines)</p>   | <p>Create a book review. Include a summary, three reasons why you like or did not like the book, if you recommend this book for others, and why.</p>   |

## POSSIBLE BOOK CHOICES

These titles are books that are popular for adolescents, but students can choose titles that are not included below that interest them.

\*Available on eBooks at Newberry County Library.

**Non-fiction-** *The Boy On The Wooden Box:* by Lester, Harran, Leyson\*

*Rags: Hero Dog of WWI* by Margot Raven

*Unlikely Warrior: A Jewish Soldier in Hitler's Army* by George Rauch

*The Finest hours: The True Story of a Heroic Sea Rescue* by Michael J. Tougas\*

**Mystery:** *Blood Will Tell* by April Henry  
*What Waits in the Woods* by Kieran Scott  
*Beware the Wild* by Natalie Parker\*  
*The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan\*  
*All Fall Down* by Ally Carter\*

**Historical fiction-** *Zane and the Hurricane* – by R. Philbrick,\*  
*Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys\*  
*Hunt for the Bamboo Rat* by G. Salisbury\*  
*Sophia's War* by Avi  
*R My Name Is Rachel* by Reilly Giff  
*Phantoms In the Snow* by Kathleen Duple

**Horror:** *Took* by Mary Downing Hahn\*  
*House on Stone's Throw Island* by Dan Poblocki  
*The Gathering (Shadow House#1)* by Dan Poblocki\*

**Romance:** *Merchant's Daughter* by Melanie Dickerson\*

**Realistic fiction:** *Buddy* by M H Herlong\*  
*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt\*  
*My Secret Guide To Paris* by Lisa Schroeder  
*Ghetto Cowboy* by Greg Neri\*  
*Being Sloane Jacobs* by Lauren Morrill\*

## SUGGESTED AUTHORS

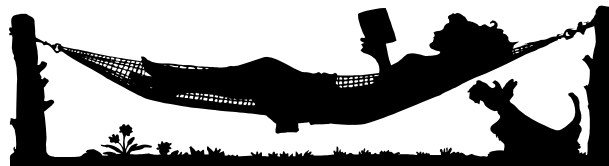
Gary Paulsen, Mike Lupica, John Feinstein, Kirby Larson, Rick Riordan, April Henry, Chris Lynch, Dan Poblocki, Katie Alender, Lynda Mullaly Hunt, Jennifer Nielsen, Mike Lupica, Tim Green, and D J MacHale.

Reading is to the mind what  
exercise is to the body.

~Joseph Addison

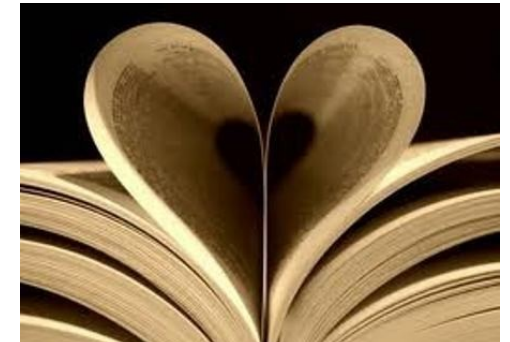
Parents should be involved in  
the selection of their child's  
summer reading.

Please pre-approve your child's reading selections. Some titles may not be appropriate for your child since authors often write for a wide audience. Sometimes authors will address social issues or controversial topics and may use language or imagery that may not be acceptable to you. You have the flexibility to choose books with your child that reflect your values and morals.



Get book suggestions from your English language arts teacher or your school media specialists before going home for the summer!

School District of Newberry County



Middle  
School  
Summer  
Reading  
Program  
Summer 2017

## **Step One: Choose a book!**

- All students should read during the summer to continue to grow. Just like an athlete trains, we read to keep our skills sharp.

### **How to choose the right book:**

- Find books that interest you. Examine the title, the cover illustration, and the back of the book to get an idea about the plot.
- In addition to the suggested titles in this brochure, you can also visit the district website to find booklists recommended by school librarians from around the district.
- Newberry County Library members have access to ebooks for download (i.e. kindle, tablets, cell phones, etc.)

## **Step Two: Read!**

Once you have found the right book, it's time to settle down and read. Keep these things in mind while you read:

- Make sure you are in a good environment for reading. Try to limit distractions.
- Ask questions—this will help you check your understanding and identify relationships within the text.
- Make connections—use what you know to enhance the author's meaning; connections will help you make inferences, or "read between the lines."
- Visualize—form mental images of the action in the book; this strategy can make reading like watching a movie in your mind!
- Synthesize and summarize—draw conclusions and make generalizations from your reading and from other texts to make your new knowledge fit right in with what you already knew!

## **Step Three: Respond!**

You have the option to respond to **one** of the books you read over the summer to turn in for a grade to your new English language arts teacher. You can choose one activity to complete from the Summer Reading Choice Board located on the back of the parent letter. Your assignment will be due the second Friday of the new school year and will be counted as a major assessment.

**My Summer Reading goal is**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **book(s).**

Visit the School District of Newberry County website for other assignment suggestions or refer to the back of the parent letter.