

Yazoo County Middle School

Summer Reading List

I. Lexile

The Lexile Framework for Reading *Supporting YCMS Summer Reading 2018*

The Lexile framework measures reading ability and text difficulty. When a child reads text within his or her Lexile range, he or she is likely to comprehend enough of the text to make sense of it, while still being sufficiently challenged to maintain interest and learning.

K-1	N/A
2-3	450-790
4-5	770-980
6-8	955-1155

II. Directions

1. Students are required to choose a book from their grade level to read over the summer.
2. Students will choose an activity from the list of activities below to completed and turned in by **August 20th**.
3. A grade will be given for the work turned in from the summer reading.

III. Choice of Activities

Choose one of the following to complete this summer.

1. Choose a character in the book and write a one-page letter to that character expressing your likes and dislikes toward the character and citing text-based evidence to support your feelings.
2. Draw a detailed picture of a character from the book, Write a descriptive paragraph to accompany your drawing.
3. Compare and contrast two characters from the book by writing a paragraph from a completed graphic organizer.
4. Write a paragraph explaining how the main character changed over the span of the book.
5. Explain the tone of the book and give text-based evidence to support your thoughts.

YCMS Summer 6th-8th Grade Reading List

Choose one of the following books (near your Lexile Level) to read over the summer.

Night by Elie Wiesel

Lexile 570

Night is Elie Wiesel's autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. Elie reflects on the enduring importance of Night and his lifelong, passionate dedication to ensuring that the world never forgets man's capacity for inhumanity to man. It eloquently addresses many of the philosophical as well as personal questions about the Holocaust.

Ruby's Wish by Shirin Yim Bridges

Lexile 600

Ruby is unlike most little girls in old China. Instead of aspiring to get married, Ruby is determined to attend university when she grows up, just like the boys in her family. Based upon the inspirational story of the author's grandmother and accompanied by richly detailed illustrations, Ruby's Wish is an engaging portrait of a young girl who strives for more and a family who rewards her hard work and courage.

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

Lexile 701

A teenage boy, Bobby, suddenly turns invisible. The story revolves around Bobby as he deals with his "condition", meets new people, and tries to get back to normal.

Dacey's Song by Cynthia Voigt

Lexile 710

Keeping her family together is what thirteen-year-old Dacey does best. But now that all four Tillerman children have found a new home with their grandmother, Dacey has to learn the hard lesson of letting go. Dacey's got other problems than finding her new role in the family: she's bored with everyone and everything at school and doesn't think anyone can tell her anything she wants to know. But slowly, Dacey discovers that everyone has something to teach, and life is a lesson that doesn't get easier . .

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Lexile 710

Paul Tannek (Jason Biggs) is a small town scholarship student in the big city having trouble fitting in at his college. With his hunter's cap and kind personality, Paul is an outsider among the self-anointed, sophisticated hipster crowd. As for his pot-smoking, girl chasing roommates, Paul's need to study takes a back seat to their overwhelming desire to party. Roommate Chris can only offer a floundering Paul this piece of advice: "For your own good, just try to be not so much... like you."

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle

Lexile 740

Meg's father, an eminent physicist, has been missing for two years. One night a strange old woman, Mrs. Whatsit, appears, "blown off course" while she, along with Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which, was tessering, or taking a shortcut through time and space. They take Meg, her little brother Charles Wallace, and their new friend Calvin, to rescue Dr. Murray, who is a prisoner on a planet ruled by IT, a giant pulsating brain that controls the minds of everyone on the planet.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

Lexile 750

Sixteen individuals who are mysteriously chosen to live in the Sunset Towers apartment building on the shore of Lake Michigan come together to hear the will of the self-made millionaire, Samuel W. Westing. The will takes the form of a puzzle, dividing the sixteen heirs into eight pairs, giving each pair a different set of clues, and challenging them to solve the mystery of who killed Sam Westing. As an incentive, each heir is given \$10,000 to play the game. Whoever solves the mystery will inherit Sam Westing's 200 million dollar fortune.

The Dragon's Child A Story of Angel Island by Laurence Yep Lexile 780

Ten-year-old Gim Lew Yep knows that he must leave his home in China and travel to America with the father who is a stranger to him. Gim Lew doesn't want to leave behind everything that he's ever known. But he is even more scared of disappointing his father. He uses his left hand, rather than the "correct" right hand; he stutters; and most of all, he worries about not passing the strict immigration test administered at Angel Island.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Lexile 810

A secret world of their own Jess Aaron's greatest ambition is to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. He's been practicing all summer and can't wait to see his classmates' faces when he beats them all. But on the first day of school, a new kid, a new girl, boldly crosses over to the boy's side of the playground and outruns everyone. That's not a very promising beginning for a friendship, but Jess and Leslie Burke become inseparable. It doesn't matter to Jess that Leslie dresses funny, or that her family has a lot of money -- but no TV. Leslie has imagination. Together, she and Jess create Terabithia, a magical kingdom in the woods where the two of them reign as king and queen, and their imaginations set the only limits. Then one morning a terrible tragedy occurs. Only when Jess is able to come to grips with this tragedy does he finally understand the strength and courage Leslie has given him.

Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

Lexile 920

Why is the land so important to Cassie's family? It takes the events of one turbulent year—the year of the night riders and the burnings, the year a white girl humiliates Cassie in public simply because she's black—to show Cassie that having a place of their own is the Logan family's lifeblood. It is the land that gives the Logans their courage and pride—no matter how others may degrade them, the Logans possess something no one can take away.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Lexile 970

The Secret Garden opens by introducing us to [Mary Lennox](#), a sickly, foul-tempered, unsightly little girl who loves no one and whom no one loves. At the outset of the story, she is living in India with her parents—a dashing army captain and his frivolous, beautiful wife—but is rarely permitted to see them. They have placed her under the constant care of a number of native servants, as they find her too hideous and tiresome to look after. Mary's circumstances are cast into complete upheaval when an outbreak of cholera devastates the Lennox household, leaving no one alive but herself.

Mary is sent to live in Yorkshire with her maternal uncle, Archibald Craven. Shortly after arriving at Misselthwaite, Mary hears about a secret garden.

The Hobbit by J.R.Tolkien

Lexile 1000

“If you care for journeys there and back, out of the comfortable Western world, over the edge of the wild, and home again, and can take an interest in a humble hero (blessed with a little wisdom and a little courage and considerable good luck), here is a record of such a journey and such a traveler.” So Tolkien begins *The Hobbit*, the great epic adventure which precedes the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

20 Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

Lexile 1030

Originally published in 1870, Verne's amazing undersea adventure is one of the earliest science fiction novels ever written. Since that time, generations of readers have plunged below the ocean's waves with Captain Nemo and his first-ever submarine, *The Nautilus*. It's a voyage of exploration and the imagination.

Marley and Me by John Grogan

Lexile 1050

John and Jenny had just begun their life together. They were young and in love, with a perfect little house and not a care in the world. Then they brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow furball of a puppy. Life would never be the same.

The Lost Garden by Helen Humphreys

Lexile 1110

Leaving London to grow food for the war effort, Gwen discovers a mysterious lost garden and the story of a love that becomes her own.

This word-perfect, heartbreaking novel is set in early 1941 in Britain when the war seems endless and, perhaps, hopeless. London is on fire from the Blitz, and a young woman gardener named Gwen Davis flees from the burning city for the Devon countryside. She has volunteered for the Land Army, and is to be in charge of a group of young girls who will be trained to plant food crops on an old country estate where the gardens have fallen into ruin. Also on the estate, waiting to be posted, is a regiment of Canadian soldiers. For three months, the young women and men will form attachments, living in a temporary rural escape. No one will be more changed by the stay than Gwen. She will inspire the girls to restore the estate gardens, fall in love with a soldier, find her first deep friendship, and bring a lost garden, created for a great love, back to life. While doing so, she will finally come to know herself and a life worth living.