

## ***Fiction***

### **Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica                      Lexile 960**

What would you do with a million dollars, if you were 13? Nate Brodie is nicknamed 'Brady' not only for his arm, but also because he's the biggest Tom Brady fan. He's even saved up to buy an autographed football. And when he does, he wins the chance for something he's never dreamed of: to throw a pass through a target at a Patriots game for one million dollars.

### **Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli                      Lexile 590**

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

### **The Giver by Lois Lowery                      Lexile 760**

December is the time of the annual Ceremony at which each twelve-year-old receives a life assignment determined by the Elders. Jonas watches his friend Fiona named Caretaker of the Old and his cheerful pal Asher labeled the Assistant Director of Recreation. But Jonas has been chosen for something special.

### **Dark Water Rising by Marian Hale                      Lexile 970**

Seth's family has just moved to Galveston, TX, and the 17-year-old is discontented with his life. His mother makes him look after his little sister, his younger brothers are completely annoying, and his father wants him to go to college rather than let him follow his dream of being a carpenter. Still, things get off to a pretty good start. His uncle finds him a summer job as a carpenter's helper, he meets a girl he likes, and Galveston is a fun place to live. However, on September 8, 1900, everything changes when a deadly storm devastates the area.

### **The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger                      Lexile 760**

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.

### **Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan                      Lexile 750**

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

### **So Be It by Sarah Weeks                      Lexile 860**

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

### **The Thief Lord by Richard Claus                      Lexile 640**

Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with -- and the protection of -- Venice's "Thief Lord."

## ***Non Fiction***

### **Miss Spitfire by Sarah Miller**

**Lexile 890**

At age twenty-one, partially blind, lonely but spirited Anne Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama to try and teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills.

### **Phineas Gage by John Fleischman**

**Lexile 1030**

This is the gruesome, true account of an accident that happened to a railroad foreman in Vermont in 1848. A 13 pound iron rod shot thru his brain. He survived but became a text book case in brain science.

### **Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of the Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah** **Lexile 960**

Chinese Cinderella is the perfect title for Adeline Yen Mah's memoir of her childhood growing up in China during the 1940s as she endures life ruled by a cruel stepmother.

### **The Mysterious Universe by Ellen Jackson**

**RL 7.5**

An illustrated discussion of space phenomena, such as supernovas, black holes, a dark energy, which scientists, including Dr. Alex Fillippenka and his High-Z Supernova Search Team, believe are pushing the universe apart at an accelerated rate.

### **Balloons over Broadway: the True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade by M. Sweet** **RL 5.4**

Sweet tells the story of the puppeteer responsible for the creation of those now-famous gigantic balloons that are emblematic of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

### **Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming**

**Lexile 930**

(Biography) Tells the story of Amelia Earhart's life - as a child, a woman, and a pilot - and describes the search for her missing plane.

### **Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of the Ocean Motion by Loree Griffin Burns** **Lexile 1200**

Aided by an army of beachcombers, oceanographer Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer tracks trash in the name of science. From sneakers to hockey gloves, Curt monitors the watery fate of human-made cargo that has spilled into the ocean. The information he collects is much more than casual news; it is important scientific data

## 6th Grade Summer Reading Project

As you enter the next part of your educational journey, you must move forward in your reading life. Research shows that a lack of reading during summer vacation will lead to what is called “summer reading loss” in which reading skills that you have gained during the school year are lost. This summer, you will be required to read at least 2 books: one fiction and one non-fiction. You must read at least two books from the lists on the following pages and complete the required assignments.

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Required Projects: Choose one of these responses to complete for each of your two summer reading books.

- Write a poem. Write a poem about one of the characters or some event in the novel.
- Create a comic book. Write a comic book that has a beginning, middle, and end of the main topics from the book.
- Counter someone’s published review of the book. Use text-based examples to justify why you disagree with the published review.
- Design a Facebook profile for a character in your book. Decide with whom your character would be friends and what he or she would list as interests, favorite quotations and website “likes.”
- Create a “soundtrack” for the book. What 5 songs would you choose? Give an explanation for why you chose each song and how it connects to the events or character in the book. Include the title, artist and lyrics for each song.
- Write a 2-3 paragraph proposal to have the book you’ve read made into a movie. Include which actors will play the main characters in the movie and why, and the location where the movie will be filmed and why.
- Create a timeline of 15 events for the book, including an illustration and a caption for each event.
- Complete each of the eight ideas with words or ideas from the book you read:
  - This book made me wish that...
  - This book made me realize that...
  - This book made me decide that...
  - This book made me wonder about...
  - This book made me see that...
  - This book made believe that...
  - This book made me feel...
  - This book made me hope that...
  - In an essay, explain whether or not you would recommend this book to others.

Due Date: All assignments will be due the first Friday we return back to school. If your work is completed, your rewards will consist of the following:

- One book: 3 dress down passes & a 20 pt. bonus pass to be used in any class (except for exams)
- Two books: 5 dress down passes, and 2: 20 pt. bonus passes to be used in any class (except for exams)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by e-mail. Happy summer reading!

*Respectfully yours,*

Debbie Kuttig                      kuttig\_debbie@hcde.org

Candace Womack                Womack\_candace@hcde.org

Arielle Stephens                Stephens\_a@hcde.org

# Ooltewah Middle School

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Project

As you enter the next part of your educational journey, you must move forward in your reading life. Research shows that a lack of reading during summer vacation will lead to what is called "summer reading loss" in which reading skills that you have gained during the school year are lost. This summer, you will be required to read at least 2 books: one fiction and one non-fiction. You must choose at least two books from the list below to read and do the required assignments.

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### Fiction:

*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

**780L** As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom.

*Out of my Mind* by Sharron Draper

**700L** Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced.

Any book from the *Bluford Series*

**750L** Set in fictional Bluford High, a tough but nurturing inner city high school, the novels speak to the interests, struggles, and concerns of today's young adults. *Disclaimer:* content is geared for mature readers.

Any book from the *Maximum Ride Series*

**720L** In James Patterson's blockbuster series, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world.

*Monster* by Walter Dean Myers

**670L** "Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

*The Third Eye* by Lois Lowry

**760L** When Karen closes her eyes, the visions come. Through time and space, she sees a place where stolen children sleep. And if Karen denies a young policeman's request for help, the children may never go home again.

*Call of the Wild* by Jack London

**1110L** Here is the ultimate dog story, one filled with emotion, adventure, and excitement.

*Tangerine* by Edward Bloor

**680L** Though legally blind, Paul Fisher can see what others cannot. He can see that his parents' constant praise of his brother, Erik, the football star, is to cover up something that is terribly wrong.

*Middle School: The Worst Years of my Life* by James Patterson

**700L** It's Rafe Khatchadorian's first day at Hills Village Middle School, and it's shaping up to be the worst year ever.

*Autobiography of My Dead Brother* by Walter Dean Myers

**830L** As Jesse fills his sketchbook with drawings and portraits of his brother Rise, he tries to make sense of the complexities of friendship, loyalty, and loss in a neighborhood plagued by drive-bys, vicious gangs, and abusive cops.

### Non-Fiction:

*Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick

**1170L** On November 20, 1820, the whale ship *Essex* was rammed and sunk by an angry whale.



*Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat

**1330L** More than a half-century ago, the Canadian Wildlife Service assigned the naturalist Farley Mowat to investigate why wolves were killing arctic caribou.

*Lincoln's Grave Robbers* by Steve Sheinkin

**930L** The action begins in October of 1875, as Secret Service agents raid the Fulton, Illinois, workshop of master counterfeiter Ben Boyd. Soon after Boyd is hauled off to prison, members of his counterfeiting ring gather in the back room of a smoky Chicago saloon to discuss how to spring their ringleader.

*Dear Bully: Seventy Authors Tell Their Stories* by Megan Kelley Hall and 70 others

Today's top authors for teens come together to share their stories about bullying—as silent observers on the sidelines of high school, as victims, and as perpetrators—in a collection that turns moving and self-effacing, but always deeply personal.

*The Pact* by Sampson Davis

**980L** Chosen by *Essence* to be among the forty most influential African Americans, the three doctors grew up in the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail.

*Knots in my Yo-Yo String* by Jerry Spinelli

**940L** From first memories through high school, including first kiss, first punch, first trip to the principal's office, and first humiliating sports experience, this is not merely an account of a highly unusual childhood. Rather, like Spinelli's fiction, its appeal lies in the accessibility and universality of his life.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by e-mail. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning! Happy summer reading!

Respectfully yours,

Kelli Solock  
solock\_kelli@hcde.org

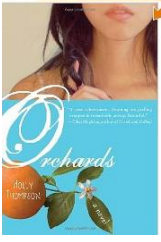
Carrie Greetham  
greetham\_c@hcde.org

Ooltewah Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

~~~~~ Fabulous Fiction!! ~~~~~

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|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 770L; F&P X  |    | <p><b>Any book from <u>The Maze Runner Series</u>, by James Dashner</b></p> <p>When Thomas wakes up his memory is blank...but he's not alone. He finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they've closed tight. And every thirty days a new boy arrives.</p>                                                                                                                                                            |
| 700L         |    | <p><b><u>Divergent</u> or <u>Insurgent</u>, by Veronica Roth</b></p> <p>In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.</p>             |
| 775L; F&P Z+ |   | <p><b><u>Fallen Angels</u>, by Walter Dean Myers</b></p> <p>A coming-of-age tale for young adults set in the trenches of the Vietnam War in the late 1960s, this is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service when his dream of attending college falls through. Sent to the front lines, Perry and his platoon come face-to-face with the Vietcong and the real horror of warfare. But violence and death aren't the only hardships. As Perry struggles to find virtue in himself and his comrades, he questions why black troops are given the most dangerous assignments, and why the U.S. is even there at all.</p>                                    |
| 580L; F&P Z  |  | <p><b><u>Fever 1793</u>, by Laurie Halse Anderson</b></p> <p>During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out. Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.</p> |
| 930L         |  | <p><b><u>The Count of Monte Cristo</u>, by Alexandre Dumas</b></p> <p>The Count of Monte Cristo is a very powerful book. So powerful in fact, that was controversial when it was first released. The Catholic Church in France condemned it because of its powerful message it presented the reader. This theme was one of revenge and vengeance. Monte Cristo had two goals- to reward those who were kind to him and his aging father, and to punish those responsible for his imprisonment and suffering. For the latter, he plans slow and painful punishment.</p>                                                                                                                |
| 1050L        |  | <p><b><u>Jane Eyre</u>, by Charlotte Bronte</b></p> <p>Jane is abused by her aunt and cousin and then attends a harsh charity school. Through it all she remains strong and determinedly refuses to allow a cruel world to crush her independence or her strength of will. A masterful story of a woman's quest for freedom and love. Jane Eyre is partly autobiographical, and Charlotte Brontë filled it with social criticism and sinister Gothic elements. A must read for anyone wishing to celebrate the indomitable strength of will or encourage it in their growing children.</p>                                                                                            |
| 900L         |  | <p><b><u>The Red Badge of Courage</u>, by Stephen Crane</b></p> <p>This is the story of a boy's physical and mental journey during the Civil War. This small masterpiece set the pattern for the treatment of war in modern fiction. Amid the nightmarish chaos of a Civil War battle, a young soldier discovers courage, humility, and, perhaps, wisdom. Widely praised for its uncanny re-creation of the sights, sounds, and sense of actual combat, <u>The Red Badge of Courage</u> is an enduring landmark of American fiction.</p>                                                                                                                                              |

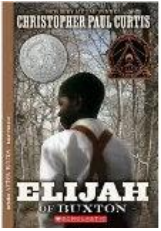
Non-Prose



**Orchards, by Holly Thompson**

After a classmate commits suicide, Kana Goldberg—a half-Japanese, half-Jewish American—wonders who is responsible. She and her cliquey friends said some thoughtless things to the girl. Hoping that Kana will reflect on her behavior, her parents pack her off to her mother's ancestral home in Japan for the summer. Kana's mixed heritage makes it hard to fit in, especially under the critical eye of her traditional grandmother. But as the summer unfolds, Kana gets to know her relatives, Japan, and village culture, and she begins to process the pain and guilt she feels about the tragedy back home.

1070L; F&P W

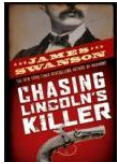


**Elijah of Buxton, by Christopher Paul Thomas**

Eleven-year-old Elijah lives in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves near the American border. He's the first child in town to be born free, and he ought to be famous just for that. Unfortunately, all that most people see is a "fra-gile" boy who's scared of snakes and talks too much. But everything changes when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Now it's up to Elijah to track down the thief--and his dangerous journey just might make a hero out of him, if only he can find the courage.

~~~~~ Fascinating Non-Fiction!! ~~~~~

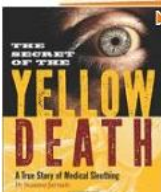
980L; F&P Z



**Chasing Lincoln's Killer, by James L. Swanson**

This is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia. This is an accessible look at the assassination of a president, and shows readers Abraham Lincoln the man, the father, the husband, the friend, and how his death impacted those closest to him.

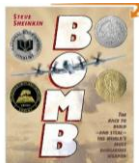
1010L



**The Secret of the Yellow Death: A True Story of Medical Sleuthing, by Suzanne Jurmain**

Here is the true story of how four Americans and one Cuban tracked down a killer, one of the world's most vicious plagues: yellow fever. Set in fever-stricken Cuba, the reader feels the heavy air, smell the stench of disease, hear the whine of mosquitoes biting human volunteers during the surreal experiments. Exploring themes of courage, cooperation, and the ethics of human experimentation, this gripping account is ultimately a story of the triumph of science.

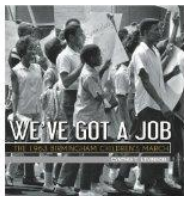
920L



**Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon, by Steve Sheinkin**

In 1938, a chemist in Germany made a shocking discovery: he split a Uranium atom in two. That launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

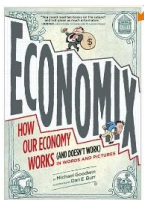
1020L



**We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March, by Cynthia Levinson**

*We've Got a Job* tells the little-known story of the 4,000 black elementary-, middle-, and high school students who voluntarily went to jail in Birmingham, Alabama, between May 2 and May 11, 1963. They succeeded where adults had failed in desegregating one of the most racially violent cities in America. Focusing on four of the original participants who have participated in extensive interviews, *We've Got a Job* recounts the astonishing events before, during, and after the Children's March.

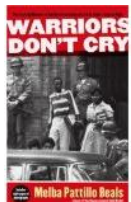
875L



**Economix: How and Why Our Economy Works (and Doesn't Work), by Michael Goodwin**

With clear, witty writing and quirky, accessible art, this important and timely graphic novel transforms "the dismal science" of economics into a fun, fact-filled story about human nature and our attempts to make the most of what we've got . . . and sometimes what our neighbors have got. *Economix* explains it all, from the beginning of Western economic thought, to markets free and otherwise, to economic failures, successes, limitations, and future possibilities.

1000L; F&P Y



**Warriors Don't Cry, by Melba Pattillo Beals**

In 1957, Melba Pattillo turned sixteen. That was also the year she became a warrior on the front lines of a civil rights firestorm. Following the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*, Melba was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock's Central High School. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.



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Katie Stewart

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Robert Smith

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