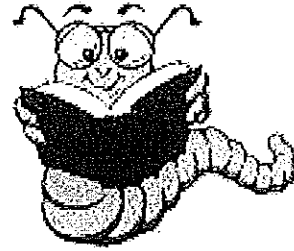


# AMS Middle School Summer Reading List

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Summer is a time for relaxation and family fun. Unfortunately, it is also a time when students fall into the “summer slump” and experience significant learning losses. In order to best prepare students for a successful return to school in the fall, we encourage you to make reading one of the many activities your children enjoy in this summer. Make visits to the public library or local bookstore and help foster excitement around reading. Check out what summer reading activities and events your local library is offering this summer. Most importantly, engage your children in the reading process. Talk with them about the characters in the books they are reading, their thoughts on what they are reading. Help by encouraging them to discover the endless fun and excitement reading has to offer.



To help you in this process we have compiled a recommended summer reading list of appropriate and interesting books and resources for your child. The first couple of pages cover general reading selections for grades 6-8. The next section has subject-specific reading suggestions for areas in math, science, Spanish, art, physical education and technology. By compiling both general and subject-specific reading selections, we've made it easy to find different subjects and topics which cater to various interests and reading levels. Remember though, these are just suggestions on where to start. The possibilities are endless...

Have a great summer reading!

--AMS teachers and staff

## Reading List

### Suggested Reading for Middle School Students (Grades 6-8)

The following titles are recommended as summer reading both to maintain fluency and reading level and to encourage independent reading. Students may find these titles at libraries and bookstores. Note: not all titles listed here are available from Prentice Hall.

**Alexander, Lloyd.** *The Arkadians.*

Three Arkadians wander through a fantasy land from one misadventure to another. An out-of-work bean counter, a young woman of mysterious talents, and a poet try to escape the wicked King Bromlos and his crooked soothsayers.

**Armstrong, Jennifer.** *Steal Away.*

Two women, one white and one black, tell the story of their escape from a southern farm during the 1850s and of their difficult journey north to freedom.

**Banks, Lynne Reid.** *Mystery of the Cupboard.*

After moving to a home his mother recently inherited, Omri uncovers the mystery of the house and its link to a magic cupboard. A sequel to *Indian in the Cupboard*.

**Beller, Susan.** *Cadets At War: The True Story of Teenage Heroism at the Battle of New Market.*

The story of 280 schoolboys who fought during the Civil War to stop the Union troops.

**Bruchac, Joseph.** *A Boy Called Slow! The True Story of Sitting Bull.*

The true story of a child so deliberate and methodical he was called Slow; he turns out to be Sitting Bull, the Lakota's greatest leader.

**Bruchac, Joseph.** *The Boy Who Lived with the Bears and Other Iroquois Stories.*

Six Iroquois stories illustrated with dramatic scratchboard.

**Byars, Betsy.** *The Moon and I.*

The author describes her hilarious adventures with a black snake and some comical stories about her first attempts at becoming a professional writer.

**Collier, James L. and Christopher.** *With Every Drop of Blood.*

Although Johnny promises his dying father he will not desert the family to fight for the rebel cause, the lure of adventure and financial gain are strong. The book realistically focuses on the reasons the Civil War was fought as well as the enormity of the suffering of soldiers and civilians.

**Cooney, Caroline.** *Among Friends.*

Six high school juniors discover surprising things about themselves and their friends in the diaries they are asked to keep as a three-month English assignment.

**Cooney, Caroline.** *Out of Time.*

In this sequel to *Both Sides of Time*, Anne Lockwood returns to New York City in the 1890s where she discovers her friends from her former trip are suffering through hard times. As a time traveler, she must learn nineteenth-century ways to help her friends.

**Coville, Bruce.** *Jennifer Murdley's Toad.*

Imagine owning a talking toad! Read about Jennifer's remarkable adventures after she purchases such a talented pet.

**Coville, Bruce.** *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher.*

When twelve-year-old Jeremy unwittingly buys a dragon's egg, his whole life changes.

**Creech, Sharon.** *Absolutely Normal Chaos.*

Mary Louis is keeping a journal as an English class assignment. Through the entries, the events of her summer come alive.

**Cummings, Pat.** *Talking with Artists: Volume Two.*

Thirteen renowned picture book illustrators describe their childhood, working methods, and sources of inspiration, as well as offer advice for budding artists.

**Myers, Walter Dean.** *Shadow of the Red Moon.*

Terrorists are about to attack Crystal City. In order to protect their children, parents send them to search for the Ancient Land.

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.** *Alice the Brave.*

For Alice, spending the summer around the pool should be ideal, but instead her secret fear of drowning is revealed when a group of boys try to throw her into the pool. Her brother helps her to conquer her fears.

**Olaleye, Isaac.** *The Distant Talking Drum: Poems from Nigeria.*

Fifteen original poems illustrated with folk art paintings.

**Paterson, Katherine.** *Lyddie.*

In an effort to gain independence, a poor girl from a Vermont farm leaves home and becomes a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts during the 1840s.

**Paulsen, Gary.** *Brian's Winter.*

What would have happened if Brian Robeson, the subject of *Hatchet*, had not been rescued when he had? Brian must confront the Canadian winter; he scrambles to reinforce his shelter and make animal skin clothing and arrowhead tools to help him improve hunting techniques.

**Paulsen, Gary.** *Call Me Francis Tucket.*

In this sequel to *Mr. Tucket*, Francis feels he can handle himself in the wild. The story relates his many mishaps as he attempts to conquer the wilderness.

**Peck, Robert Newton.** *A Part of the Sky.*

A sequel to *A Day No Pigs Would Die*. Robert's coming-of-age story continues as the Peck family struggles to keep the family farm during the Depression.

**Plummer, Louise.** *The Unlikely Romance of Kate Bjorkman.*

Kate, seventeen, is writing a romance novel based on her real romance with her brother's friend, Richard. As time goes by Kate is able to reflect upon her relationship and her writing.

**Powell, Randy.** *Dean Duffy.*

Dean is assured of a scholarship until his pitching arm gives out and he bats only .052 in his last season. His future is questionable until he receives an offer from a small private college for a one-semester scholarship.

**Rawls, Wilson.** *Where The Red Fern Grows.*

A young boy living in the Ozarks works hard to fulfill his dream of purchasing two redbone hound dogs and training them to be champions.

**Rosen, Michael J.** *A School for Pompey Walker.*

A true narrative of an escaped slave who returned to the South to raise money for a school by selling himself back into slavery again and again.

**Rostkowski, Margaret.** *Moon Dancer.*

Sixteen year old Miranda and her 21-year-old cousin Emily take part in a summer excursion into a southern Utah canyon to explore cliff dwellings of the Hopi people.

**Rylant, Cynthia.** *The Van Gogh Cafe.*

Magic seems to occur at a cafe in Kansas where Clara and her father witness a series of unusual happenings.

**Stevenson, James.** *Sweet Corn.*

Twenty-eight short poems accompanied by creative designs that complement the text.

**Taylor, Mildred.** *The Well: David's Story.*

Despite the racial prejudice and injustice of the South in the early 1900s, the Logans share their well water.

**Taylor, Theodore.** *The Bomb.*

In 1946, sixteen-year-old Sorry and his family are confronted by U.S. military personnel who tell them their home will be used as a testing site for atomic bombs and that they may return in a few years!

**Taylor, Theodore.** *The Cay* (and its prequel *Timothy Of The Cay*).

# AMS 2009 Subject-Specific Summer Reading List For Middle School



## Math

On average, students lose around 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation over the summer months. The following is a list with suggestions of books that might appeal to students who love math or that might make math more fun and interesting for other students.

1. Any book by Martin Gardner (some examples):
  - *My Best Mathematical and Logic Puzzles* (Math & Logic Puzzles), *Aha!*, *Gotcha!*,
  - *Perplexing Puzzles and Tantalizing Teasers* (Math & Logic Puzzles)
2. Any book by Brian Bolt
  - *Mathematical Activities, Even More Mathematical Activities, A Mathematical Pandora's Box*
3. Brown Paper School book Series:
  - *Math for Smarty Pants* by Marilyn Burns
  - *I Hate Mathematics!* by Linda Allison, Marilyn Burns, and David Weitzman
4. Lateral Thinking Puzzles
  - Published by Mindware Lateral Thinking Puzzle Set
  - Any book by Paul Sloane: *Learn How to Think Sideways*, *Classic Lateral Thinking Challenges*, *Lateral Thinking Puzzlers*
5. Logic Puzzles books:
  - *Sip & Solve: Logic Puzzles* (Sip & Solve Series) by Mark Zegarelli
  - *Logic Puzzles to Bend Your Brain* by Kurt Smith
  - *Armchair Puzzlers Book - Logic Puzzles* by University Games
6. Any puzzle books published by Mindware (<http://www.mindwareonline.com>):
  - *Number Junctions*, *Math Path Puzzles*, *What's the Missing Part of the Equation?*, *Venn Perplexors* or *Math Perplexors*
7. *Mathematicians are People, Too: Stories from the Lives of Great Mathematicians* by Luetta Reimer and Wilbert Reimer
8. *The World of MC Escher* by M C & Locher, J L Escher
9. Sudoku puzzles or Kakuro puzzles.
10. *Can You Believe Your Eyes?* by J. Richard Block and H.E. Yuker
11. Any book by David Macaulay
  - *The Way Things Work* by David Macaulay and David Eckold
12. *How to Lie With Statistics* by Darrell Huff and Irving Geis
13. *Flatland* (Oxford World's Classics) by Edwin Abbott and Rosemary Jann

Math Website: [www.math.com](http://www.math.com).

Students can polish up on specific areas of math such as fractions, algebra, geometry, etc.



## Science (Recommended reading: All grade level science reading list)

1. *An Algonquin Year: The Year According to the Full Moon*, by Michael McCurdy. Houghton Mifflin. 2000. ISBN: 0-618-00705-9
2. *Ruth Law Thrills a Nation*, by Don Brown. Houghton Mifflin. 1993. ISBN: 0-395-66404-7
3. *Salamander Rain: A Lake and Pond Journal*, by Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini. Dawn Publications. 2001. ISBN: 1-58469-017-8
4. *Sky Pioneer: A Photobiography of Amelia Earhart*, by Corinne Szabo. National Geographic. 1997. ISBN: 0-7922-3737-4
5. *Snowflake Bentley*, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Houghton Mifflin. 1998. ISBN: 0-395-86162-4
6. *Sophie's World*, by Jostein Gaarder. Berkeley. 1991. ISBN: 0-425-15225-1

edition of this complete examination of the art of working clay. For use in a studio course or as a professional resource, this complete potter's fool puts the principles of ceramic design at your fingertips.

*You Can Weave! Projects for Young Weavers*

By Kathleen Monaghan and Hermon Joyner

An illustrated, step-by-step resource for building a foundation of weaving knowledge and skills. This book makes it easy to introduce weaving to your students using readily available materials.

*Exploring Colored Pencil*

By Sandra McFall Angelo

*Exploring Colored Pencil* is a comprehensive overview of this practical and powerful medium. This book provides the step-by-step technique demonstrations needed by beginners, while also exploring more sophisticated applications of interest to intermediate and advanced students.

*Art from Many Hands: Multicultural Art Projects*

By Jo Miles Schuman

An excellent resource for fostering cultural awareness and illuminating the world's artistic traditions. This book features rich content on regional backgrounds and cultures, vivid images, and more.

*Careers in Art: An Illustrated Guide*

By Gerald F. Brommer and Joseph A. Gatto

First-hand accounts by respected artists inspire and instruct students considering a career in the visual arts. From traditional art careers to new options in the digital and design fields, this resource profiles over 60 careers with more than a dozen examined in detail.

*Design Synectics: Stimulating Creativity in Design*

By Nicholas Roukes

A revolutionary approach to the elements and principles of design! Each chapter is filled with photographs, drawings, and activities that illustrate art elements in new ways. Includes innovative exercises, fine art, and more.



## Physical Education

*In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle*

By Madeleine Blais

Finally, after five straight years of disappointments on the basketball court, the Amherst Lady Hurricanes found they just might have what it took to go all the way. This is a fierce, funny, and intimate look into their minds and hearts during one very special season.

*On the Devil's Court*

By Carl Deuker

Struggling with his feelings of inadequacy and his failure to make the basketball team in his new school, seventeen-year-old Joe Faust finds himself willing to trade his soul for one perfect season of basketball.

*It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life*

By Lance Armstrong

Armstrong, a four-time Tour de France champion and cancer survivor, covers his early life, his rise through the sport world and his medical difficulties in this riveting memoir.

*Hoop Dreams*

By Ben Joravsky

A study of the struggles of Arthur Agee and William Gates to win college scholarships and positions on professional teams follows the stories of their families, relationships, and personal aspirations.

*Slam!*

By Walter Dean Myers

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

*Woodsong*

