

**MORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST
GRADE 6 - 2009**

Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life.
Mortimer Adler

All students, who will be attending Morton Middle School in the sixth grade, are required to read three books over the summer. Below, please find the list of approved books. These books can be found at the Lexington Public Library, Joseph-Beth, Barnes and Noble, and Walden's Bookstores. Upon returning to school from summer break, students will be required to take an Accelerated Reader(AR) test over the books that they have read. Happy reading!

1. ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*** - Mark Twain. A classic adventure about the boyhood pranks and schooldays of the main character, Tom Sawyer, on the American frontier.

2. ***Alanna: The First Adventure*** - Tamora Pierce. A fantasy fiction book that details the life of Alanna of Trebond and her magical healing powers. (First in the *Alanna* series.)

3. ***Anne of Green Gables*** - Lucy Maud Montgomery. This classic book details the life of a lively young orphan girl who delights her new home and community with her spirit and imagination.

4. ***Belle Prater's Boy*** - Ruth White. After the disappearance of his mother, Woodrow is sent to live with his grandparents in Virginia. Woodrow and his cousin, Gypsy, become best friends during their sixth-grade year. They are drawn together by the absence of a loved parent.

5. ***Esperanza Rising*** - Pam Munoz Ryan. Esperanza and her mother must give up their lives of wealth in Mexico and work in the labor camps of Southern California during the Great Depression.

6. ***Fablehaven*** - Brandon Mull. Fantasy book fans will enjoy this novel filled with mystical creatures, trolls, witches, and fairies. In this book, a brother and sister face the difficult challenge of saving their family and Fablehaven, a safe haven for magical characters, from evil forces.

7. **Harris and Me: A Summer Remembered** - Gary Paulsen. An entertaining book about an eleven-year-old boy's summer on his aunt and uncle's farm. Gary and his cousin, Harris, spend their days filled with crazy adventures such as wrestling slippery pigs, catching mice, and jumping out of a barn loft.
8. **Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life** - Wendy Mass. On Jeremy Fink's thirteenth birthday, he receives a mysterious box left by his dead father. The box contains four locks, but Jeremy doesn't receive any keys to open the locks. Jeremy and his friend, Lizzy, embark on an adventure across Manhattan to find the keys and gain many insights into life along the way. A great mystery that allows the reader to become emotionally involved.
9. **Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery** - John Feinstein. Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol are two aspiring journalists who win a writing contest, and the prize is a free trip to the NCAA Final Four Basketball Tournament. While reporting on the tournament, the two teens uncover a blackmail plot threatening one of the student-athletes.
10. **Miracle's Boys** - Jacqueline Woodson. Three brothers deal with the challenges of growing up in New York City without parents. This is an insightful realistic fiction book about grief, family and hope.
11. **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** - Mildred D. Taylor. This book realistically details the struggles of an African American family, the Logans, during the 1930s in the Deep South.
12. **Soul Surfer** - Bethany Hamilton. This nonfiction book details the astonishing story of a thirteen-year-old surfer girl who lost her arm in a shark attack, and her amazing return to competitive surfing.
13. **Swear to Howdy** - Wendelin Van Draanen. A realistic fiction book about the friendship between two boys torn apart by a big, terrible secret.
14. **The Watsons Go to Birmingham** - Christopher Paul Curtis. The ordinary interactions of everyday routines of the Watson's, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.