

# **MORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **SUMMER READING LIST**

### **GRADE 7 - 2009**

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

Sir Richard Steele

All students, who will be in the seventh grade at Morton Middle School, 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 or complete an alternative assignment over the books that they have read to earn credit for their efforts. Please choose from the books listed below. Happy reading!

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1. ***Al Capone Does My Shirts*** - Gennifer Choldenko. This historical fiction novel, set in 1935, is about a twelve-year-old boy who lives on Alcatraz Island with his autistic sister, Natalie.
2. ***Bella at Midnight*** - by Diane Stanley. This historical fiction book, set during the medieval time period, is a re-created fairytale of hardship, intrigue and true love. Bella's mother dies at childbirth and her father, an unlikable Knight, sends her away to be raised among the peasants. As a teenager, Bella is forced by her father to live unhappily with him and his new family. Through Bella's hardships, she learns the values of loyalty, truth, and honor.
3. ***Code Orange*** - Caroline Cooney. The main character of this suspense/mystery book is a teenage boy named Mitty who isn't motivated to do his school report on infectious disease. However, when he finds an envelope of smallpox scabs in an antique textbook, his school work becomes "real world," as this discovery makes Mitty a target of a terrorist group that plans to harvest the smallpox virus.
4. ***Crispin*** - Avi. Set in medieval England, the main character of this historical fiction book is a thirteen-year-old homeless boy. He is accused of a crime that he didn't commit, so he sets out on a journey filled with twists, turns and treachery aplenty across the English countryside.
5. ***Eragon*** - Christopher Paolini. A suspense-filled fantasy book about dragons, wizards, and heroes. The book details a boy's coming of age and his relationship with the first dragon born in over a century.

6. **Love That Dog** - Sharon Creech. This book is a series of free-verse poems written from the point of view of Jack, the main character. With the help of a teacher and a dog, Jack finds his own voice.
7. **Much Ado About Anne** - Heather Vogel Frederick. This is the second book in *The Mother-Daughter Book Club Series*. However, the reader does not need to have read the first book in the series to comprehend it. This realistic fiction novel is told from the rotating viewpoints of four seventh grade girls who are participating in a mother-daughter book club. The author weaves into the plot humor, pranks, teenage struggles, and friendship as the girls meet to discuss their book club read - *Anne of Green Gables*.
8. **Pictures of Hollis Woods** - Patricia Reilly Giff. A realistic fiction book about a twelve-year-old girl's journey through the foster care system and how she finds love, friendship, and a sense of belonging.
9. **The Sea of Trolls** - Nancy Farmer. A tale set in A.D. 793; this fantasy book is full of surprising twists and turns combining history, humor and Norse mythology to create adventure and action for the reader.
10. **The Skin I'm In** - Sharon Flake. Thirteen-year-old Maleeka is dissatisfied because her skin is extremely dark until she meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face. Through her teacher, Maleeka discovers who she is and what she looks like in this realistic fiction book.
11. **Stargirl** - Jerry Spinelli. An eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School in this realistic fiction story of first love and the hazards of popularity.
12. **Travel Team** - Mike Lupica. This exciting sports fiction book is about a seventh-grader, Danny, who is cut from his basketball team. Danny and his father start their own basketball team. It is written by a *New York Daily News* sports columnist.
13. **Treasure Island** - Robert Louis Stevenson. While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as great danger in this classic adventure novel.
14. **Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?** - Jerry Spinelli. This hilarious realistic fiction book details sibling rivalry at its best. Brother and Sister, Greg and Megin, take turns narrating the Junior High dramas they encounter both at home and at school. A crisis helps the two siblings realize they mean more to each other than they ever imagined.