

MORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

SUMMER READING LIST

GRADE 8 - 2009

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.

W. Fusselman

All students, who will be in the eighth grade at Morton Middle School, are required to read three books over the summer. Students will earn credit for their efforts upon returning to school. Please choose from the books listed below. These books can be found at the Lexington Public Library, Joseph-Beth, Barnes and Noble, and Walden's Bookstores. Happy reading!

1. **After the War** - Carol Matas. Fifteen-year-old Ruth returns home after the Holocaust. She believes none of her relatives are alive, so she joins an underground organization that helps smuggle illegal immigrants to Palestine in this historical fiction novel.
2. **Amulet of Samarkand** - Jonathan Stroud. This fantasy adventure book is set in modern-day London flavored with magicians and chaos. You will enjoy reading about Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice learning his first lessons in the arts of magic.
3. **Angels Watching Over Me** - Lurlene McDaniel. Cynical Leah Lewis-Hall, stuck in the hospital alone during the holidays, learns about the miracles of love, faith, and angels when she meets the loving family of her roommate, a young Amish girl named Rebekah.
4. **Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl** - Anne Frank. Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's historical diary is a powerful reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.
5. **Babysitting is a Dangerous Job** - Wilo Davis Roberts. This thrilling suspenseful novel keeps the reader entertained with a story about an ordinary babysitting job that turns into a nightmare for the main character, Darcy. The three children she sits for are "bratty," but that is nothing compared to the kidnapers who invade the house and carry off the children.
6. **Chinese Cinderella** - Adeline Yen Mah. After the death of her mother, Adeline endures a life of abuse from her family. Read this memoir to learn about the challenges she faced growing up in China.

7. ***A Corner of the Universe*** - Ann M. Martin. Twelve-year-old Hattie's small-town life is flipped upside down when an uncle, who she didn't even know, returns home from a school for the mentally disabled. Hattie and her uncle develop a special friendship, share secrets, and learn from each other in this realistic fiction book.
8. ***A Day No Pigs Would Die*** - Robert Newton Peck. To a thirteen-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns on the farm about, "Doing what's got to be done," especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.
9. ***Fever 1793*** - Laurie Halse Anderson. A historical fiction novel, told through the eyes of fourteen-year-old Mattie, that details the horrors of the Philadelphia Yellow Fever epidemic in 1793.
10. ***Four Miles to Pinecone*** - Jon Hassler. This realistic fiction book is a page turner! After witnessing his best friend steal from a store where Tom works, this short novel deals with the main character's inner conflict to do the right thing or to take the easy way out.
11. ***Frankenstein*** - Mary Shelley. A chilling classic book about Victor, a curious individual who comes up with the idea of recreating life after it has been destroyed. Victor regrets making his creation after the monster causes destruction to those around him.
12. ***Izzy Willy Nilly*** - Cynthia Voight. Izzy has it all: beauty, brains, friends, poise, and popularity, but when she makes the poor choice to get inside a vehicle driven by a boy who's been drinking, her life is changed forever. This is a book all about growing wise, making tough choices, and, though no longer having it all, being able to put it all together.
13. ***Out of the Dust*** - Karen Hesse. In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates to the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.
14. ***A Separate Peace*** - John Knowles. This classic book, set in New England during World War II, is about two boys with extremely different personalities who are best friends. They attend a private boarding school during their last summer before being old enough to face the war.
15. ***Summer Ball*** - Mike Lupica. This sports fiction book is the sequel to the book *Travel Team*. Danny Walker, the main character, once again finds himself going against the odds as he tries to take his skills to the next level at summer basketball camp.