



**Dear Parents,**

This letter is designed to answer your questions about summer reading. It is intended as a guide, giving suggestions and activities for integrating pleasure reading into your family's summer days.

**Students are required to choose at least one from the three novels listed below and encouraged to read as many novels as possible from the *Intermediate School Summer Reading Suggestions* list on pages 3 and 4 of this letter.** Students should be prepared to create a project-based book response which will be completed at school with their literature group. The provided descriptions were obtained from Amazon.com, Common Sense Media, and from the authors' websites.

**The War That Saved My Life - Kimberly Brubaker Bradley - 2015 - Fiction**

*2016 Schneider Family Book Award Winner, Middle Grades*

*2016 Josette Frank Award Winner*

*2016 Newbery Honor Book*

*many more honors...*

**The War That Saved My Life** is a standout coming-of-age story set in the English countryside during World War II. Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.

**Circus Mirandus - Cassie Beasley - 2016 - Fantasy**

*The New York Times Notable Children's Books of 2015, Middle Grade*

*Goodreads Choice Awards 2015, Debut Author*

*2016 NCTE Charlotte Huck Award Recommended Book*

*many more honors...*

**Circus Mirandus** is a fantastical novel in which children delight in a magical circus that exists solely to enchant them. The novel alternates between the present-day story of a fifth-grader named Micah Tuttle, who's grappling with the impending death of his beloved grandfather (and sole guardian), Ephraim Tuttle, and Ephraim's experiences as a boy at the Circus Mirandus. Micah, with the help of his friend Jenny, begin a quest to save his grandfather with the help of the circus.

**Raymie Nightingale - Kate DiCamillo - 2016 - Fiction**

*Parents' Choice Awards, Fiction Gold, Spring 2016*

*The Kirkus Prize 2016 Nominee, Young Readers*

*National Book Awards: Young People's Literature, 2016 Finalist*

*many more honors...*

**Raymie Nightingale** is a fiction novel about Raymie Clarke who has come to realize that everything depends on her. Luckily, she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who has left town, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton; she also has to contend with the wispy, frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition approaches, circumstances draw the three girls into an unlikely friendship and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways.

## What is summer reading?

We believe that summer reading should be leisure reading, emphasizing pleasure rather than instruction. Quantity is not important, but routine reading is encouraged. Your child should choose books they want to read, within good taste and reason. Interest is one of the greatest motivations for readers of any age.

### Which books should we choose?

- Help your child investigate interests through reading.
- Encourage variety in reading. Don't forget poetry, biographies, magazines and newspapers, comics, etc.
- Leisure reading should be geared to the comfort level of students. They should not be discouraged from choosing books that are a stretch. They can always put a book aside if it proves to be too advanced. There is nothing sacred about finishing every book you begin.

### Who can help us?

- A librarian or a children's specialist at a local bookstore can be a great help in guiding children to find books that they will love.
- Sign up for the Grosse Pointe Public Library's Summer Reading Program at one of the branches or on-line at: <https://gp.beanstack.org/reader365> The program kick-off is Friday, June 16th.
- Make use of the 4/5 book suggestions.
- Talk to your children's friends about which books they have loved.
- Use literature websites: [www.Kidsreads.com](http://www.Kidsreads.com), [www.bookadventure.org](http://www.bookadventure.org), or [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org)

### How can I motivate my child to read?

- Model reading for your child through family reading. Consider setting aside a family reading time when the entire family reads together.
- Let an older child read to a younger sibling, relative or friend.
- While you are reading a newspaper, encourage younger children to "make" their own newspaper and later ask them to read it to you.
- Set up a "reading bank": Children "owe" you 15-30 minutes of reading per day. They can "stock up" minutes by reading more and then trade in those minutes on days they don't have time to read. A chart made by your child could keep track of minutes earned and used.
- Encourage children to make their own reading selections and respect their decisions.
- For variety, consider recorded books. Vacations might be a good time to utilize this alternative.

### What are the parents' roles?

- Read, read, read to your children. Read whatever they love; read whatever you love. Read stories over and over again. Read to your entire family. Read to your older child. Never stop reading aloud!
- Make reading fun. Plan a lunch at a bookstore after choosing books, or stop off at the ice cream parlor after a trip to the library. You have control over setting the tone of reading in your family.
- Enjoy a recorded book as you travel or carpool. It helps pass the time pleasantly and may give rise to conversation about the book.
- Help children find time to read. Allow children the opportunity to plan their daily routine, scheduling in time for favorite television shows and time for reading.
- Surround children with a variety of reading materials.
- Share children's reading experiences, value their opinions and concerns. Engage them in conversations about what they are reading.
- Express your approval of their reading.

**Here's to the long, lazy days of reading enjoyment!**  
**Intermediate School Language Arts Department**

**Fiction:**

*El Deafo* by CeCe Bell  
*The Fourteenth Goldfish* or *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm  
*The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander  
*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt  
*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* or *Island of Dr. Libris* by Chris Grabenstein  
*The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail* or *Secrets at Sea* by Richard Peck  
*Smile* by Raina Telgemeier  
*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai  
*Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson  
*Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech  
*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin  
*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly  
*Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper  
*Wonder* by R. J. Palacio  
*The Land of Stories (series)* by Chris Colfer  
*Ungifted* by Gordon Korman  
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* or *Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick  
*Harry Potter (series)* by J.K. Rowling  
*Artemis Fowl (series)* by Eoin Colfer  
*Charlie Bone (series)* by Jenny Nimmo  
*Joey Pigza (series)* by Jack Gantos  
*The Boy on the Porch, Love That Dog, Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech  
*Eragon (series)* by Christopher Paolini  
*Dragon Rider* or *Inkheart (series)* by Cornelia Funke  
*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli  
*Chains, Forge*, by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Rules* by Cynthia Lord  
*Lawn Boy* or *Hatchet* by Gary Paulson  
*Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine  
*Michigan Chillers* or *American Chillers (series)* by Johnathan Rand  
*Princess Tales (series)* by Gail Carson Levine  
*Ida B and Her Plan to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World* by Katherine Hannigan  
*Al Capone Does My Shirts, Al Capone Shines My Shoes* by Gennifer Choldenko  
*North* by Donna Jo Napoli  
*Sahara Special* or *Diary of a Fairy Godmother* by Esme Raji Codell  
*Hoot* or *Flush* by Carl Hiasson  
*The Penderwicks: A Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall  
*The Mysterious Benedict Society (series)* by Trenton Lee Stewart  
*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse  
*Judy Moody* or *Stink (series)* by Meghan McDonald  
*The World According to Humphrey (series)* by Betty G. Birney  
*A Nest for Celeste* by Henry Cole  
*The Lightning Thief, Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series)* or *The Red Pyramid (series)* by Rick Riordan  
*Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator (series)* by Jennifer Allison  
*Moxie Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little* by Peggy Gifford  
*Lunch Money* or *Keepers of the School (series)* by Andrew Clements  
*Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker

## **NON-FICTION, POETRY AND BIOGRAPHY:**

*I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*

by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick

*Leonardo's Horse* by Jean Fritz

*The Tarantula Scientist* by Sy Montgomery

*Spiders or Lizards* by Nic Bishop

*An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* by Jim Murphy

*Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms* by Patricia Lauber

*Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women* by Catherine Timmes

*We Were There Too!: Young People in U.S. History* by Phillip M. Hoose

*Interrupted Journey: Saving Endangered Sea Turtles* by Kathryn Lasky

*Digging for Bird-Dinosaurs: An Expedition to Madagascar* by Nic Bishop

*Hero Dogs: Courageous Canines in Action* by Donna M. Jackson

*Coyotes in the Crosswalk* by Eve Bunting

*Backyard Detective: Critters Up Close* by Nic Bishop

*Bear Dogs: Canines With a Mission*, by Ted Wood

*Rainbow Soup* by Brian P. Cleary (poetry)

*Wonderful Words: Poems About Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening* by Lee Bennett Hopkins

*Falling Up or Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein

*The New Kid on the Block, A Pizza the Size of the Sun or It's Raining Pigs and Noodles* by Jack Prelutsky

*A Maze Me, Poems for Girls* by Naomi Shihab Nye

*George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War* by Thomas B. Allen

*Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges

*Langston Hughes, American Poet* by Alice Walker

*Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina* by Maria Tallchief

*26 Fairmont Avenue* by Tomie DePaola

*Ben Franklin's Almanac* by Candace Fleming

*Walt Whitman: Words for America* by Barbara Kerley

*The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins* by Barbara Kerley

*Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters* by Andrea Davis Pinkney

*First to Fly* by Peter Busby

*Fight On! Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration* by Dennis Brindell Fradin and Judith Bloom Fradin

*Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine

*Michaelangelo, Cleopatra, Leonardo Da Vinci, or Bard of Avon* by Diane Stanley