

SFDS Upper School Summer Reading List 2007

The Upper school list is organized by incoming grade level and is a multi-tiered approach : suggested reading, new in our library titles and best books of 2006 compiled from lots of sources. (For even more great summer reading lists, check out our archived SFDS Summer reads on the SFDS website, and this link to the American Librarian Association recommendations!) Happy reading!

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/summerreading/recsummerreading/recommendedreading.htm>

Fifth Grade

**Gregor the Overlander* – Suzanne Collins *When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.(1st in a series : Underland Chronicles)

**Honus and Me* – Dan Gutman

Joey – who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card and travels back in time to meet Honus. (A Baseball Card adventure. Also Babe and Me and Jackie and Me)

**The Ear, The Eye and the Arm* – Nancy Farmer

In Zimbabwe, in the year 2194, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them

**Ink Heart* - Cornelia Funke

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service. (Also *Inkspell*; *Dragonrider* and *The Thief Lord*)

**Julie of the Wolves*– Jean Craighead George *Lost while running away from an unwanted marriage, a 13-year-old Eskimo girl is befriended by wolves. (also *Julie*)

**Letters from a Slave Girl* – Mary E. Lyons

Fictionalized version of the life of Harriet Jacobs, told in the form of letters that she might have written.

**Castle in the Attic; and Battle for the Castle* – Elizabeth Winthrop

A gift of a toy castle introduces William to an adventure involving magic and a personal quest.

New this year in our library:

**Children of the Longhouse* – Joseph Bruchac

Eleven year old Ohkwa'ri and his twin sister must make peace with a hostile gang of older boys in their Mohawk village during the late 1400's

**Peter and the Starcatchers* – Dave Barry

Soon after Peter, an orphan, sets sail from England on the ship Never Land, he befriends and assists Molly, a young Starcatcher, whose mission is to guard a trunk of magical stardust from a greedy pirate and the native inhabitants of a remote island.

**The Frog Princess* – E.D. Baker

After reluctantly kissing a frog, an awkward, fourteen-year-old princess suddenly finds herself a frog, too, and sets off with the prince to seek the means--and the self-confidence--to become human again.

**My Last Skirt – the story of Jennie Rodgers, Union Soldier – Lynda Durrant* Enjoying the freedom afforded her while dressing as a boy in order to earn higher pay after emigrating from Ireland, Jennie Rodgers serves in the 95th Illinois Infantry as Private Albert Cashier, a Union soldier in the American Civil War.

2006 –07 Best Books

**Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott – Russell Freedman*
When Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white man, a movement was set in motion that led to other nonviolent boycotts, marches, and walks--resulting in the civil rights movement and major social changes throughout the nation

**The Thing About Georgie – Lisa Graff*
Georgie's dwarfism causes problems, but he could always rely on his parents, his best friend, and classmate Jeanie the Meanie's teasing, until a surprising announcement, a new boy in school, and a class project shake things up.

**Fly By Night – Frances Hardinge*
Mosca Mye and her homicidal goose, Saracen, travel to the city of Mandelion on the heels of smooth-talking con-man, Eponymous Clent.

.Sixth Grade

**The Wright Three – Blue Balliett* In the midst of a series of unexplained accidents and mysterious coincidences, sixth-graders Calder, Petra, and Tommy lead their classmates in an attempt to keep Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Robie House from being demolished.(sequel to *Chasing Vermeer*)

**Maya Running – Anjali Banerjee*
Maya, a Canadian of East Indian descent, struggles with her ethnic identity, infatuation with a classmate, and the presence of her beautiful Bengali cousin, Pinky, who comes for a visit bearing a powerful statue of the god Ganesh, the Hindu elephant god.

**The Dark is Rising Series – Susan Cooper*
Simon, Jane, and Barney, the three Drew children, embark upon a search for an ancient treasure linked with King Arthur. (*Over Sea Under Stone, The Dark is Rising, The Grey King* etc.)

**Parvana's Journey – Deborah Ellis*
After her father dies, twelve-year-old Parvana is left to fend for herself and so, dressed as a boy and accompanied by other children on the run, must find a way to locate her remaining family inside war-torn Afghanistan

**The Birchbark House – Louise Erdrich*
Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

**Ella Enchanted - Gail Carson Levine*
In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

**The Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan*
Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood, a special camp to prepare him to stop a war among the gods.

**The Gypsy Game – Zilphia Keatley Snyder*

Six imaginative schoolmates embark on a game in which they pretend to be gypsies, but when one of the boys runs away and takes up with a group of homeless people, the game threatens to become all too real. (companion to *Egypt Game*)

New this year in our library

**A Ceiling Of Stars* – Ann Creel

In a series of letters and journal entries, twelve-year-old Vivien describes being abandoned by her mother and struggling to survive on the streets of a big city while searching for her family.

**Ancient Fire* – Mark London Williams

When twelve-year-old Eli becomes involved with the time travel experiments that the government pressures his parents to pursue, he travels to fifth-century Alexandria, Egypt, where he meets Thea, a scholar accused of sorcery, and Clyne, an extraterrestrial saurian who is working on a homework assignment.

**Ptolemy's Gate* – Jonathan Stroud

Seventeen-year-old Nathaniel has risen to a position of importance in the British government with the help of Bartimaeus, a djinni he summoned to help him root out rebels, but with Bartimaeus' essence weakening due to having spent too long in the real world, he and Nathaniel are forced to team up with rival Kitty Jones to save the country from demons.

2006-07 Best Books

**The Adventures of Marco Polo* – Russell Freedman

An illustrated chronicle of the travels of thirteenth-century explorer Marco Polo; includes a discussion of the controversy over whether he indeed went to China.

**Fairest* – Gail Carson Levine

From the author of *Ella Enchanted* (In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.), a retelling of the Snow White tale.

**Pick Me Up* – Jeremy Leslie and David Roberts

A reference book for modern kids and teens that presents fun information about history, science, nature, geography, and culture.

**Letters from a Slave Boy* – Mary E. Lyons

A fictionalized look at the life of Joseph Jacobs, son of a slave, told in the form of letters that he might have written during his life in pre-Civil War North Carolina, on a whaling expedition, in New York, New England, and finally in California during the Gold Rush.

Lit Circle Books you may have missed :

Chasing Vermeer

Hope Was Here

The House of the Scorpion

Al Capone Does My Shirts

Freak the Mighty

Westing Game

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe

A Single Shard

The View from Saturday

Esperanza Rising

The Golden Hour

Wringer

Maniac Magee

Seventh Grade

**The Singer of All Songs* – Kate Constable

In a lush introduction to a world where song powers magic, a novice ice-priestess breaks free from a cloistered existence and helps battle an upstart sorcerer. Strong storytelling puts this debut firmly in the tradition of Ursula LeGuin's classic Earthsea books.

**The People of Sparks-* Jeanne DuPrau

Lina and Doon are thrilled to see their people join them above ground in the vibrant village of Sparks, but suspicion and prejudice soon turn the villagers and newcomers against each other.

**A Girl Named Disaster-* Nancy Farmer

While journeying to Zimbabwe, eleven-year-old Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

**Rain is Not My Indian Name –* Cynthia Leitich-Smith

Tired of staying in seclusion since the death of her best friend, a fourteen-year-old Native American girl takes on a photographic assignment with her local newspaper to cover events at the Native American summer youth camp.

**The Thief –* Megan Whalen Turner

Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.

New this year in our library

**Victory –* Susan Cooper

Molly, upset by her family's move from London to the U.S., is strangely drawn to an old book about the life of Admiral Lord Nelson, and soon finds her life intertwined with that of Sam, a boy her age who served with Nelson aboard the HMS "Victory" a century earlier.

**Powder Monkey: Adventures of Sam Witchall -* Paul Dowswell Thirteen-year-old Sam endures harsh conditions, battles, and a shipwreck after being pressed into service aboard the HMS Miranda during the Napoleonic Wars.

**The Prophet of Yonwood –* Jeanne DuPrau

While visiting the small town of Yonwood, North Carolina, eleven-year-old Nickie makes some decisions about how to identify both good and evil when she witnesses the townspeople's reactions to the apocalyptic visions of one of their neighbors.

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret –* Brian Selznick

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

**Ptolemy's Gate –* Jonathan Stroud

Seventeen-year-old Nathaniel has risen to a position of importance in the British government with the help of Bartimaeus, a djinni he summoned to help him root out rebels, but with Bartimaeus' essence weakening due to having spent too long in the real world, he and Nathaniel are forced to team up with rival Kitty Jones to save the country from demons.

2006 – 07 Best Books

**The Year the Gypsies Came –* Linzi Alex Glass

In Johannesburg, South Africa, in the late 1960s, twelve-year-old Emily, who longs for affection from her quarreling parents, finds comfort in the stories of a Zulu servant and in her friendship with a young houseguest who has an equally troubled family.

**Cassie Was Here –* Caroline Hickey

Thirteen-year-old Sam endures harsh conditions, battles, and a shipwreck after being pressed into service aboard the HMS Miranda during the Napoleonic Wars.

**Letters from a Slave Boy* – Mary E. Lyons

A fictionalized look at the life of Joseph Jacobs, son of a slave, told in the form of letters that he might have written during his life in pre-Civil War North Carolina, on a whaling expedition, in New York, New England, and finally in California during the Gold Rush.

**Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell out of a Tree*– Lauren Tarshis

A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.

Eighth Grade

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* – Douglas Adams

Chronicles the off-beat and occasionally extraterrestrial journeys, notions, and acquaintances of galactic traveler Arthur Dent.

**A Group of One* – Rachna Gilmore

Learning from her grandmother that her family was active in the Quit India movement of 1942, a rebellion against nearly two centuries of British occupation, gives fifteen-year-old Tara new pride in her heritage, but she still objects when her teacher implies she is not a "regular Canadian."

**The First Part Last* – Angela Johnson

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

**The Messenger* – Lois Lowry

In this novel that unites characters from "The Giver" and "Gathering Blue," Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.

**A Mango-shaped Space* – Wendy Mass

Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the loss of something important to her.

**Handbook for Boys* – Walter Dean Myers

Sixteen-year-old Jimmy, on probation for assault, talks about life with three old men in a Harlem barbershop and hears about the tools he can use to get what he wants.

**Chanda's Secrets* – Allan Stratton

Chanda Kabelo, a sixteen-year-old in a small South African town, faces down shame and stigma in her efforts to help friends and family members who are dying of AIDS.

New this year in our library:

**The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume 1: The Pox Party* – M.T.Anderson

Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

**The Sacrifice* – Kathleen Benner Duple

Two sisters, aged ten and twelve, are accused of witchcraft in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1692 and await trial in a miserable prison while their mother desperately searches for some way to obtain their freedom.

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret* : A novel in words and pictures – Brian Selznick

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

**The Queen of Attolia* – Megan Whalen Turner

Forsaken by the gods and left to his own devices, Eugenides, Royal Thief of Eddis, summons all his wit and wiles in an attempt to conquer the rival Queen of Attolia.

2006 – 07 Best Books

Black Duck –Janet Taylor Lisle

Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam – Cynthia Kadohota

Eva Underground – A Novel – Dandi Daley Mackall

Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement – Ann Bausum

Hugging the Rock – Susan Taylor Brown

Life as We Knew It – Susan Beth Pfeffer

The Mysterious Benedict Society – Trenton Lee Stewart

The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano – Margarita Engle

Second Fiddle, OR How to Tell A Blackbird from Sausage – Siobhan Parkinson

The Wand in the Word: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy

What Happened to Cass McBride? –Gail Giles