



INCOMING GRADE 7 - 2005
KEITH VALLEY SUMMER READING LIST
CLASSICS AND AWARD WINNERS



My Side of the Mountain - Jean Craig George: A city boy survives happily for an entire winter living off the land in the Catskill Mountains. (medium)

Heidi - Johanna Spyri: This is the classic story of a young girl, who through her truth and innocence, brightened the hearts of those around her. (medium)

My Brother Sam is Dead - James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier: This book depicts a boy's disillusionment with the glories of war as he lives through the Revolutionary War years in Connecticut. (medium)

Westmark - Lloyd Alexander: Falling in with a roguish doctor, his dwarf attendant and an urchin girl, Theo embarks on an unforgettable adventure in the kingdom of Westmark. (medium)

Anne of Green Gables - L. M. Montgomery: When the Cuthberts of Green Gables decide to adopt a sturdy boy to help with the farm chores, they are astonished when Anne, a mischievous redhead, arrives instead. (medium)

Little Women - Louisa May Alcott: This is a touching story based upon the author's own family life growing up in a household with four girls. (difficult)

The Dark Is Rising - Susan Cooper: In this adventure into the supernatural, Will Stanton takes part in the eternal conflict between good and evil. (medium)

Old Yeller - Fred Gipson: This is a touching story of a boy and his dog and their many adventures together in the wilderness. (medium)

Something for Joey - Richard E. Peck: This is a true-life story of two brothers. One is a Heisman Trophy athlete and the other is Joey, dying of leukemia. (medium)

Flip Flop Girl - Katherine Patterson: Vinnie Matthews needs help. Her father died and she had to move to her grandmother's house in Brownsville. Her brother hasn't talked since their father died. Except for her teacher, she hates school. Then Vinnie meets Lupe who may be just the friend she needs. (easy)

Franklin Delano Roosevelt - Russell Freedman: Franklin Roosevelt was the only U. S. President elected four times in a row. During his long term in office, he led our nation out of the Great Depression and toward victory in World War II. Meet F.D.R., the leader whose dedication and determination changed our nation and our world forever. (difficult)

Treasure Island - Robert Louis Stevenson: This is an exciting tale of pirates who battle for treasure on a tropical isle. This is a story with treachery, greed, daring, and excitement. (difficult)

Smugglers' Island - Avi: Shadrach is enraged. Bootleggers have taken over his island home, using it as a base from which to run their illegal operations. Shadrach can't be silenced, and he can't be bought. He vows to gather all the information and he succeeds, but then chooses the wrong man to tell. (medium)

STUDENT PICKS

Strays Like Us - Richard Peck: A small town full of big secrets is where Molly spends her seventh-grade year. (medium)

Things Not Seen - Andrew Clements: Bobby wakes up invisible one morning. Complications arise when his parents are injured in a car accident. How can his absence be explained? (medium)

The Quilt - Gary Paulsen: Gary's childhood memories of his grandmother Alida and a special family quilt are the focus of this evocative memoir. (medium)

Milkweed - Jerry Spinelli: Misha, a fugitive orphan in Poland, is sent to the Warsaw ghetto along with other Jews and gypsies. He manages to forage for food to keep friends and his adopted family alive during the captivity. (medium)

Almost Forever - Maria Testa: In this novel told in verse, a young girl's father is sent off to serve in Vietnam. (medium)

Jurassic Park - Michael Crichton: The cloning of dinosaur DNA brings dinosaurs back to earth. This brings forth unexpected disasters. (difficult)

The Pinballs - Betsy Byars: Three foster children decide they will no longer be "losers" after they come together in a loving home. (easy)

Soccer Halfback - Matt Christopher: Pressured by his family to play football instead of soccer, Jabber must choose between his own interests and his family's wishes. (medium)

The Cat Ate My Gym Suit - Paula Danziger: An overweight, unhappy adolescent comes into her own when she fights for the reinstatement of an unjustly fired English teacher. (medium)

The Curse of the Blue Figurine – John Bellairs: Johnny Dixon doesn't believe that the ghost of mad Father Baart haunts the town church. But then he takes an old scroll and seeming harmless figurine from the church basement, accepts a magic ring from mysterious stranger and is plunged into a terrifying adventure that may cost him his life. (medium)

Sharing Susan – Eve Bunting: At twelve years of age, Susan discovers that she and another girl were mistakenly switched at birth. Will she have to leave the people she's come to love as her parents, even if they're not? (easy)

The Purple Heart – Marc Talbert: After Luke and Mike play a prank on old Mrs. Pederson, they learn how war really affects people and discover that being brave is sometimes terrifying. (medium)

Koya DeLaney and the Good Girl Blues – Eloise Greenfield: Two African American sisters, Koya and Loritha, learn about growing up, sharing loyalty, and coping with challenges in school. (medium)

Champions: Stories of Ten Remarkable Athletes - Littlefield: Ten essays about successful athletes who proved their worth despite extraordinary circumstances. (medium)

Darnell Rock Reporting - Walter Dean Myers: Darnell Rock is not the kind of kid who volunteers to write for the school newspaper but this is his last chance to pull himself together. People actually pay attention to the words he writes. Before he knows it, Darnell changes from a kid who can't do anything right to a person who can make a difference. (medium)

I Left My Sneakers in Dimension X - Bruce Coville: Rod and his bratty cousin Elspeth are snatched into another dimension by the monstrous alien Shorkus Flinders. (easy)

Animorphs #1: The Invasion - K. A. Applegate: This novel features a cast of five children who can change into any animal they touch. This is an edge-of-your-seat new series with the perfect combination of fantasy, science fiction and humor. (easy)

SHH We're Writing the Constitution - Jean Fritz: This book describes how the constitution came to be written and ratified. (easy)

The Voyage of the Frog - Gary Paulsen: David Alspeth faces many challenges when he sets sail in the Frog, his uncle's big sailboat. (medium)

Summer of Fear - Lois Duncan: Rachel is the only one who is suspicious of cousin Julia when she arrives for a summer visit. (difficult)

Goodnight Kiss - R. L. Stine: Vampires are stalking the small resort town of Sandy Hollow. Billy knows it; his girlfriend was one of the victims last summer. Now Billy is back and he wants revenge. His friends don't believe him. But nobody can explain the bodies found on the beach or the swarms of bats that appear each night. (medium)

Romeo and Juliet Together (and Alive) at Last - Avid: Pete's classmates cook up a scheme to boost his budding romance with Annabel Stackpoole who is a girl as shy as he is. (medium)

Skinny Bones - Barbara Park: Alex "Skinny Bones" Frankovitch is the smallest kid in the Little League, but he has a major league talent for wise cracks. (easy)

Space Station Seventh Grade - Jerry Spinelli: Feeling powerless in seventh grade, Jason constructs a model space station where he can control a small universe. This is a humorous book written about the everyday life of a teenage boy. (medium)

The Lost World - Michael Creighton: On an isolated island, dinosaurs once again get created. They escape from the control of man. Will they rule the earth once again? (difficult)

Confessions of a Teenage Baboon - Paul Zindel: Meet Chris Boyd, a teenage nerd. He's scruffy, depressed, detests his mother, and the live-in-nurse. Now he is stuck in the house with a dying lady and her thirty-year-old misfit son. (medium)

Wanted – Caroline Cooney: Alice Robie's father has been murdered, and the police have an E-mail message in which Alice confesses to the crime. When her own mother suspects her, Alice has no choice but to flee in the hope of proving her innocence. (medium)

Top Dreams – Miriam Glassman: When Ari's friend Danny moves away, she tries to become a part of the "popular" crowd. As she realizes that clique is nasty, she renews her friendship with Danny. (easy)

Night They Stole the Stanley Cup – Roy Mac Gregor: A sports and mystery story all packed in one exciting story. (easy)

Black Star, Bright Dawn – Dawn Scott: This is the thrilling story of a teenage girl's first running in the challenging long distance dog sled race held every year in Alaska. (medium)

Beyond the Western Sea – (Vol. 1) – Avi: Driven from their impoverished Irish village, fifteen- year -old Maura and her younger brother meet their landlord's runaway son in Liverpool while all three wait for a ship to America. (difficult)

Pearls of Lutra – Brian Jacques: This is an exciting adventure of a community of animals fighting for their survival. This novel is one of the best from the Redwall series. (medium)

Bradley and the Billboard - Marne Farrell: Brad Wilson is a baseball star who becomes a billboard star and lets both go to his head. (medium)

Lost in the War – Nancy Antle: Lisa's mother served as a nurse in Vietnam, and she is haunted by the memories. (easy)

Ghosts of the White House – Chery Harness: On a field trip to the White House, Sara learns about the ghosts of the men who lived there.



2005 - GRADE 8
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Under the Blood-Red Sun - Graham Salisbury: When the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, everything changes for Hawaiian born Tomi and his Japanese parents and grandfather. Fourteen –year- old Tomi learns that it is a terrifying time to be Japanese in America. (medium)

Dacey's Song - Cynthia Voigt: This is the story of the young Tillerman family led by the eldest sister Dacey. (medium)

Sing Down the Moon - Scott O'Dell: Fifteen-year-old Bright Morning tells the story of the forced migration of the Navajos from their homeland. (medium)

Journey to the Center of the Earth - Jules Verne: When Professor Lindenbrock discovers a passage to the center of the earth, he finds a world of extinct, yet living creatures. (difficult)

The Slot Machine - Chris Lynch: Elvin Bishop, who is fourteen, overweight, and a self-proclaimed non-athlete, finds himself at a sports camp. Elvin spends a torturous three weeks learning more about himself than sports. (easy)

White Fang - Jack London: This novel takes place in the bitter cold and beautiful Alaskan wilderness. The plot centers around a boy and a savage dog in a struggle for survival. (difficult)

Jacob Have I Loved - Katherine Paterson: This is a story of sibling rivalry between two sisters in the Chesapeake Bay area. (easy)

The Last Silk Dress - Ann Rinaldi: Vowing to do something meaningful to support the confederacy during the Civil War, Susan Chilmark collects silk dresses from Richmond ladies to make a balloon to spy on Yankees. (medium)

The Barn - Avi: Set in 1855 in the Oregon territory, this novel tells the story of Ben and his brother and sister who build a barn for their father in the hopes that it will return him to good health. (easy)

House of Dies Drear - Virginia Hamilton: This spellbinding story reveals the mystery of a house in which Dies Drear and two slaves were hidden when it was part of the Underground Railroad. (medium)

Redwall - Brian Jacques: Cluny's life is war. He is fighting, killing and destroying everything in his path. Mathias' life is peace but when Cluny threatens the freedom of Redwall and the surrounding countryside, Mathias must fight in a life or death battle. This story is told from an unusual point of view. (difficult)

Wringer – Jerry Spinelli: Palmer does not want to turn ten. At this age, he will become a wringer although he dreads it. Can he stand up for his beliefs? (easy)

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone – J.K. Rowling: Harry leaves his miserable life with his aunt and uncle to discover his true talents. (difficult)

Love from Your Friend, Hannah – Mindy Warshaw Skolsky: Hannah shares her insights into American life in the 1930's through her letters to everyone. (difficult)

Shadow Spinner – Susan Fletcher: Marjan gathers for Shahrazad the stories that will save the Queen's life. (difficult)



STUDENT PICKS

The War with Grandpa - Richard Smith: Peter is thrilled that Grandpa is coming to live with the family until Grandpa moves into Peter's room. (easy)

The Castle of Llyr - Lloyd Alexander: This is one of the five volumes Prydain Chronicles. Princess Eilonwy learns about magic turned to evil purposes. (medium)

The Weirdo - Theodore Taylor: They call Chip the Weirdo. No one knows much about him except that he lives in an eerie swamp where Samantha found a body and where she saw another body get dumped. Finally, she meets the Weirdo, sees his scarred face, looks into his tortured soul, and becomes his friend. (difficult)

The Mall - Richie Cusick: At first Trish thinks he's just a creepy customer hanging around Muffin Mania where she works at the mall. But suddenly he's everywhere, tormenting her day and night. He knows her secrets. There's no place to hide and no one to trust. (medium)

Andromeda Strain - Michael Creighton: What if there was a virus so lethal it could kill people as quickly as they took a breath? What if it drive some people hopelessly insane? What if this deadly virus could be spread by a gust of wind? What, if anything could stop it? (difficult)

Jackie Robinson - Jim O'Connor: This is the story of Jackie Robinson, who was the first African American to play major-league baseball. (easy)

In My Father's House - Ann Rinaldi: This is a historical novel dealing with the Civil War and with the MacLean family who witnessed both the war's first battle and the Peace Agreement. (medium)

The Hostage - Theodore Taylor: Jamie doesn't know whether to sell the killer whale he trapped or to set it free. (medium)

Locked in Time - Lois Duncan: Nore does not take the dream warning seriously even though she feels uneasy around her new stepmother and stepbrother. (Medium)

The Dark and Deadly Pool - Joan Lowery Nixon: No one believes Mary Elizabeth when she tells them about the ghastly shadow that emerged from the pool at the Ridley Hotel. (easy)

The River - Gary Paulsen: In a sequel to Hatchet, Brian is asked to instruct astronauts and the military on the survival techniques he used in the wilderness. (medium)

Something Upstairs - Avi: Kenny is fascinated and repelled by the human form that arose from the dark stain on the floor. (medium)

I Love You, I Hate You, Get Lost - Ellen Conford: This book contains seven hilarious stories about the complications of teenage life and love. (medium)

Westmark - Lloyd Alexander: Theo, who is caught on the wrong side of the law, teams up with Dr. Absalom, an urchin girl, and a dwarf to save the kingdom of Westmark. (easy)

The Car - Gary Paulsen: Abandoned by his parents, fourteen -year-old Terry Anders sets out in a hand assembled car from Cleveland to Portland searching for an uncle he hardly knows. Along the way, Terry picks up a wandering Vietnam vet who ultimately guides him on a journey of discovery and survival. (easy)

Boy: Tales of Childhood - Ronald Dahl: Roald Dahl relates tales of his childhood in his fascinating autobiography. (medium)

Eva - Peter Dickinson: A writer combines the brain patterns and memory of a dying girl into the brain of a chimpanzee. (difficult)

Over Sea, Under Stone - Susan Cooper: Three people spend their vacation in Cornwall, England. They rented an old house. A map from the days of King Arthur and the Round Table leads them into a quest filled with evil and mystery. (medium)

Forest - Janet Lisle: Amber stumbles onto a forest community and unwittingly sets off a war between the animal inhabitants and humans. (medium)

Down River – Will Hobbs: Fifteen-year-old Jesse and the other teenage members of a wilderness survival team abandon their adult leader. They try to run the dangerous white water at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. (medium)

The Beasties – William Sleator: Fans will get more than goosebumps from the terrifying tale about Doug's family move to the desolate northern woods. He and his little sister become caught up in a war between area loggers and a dying race of woodland creatures that depend on human body parts for their survival. (difficult)

Earthquake at Dawn – Kristiana Gregory: Fifteen-year-old Daily Valentine is on her way to a photo exhibit with her boss when the city starts to crumble around them. This is a fictional account of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and is based on an actual letter. The novel contains real life photographs. (difficult)

Look For Me by Moonlight – Mary Downing Hahn: Sixteen-year-old Cynda is fascinated by the mysterious Vincent when he stays at her father's inn. She is blind to the danger of coming under his supernatural spell. (medium)

Murder at Hockey Camp – Roy Mac Gregor: A murder and sports story all wrapped up in one exciting mystery. (medium)

Bandit's Moon – Sid Fleischman: A girl is rescued by a bandit who is out for revenge. This takes place during the Gold Rush. (easy)

Choosing Up Sides – John H. Ritter: Bledsoc is a talented ball player, but his preacher father thinks his left-handedness is evil. (medium)

Dark Shade – Jane Louise Curry: Maggie travels back in time to learn about the Lenape life during the French and Indian Wars. (medium)

A Deadly Promise - Joan Nixon: Sarah Lindley is certain that her late father was no murderer and vows to clear his name. Sarah has uncovered a terrible secret that her father knew – a secret that can clear his name but hurt others. (medium)

The Place of the Lions – Eric Campbell: In this story of survival on the immense Serengeti Plain, fourteen-year-old Chris is elated about living for the next three years with his dad in Africa. But a plane ride ends with disaster and Chris is forced to assume the responsibility of saving his father and the pilot. (medium)

All Creatures Great and Small – James Herriot: Here is the heartwarming true story of Dr. James Herriot, a country veterinarian whose unique courage, warmth, humor, and natural storytelling ability have captured the heart of the reader. (difficult)

Silent to the Bone- E.L. Konigsburg: Connor is sure his best friend, Branwell, couldn't have hurt Branwell's baby half sister, Nikki. But Nikki lies in a coma, and Branwell is in a juvenile behavioral center, suspected of a horrible crime and unable to utter the words to tell what really happened. (medium)

The Kingdom by the Sea – Robert Westall: Harry Baguely, a twelve-year-old boy, survives a German air raid in northern England during World War II. (easy)