William P. Hobby Middle School

Summer Reading List
for Students Entering 7th Grade

Note: Pre-AP English Language Arts students must read one of these novels over the summer vacation. Assignments for the novel will be made the first week of school. Academic English Language Arts students have the option of reading a novel and doing the assignment for extra credit.

**Eragon**
by Christopher Paolini

One boy. One dragon. A world of adventure. When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. Overnight his simple life is shattered, and he is thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic, and power. With only an ancient sword and the advice of an old storyteller for guidance, Eragon and the fledgling dragon must navigate the dangerous terrain and dark enemies of an Empire ruled by a king whose evil knows no bounds. Can Eragon take up the mantle of the legendary Dragon Riders? The fate of the Empire may rest in his hands.

**An Elephant In The Garden**
by Michael Morpurgo

With Lizzie’s father fighting in World War II, her mother takes on the job of a zoo keeper to provide for her family. Lizzie, her mother, and her eight-year-old brother Karli have become especially attached to an orphaned elephant named Marlene. The bombing of Dresden is imminent and soon, so the zoo director explains that as a precautionary measure all the animals must be destroyed so that they’re not running wild through the city. Lizzie’s mother persuades the director to allow Marlene, the elephant, to come stay in the family’s garden. As predicted, Dresden is bombed, and the family, including Marlene, is forced from the city. Lizzie and her family aren’t alone. Thousands of Dresden residents are fleeing to find somewhere safe to stay. Lizzie’s mother has to find a different route out of the city to keep the elephant and the children safe from harm. Once they reach the abandoned home of their relatives, they come across Peter, a Canadian navigator who, by putting himself at risk of capture to save the family, gains their trust.

**Dark Water Rising**
by Marian Hale

Galveston, Texas, may be the booming city of the brand-new twentieth century, but to Seth, it is the end of a dream. He longs to be a carpenter like his father, but his family has moved to Galveston so he can go to a good school. Still, the last few weeks of summer might not be so bad. Seth has a real job as a builder and the beach is within walking distance. Things seem to be looking up, until a storm warning is raised one sweltering afternoon. No one could have imagined anything like this. Giant walls of water crash in from the sea. Shingles and bricks are deadly missiles flying through the air. People not hit by flying debris are swept away by rushing water. Forget the future, Seth and his family will be lucky to survive the next twenty-four hours.

**The Skin I’m In**
by Sharon Flake

Miss Saunders, whose skin is blotched with a rare skin condition, serves as a mirror to Maleeka Madison’s struggle against the burden of low self-esteem that many black girls face when they’re darker skinned. Miss Saunders is tough and through this, Maleeka learns to stand up to tough-talking Charlese.

**Life As We Knew It**
by Susan Pfeffer

Miranda’s disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. How should her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, and volcanic ash blocks out the sun? As summer turns to Arctic winter, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove.
Hobby Hawk Summer Reading

#PurplePower

Woohoo! for the Hawk Nation and Summer Reading.

Choose one of the novels on the other side of this sheet to be your Summer Reading Book. You can buy one, purchase an ebook, check your public library, second-hand bookstores, or Barnes & Noble - whatever you prefer. Summer Reading is a requirement for Pre-AP ELA, but can serve as extra credit for Academic ELA class.

As you read, write down, mark, or remember the most important parts of the novel, great quotes, and your favorite parts. When you start 6th grade, immediately you will begin to use this book in class for different activities, discussions, and assignments. Enjoy the novel, but at the same time, remember that it will be used in your Pre-AP ELA class, and you want to be as prepared as possible.

Some suggestions as you read:

- highlight important quotes
- circle the names of characters
- underline vocabulary (look up words you don't know!)
- write the main idea of each chapter
- in the margins write your personal opinions
  - of what is going on in the plot
  - what you think of the characters' actions
  - questions you may have
  - deep thoughts & inferences about anything that strikes you as interesting or important
- put a star by your favorite sections.

ENJOY THE BOOK!