

Accelerated Reader Info Sheet

Dear Parents and Middle School Students,

May 14, 2020

The middle school is going strong into Year 4 of the Accelerated Reader program – an online system to keep track of students' independent reading.


This program works in conjunction with the STAR tests students are very familiar with and from those tests, a ZDP (Zone of Proximal Development) is generated. This is the range students can read comfortably in without the assistance of an adult.

For example, if the ZDP is 5.3-7.1, then a student can read up to grade level 7, month 1 and should be reading no lower than a 5th grade, month 3 book. (However, students should ALWAYS be encouraged to read, even books that are below their level.)

Your student's ZPD will be provided at the beginning of the 20-21 school year.

More information about the SFB reading and writing program will be provided at Back to School night at the beginning of the school year.

Thanks,
Middle School Team



Reading is dreaming
with open eyes

Summer Reading Book List

(The ***s by a title mean that your teachers really love the title and !!! means that the title is on current popular lists for middle school students.)

Choosing the book:

- You can choose any book to read for summer reading, as long as it is grade-level appropriate.
- Be sure to check arbookfind.com to make sure your book is on AR!
- Do not limit yourself to one book! We challenge you to devour as many books as you can this summer – you just need to have one final project.

Where to access books:

1. Our classroom library in the 8th grade – please email Ms. Shimeld to arrange pick up!
2. Public library (online only currently).
3. Scholastic.com – often have sales on titles (I still find Amazon is the better buy).
4. Your friends and family – if you like a book, pass it on!

(The books below were approved on *Common Sense Media*, a website for parents and educators to help guide children to make appropriate choices in media. A 13+ means it contains teen issues and therefore should be previewed by a parent or adult.)

Latest Additions: (Please note that these very new titles may not be on AR Book Find yet.)

- *Kent State* by Deborah Wiles 13+ () !!!
- *The Lightness of Hands* by Jeff Garvin 13+
- *Don't Read the Comments* by Eric Smith 13+ !!!
- *Nameless Queen* by Rebecca McLaughlin 13+
- *Saving Savannah* 13+
- *We Dream of Space* by Erin Entrada Kelly
- *The Space Between Lost and Found* by Sandy Stark-McGinnis
- *Echo Mountain* by Lauren Wolk
- *On the Horizon* by Lois Lowry !!!

Want more new releases? Check this website out!

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-lists>

Fantasy/Adventure

- The Legend Novels series by Marie Lu (adventure) (5.3-6.3 GE)
- The Lunar Chronicles series by Marissa Meyer 13+ (6.0 -7.0 GE)
- The Matched Trilogy (*Hatched, Crossed, Reached*) by Ally Condie (science fiction) +13 (4.2-5.0 GE)
- *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh (4.5 GE) ***
- *Eragon* (5.6 GE), *Eldest* (7.0 GE), *Brisingr* (7.8 GE) by Christopher Paolini
- *The Golden Compass* (7.1 GE), *The Subtle Knife* (6.2 GE), and *The Amber Spyglass* (6.7 GE) by Phillip Pullman !!!

- The Heroes of Olympus Series by Rick Riordan (4.5-5.5 GE)***
- *Sabriel* (7.3 GE), *Lirael* (7.1), and *Abhorsen* (6.6) by Garth Nix
- *Airborn* (5.1 GE), *Skybreaker* (5.0), and *Starclimber* (4.9) by Kenneth Oppel
- The Bartimaeus Trilogy by Jonathan Stroud (4.4 – 5.9 GE)
- *Sea of Trolls* by Nancy Farmer (4.7 GE)
- *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones (5.4 GE)
- *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart (5.6 GE)
- *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau (4.9 GE) ***
- *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan (4.8 GE) !!!
- *The Belles* by Dhonielle Clayton 13+

Science Fiction

- *Monument 14* and *Sky on Fire* by Emmy Laybourne 13+ (4.0 GE)
- *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey 13+ (4.6 GE)
- *I am Number Four* by Pittacus Lore 13+ (4.4 GE)
- Divergent Series by Veronica Roth 13+ (4.8 – 5.7 GE)***
- The Ender Series by Orson Scott Card (5.2 – 6.6 GE)
- *The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Philbrick (5.0 GE)
- The Maximum Ride Series by James Patterson (4.4 – 5.6 GE)
- *Things Not Seen* by Andrew Clements (4.5 GE)
- The Hunger Games Series by Suzanne Collins (5.3 GE)***

Realistic Fiction

- *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick (5.5 GE) !!!
- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers 13+ (5.6 GE)
- *Secret Lives of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd (5.7 GE)***
- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli (4.2 GE)***
- *Skellig* by David Almond (3.5 GE)
- *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson (5.3 GE)
- The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Series by Ann Brashares***(4.3-5.5)
- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech (4.9 GE)
- *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* by Kimberly Willis Holt (4.5 GE)
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (4.8 GE) !!!
- *The Fault in our Stars* by John Greene (5.3 GE)!!!
- *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone (5.8 GE)
- *The Five Lives of Our Cat Zook* by Joanne Rocklin
- *As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds
- *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson 13+

Historical Fiction

- *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak 13+ (5.1 GE)***
- *Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne (5.8 GE)***
- *The Inventor's Secret* by Andrea Cremer (5.5 GE)
- *Moon over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool (5.3 GE)
- *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi (5.3 GE)
- *Under a War-Torn Sky* by Laura Malone Elliott (4.8 GE)

- *Samurai Shortstop* by Alan Gratz (4.9 GE)
- *The Ransom of Mercy Carter* by Caroline B. Cooney (5.7 GE)
- *Escape! Story of the Great Houdini* by Sid Fleischman (6.6 GE)
- *Pharaoh's Daughter* by Julius Lester (5.0 GE)
- *Goddess of Yesterday* by Caroline B. Cooney (5.1 GE)
- *The Crystal Ribbon* by Celeste Lim (5.8 GE)
- *The Ugly One* by Leanna Statland Ellis (5.5 GE)
- *Leonardo's Shadow: Or, My Astonishing Life as Leonardo da Vinci's Servant* by Christopher Grey (4.9 GE)

Mystery and Horror

- *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman (5.1 GE)
- *Doll Bones* by Holly Black (5.4 GE) !!!
- *Operation Red Jericho* by Joshua Mowll (6.0 GE)
- *Jade Green: A Ghost Story* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (5.8 GE)
- *The Third Eye* by Lois Lowry (5.5 GE)
- *The Face on the Milk Carton* (4.8 GE), *Whatever Happened to Janie?* (4.7 GE), and *Voice on the Radio* (4.6 GE) by Caroline B. Cooney 13+
- Cirque du Freak series by Darren Shan (4.8 GE)
- *The Haunting of Sunshine Girl* by Paige Mckenzie (5.2 GE)

Classics

- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte 13+ (7.9 GE)***
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith (5.8 GE)***
- *Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas (8.8 GE)***
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London (7.1 GE)
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (8.3 GE)***
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck (7.1 GE)***
- *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury (6.2 GE)***
- *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens (8.2 GE)
- *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson (7.1 GE)

Nonfiction

- *Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick (8.3 GE)
- *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai (7.1 GE)***
- *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer (8.9 GE)***
- *Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat 13+ (8.9 GE)
- *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science* by John Fleischman (7.4 GE)
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (5.3 GE)
- *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank (6.5 GE)

Sports

- *Travel Team* (5.4 GE) and *Heat* (5.3 GE) by Mike Lupica
- *Hoops* by Walter Dean Myers 13+ (4.6 GE)
- Baseball Card Adventures Series by Dan Gutman (4.2 – 5.4 GE)
- *Over the Wall* by John H. Ritter (4.9 GE)
- *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor (4.3 GE)
- *Booked* and *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (4.3 GE)
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds (GE 4.6)
- *The Greatest: Muhammad Ali* (GE 7.8)

The Summer Project Info

Choose **1** of the following projects to complete that show your understanding of the novel you have read. This project will be one of your first important grades for the next year so make sure that it showcases your talent and abilities. This project could require a significant amount of time beyond just reading the book, so do not rush your project. Regardless of the project you choose you should include information relating and showing your understanding of: the plot of the story, the characters involved, the themes or big ideas in the story, and your opinion of the book.

1. Create a detailed map of the town/city your story takes place in. Feature important locations and events from the novel on the map (at least 10). For each important location/ event please include a caption explaining it. You should also include a key on the map. The map should be clearly labeled, colored, and neat. It should be presented on a poster paper.

2. Make an illustrated timeline of the novel. You must illustrate 10 different events/scenes from the story you selected. Your illustrations must be put in proper order for your book, and should show the characters and events of importance throughout your story. Be sure to include a written explanation of why you chose each scene and how it relates to the theme of the novel. Illustrations will be graded on quality and must be in color; no stick figures will be accepted. Remember, your project must include plot events, character analysis and themes from your book.

3. Create a newspaper for the town/city your story takes place in. Have the stories and features of the newspaper be about the characters and events in your novel. Your newspaper should contain information about the characters, setting, plot, and theme(s) of the novel. The newspaper should be informative and must contain text and pictures. You could include editorials, weather reports, sports, reports, feature stories. Be creative! Here is a link for a newspaper template:
<http://www.extrane newspapers.com/newspaper-template-pack-word-school/> Remember, your project must include plot events, character analysis and themes from your book.

4. Podcast/ Talk Show: Imagine the characters from the book are on a podcast/talk show that is either about an issue that arose in the book or a show for people that are interested in reading the book. Create a script for the talk show and record a short video of the interview. You will host the show, and decide who to invite as guests. Provide enough scripting to lead the audience to an understanding of the issue or the novel itself. While you read the book, think

about the main ideas and message the book conveys. Make sure your interview questions and responses are open ended so you guests are prompted to do most of the talking. If, for example, you have your interviewer ask, “Did you like being the main character in the story?” the guest might give a one word answer like “Yes”. Instead ask, “What was the best part about being the main character in this book?”

	<i>Exceeds Expectations</i>	<i>Meets Expectations</i>	<i>Below Expectations</i>
<u>THEME</u> <u>20 points</u>	Project shows clear understanding of the big ideas and messages behind the novel. Includes insightful comments not only about what themes are present but how those themes can be expressed beyond the novel. (19-20 pts)	One major theme from the story is included and explained by the student. Some effort has been made to show how these themes were expressed and could relate. (14-18 pts)	One theme is listed but is not explained or explored in much detail. (13 and below)
<u>CHARACTERS</u> <u>20 points</u>	All characters are fully explored and discussed through the student’s project, including character motivations and traits. The project shows a clear understanding of the how the author created the characters. (19-20 pts)	All major characters are described through the student’s project, but some minor characters may be missing discussion on character traits and motivations. The project shows some understanding of how the author created the characters. (14-18 pts)	Some characters may be listed or missing, very little comment on characterization is provided. (13 and below)
<u>PLOT</u> <u>20 points</u>	The plot of the novel is fully explained and explored. The project shows a careful and detailed reading of the novel. Student has made multiple connections and insights into the plot beyond simply explaining the events. (19-20 pts)	The plot of the story is included and complete. This is not simply a summary of the story but a well written explanation of what takes place throughout the novel. Provides some connections and insight on the events. (14-18 pts)	Student has provided a brief summary of the events in the novel without commentary or explanation. (13 and below)
<u>QUALITY</u> <u>40 points</u>	Project is clearly something the student worked hard on. Artwork is carefully drawn and colored, written portions are typed and free from	Project shows effort to produce a finished, high quality product. Most Illustrations show the result of time and	Some time was spent on project but there are clear signs that more effort was needed. Extensive errors can be

	errors. The project shows a finished quality that a student should be proud of and demonstrates exceptional effort. (38-40 pts)	attention. Some errors may persist but they do not distract from the content of the work. (28-37 pts)	distracting and should have been fixed before a final copy was turned in. (27 and below pts)
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10 Book Challenge

Middle Schoolers who complete the 10 book challenge will be invited to our Back to School Party. Write the titles of the books you read below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Student Name _____

Parent Signature
