

BETHPAGE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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John DeTommaso
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology

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Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

Bethpage Schools had a very successful **Summer Reading** program for all students entering grades 3-11 last summer. We will be continuing the program this summer. Reading is the single most important skill students need to master for success in school. We find a direct correlation between the number of books a child reads and how well he/she does in school, on the assessments and eventually on the SAT. More importantly, reading can bring great joy, fulfillment and personal reward.

The enclosed list, which consists of both popular titles and historical titles, was prepared by a committee of teachers, administrators, and librarians based on student and parent feedback. This year students will read **TWO** books from the enclosed list. Students will select one book from List A (*Popular Titles*) and one book from List B (*Historical Titles*) for their grade level. To offer more options, any student in any grade level may also choose a popular title or historical title from the Wildcard list as a substitute choice.

Students will be assessed with a short quiz on the reading as soon as they return to school in September. Students unable to demonstrate an understanding of the reading will find a comment on their Report Card (and eventual college transcript) which says "Summer Reading Requirement Not Fulfilled."

The list of books is varied and parents are encouraged to review the booklist with their children to choose a title that matches their interest. All of the books may be purchased online via sources like Amazon.com as well as at the local Barnes and Noble and Borders bookstores that have stocked extra copies. The Bethpage Public Library, the JFK Middle School Library and the Bethpage High School Library all have copies as well. Anyone having trouble securing a book should call the Instruction and Technology Office which will assist anyone in need.

Teachers will be available to help students who are having difficulty reading or comprehending the books on the following dates:

- **July 22 from 9AM to Noon in the Administration Building's Board Room**
- **August 11 from Noon to 3PM in the Administration Building's Board Room**
- **August 24 from 9AM to Noon in the Administration Building's Board Room**
- **September 15 right after school in the school Library for two hours**

Students may bring questions or concerns with them to receive small group assistance. This worked out very well last year. In September, students will answer brief multiple choice quizzes on the two books they read. **The English classes will be quizzed on September 16 and the Social Studies classes will be quizzed on September 22.**

The Bethpage School District has seen a dramatic increase in student academic performance over the past several years. We need to build on that solid academic foundation. The book lists are posted to our website (www.bethpagecommunity.com/Schools) if you need additional information. There are also short videos that describe the choices. As always, you should feel free to contact my office at 516-644-4005 or via email at jdeto@bethpage.ws. We were all proud of our students for taking this so seriously last summer. We are confident we will have similar success this year!

Sincerely hoping you enjoy your summer reading,

John DeTommaso
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology

JFK Middle School

Summer Reading List 2010

Select one book from List A and one book from List B for your grade level.

Grade Sept. 2010	List A <i>Popular Titles</i>	List B <i>Historical Titles</i>
6th	<u>Chasing Vermeer</u> – Blue Balliett	<u>Lily’s Crossing</u> – Patricia Reilly Giff
	<u>Things Not Seen</u> – Andrew Clements	<u>Letters from Rifka</u> – Karen Hesse
	<u>Jelly Belly</u> –Robert Kimmel Smith	<u>Detectives in Togas</u> – Henry Winterfield
	<u>Project Mulberry</u> - Linda Sue Park	<u>Zlata’s Diary</u> – Zlata Filipovic
7th	<u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u> – Gennifer Choldenko	<u>Lyddie</u> – Katherine Patterson
	<u>Tangerine</u> – Edward Bloor	<u>Witch Child</u> - Celia Rees
	<u>Shadow People series: Among the Hidden</u> – Margaret Peterson Haddix	<u>The Fighting Ground</u> - Avi
	<u>Lunch Money</u> - Andrew Clements	<u>The Ghost Wore Gray</u> – Bruce Coville
8th	<u>Heat</u> – Mike Lupica	<u>Devil’s Arithmetic</u> – Jane Yolen
	<u>The Wanderer</u> – Sharon Creech	<u>The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963</u> – Christopher Paul Curtis
	<u>Among Friends</u> – Caroline B. Cooney	<u>A Long Way from Chicago</u> – Richard Peck
	<u>Red Kayak</u> - Priscilla Cummings	<u>The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky</u> – Farah Ahmedi

***** WILDCARD – May be substituted for any Popular Title on any grade level. (List A)

Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain (Full, unabridged version)

***** WILDCARD – May be substituted for any Historical Title on any grade level. (List B)

Teddy Roosevelt: American Rough Rider – John Garraty

6th Grade

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Jelly Belly by Robert Kimmel Smith

It's tough for eleven-year-old Ned to stop eating. When his parents send him to a summer diet camp, he and his bunkmates can't quite give up their old habits. How can he resist temptation without hurting his grandma and himself?

Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park

Julia and her family have just moved to Illinois where they are the only Korean-American family in the neighborhood. Julia meets Patrick, and together they try to create a ribbon-winning project for the state fair. Along the way, she learns to be proud of her heritage and value Patrick's friendship.

Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff

When Lily meets Albert, a refugee from Hungary, during the summer of 1944, they begin a special friendship. However, Lily and Albert have both told lies, and Lily has told a lie that may cost Albert his life.

Letters From Rifka by Karen Hesse

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the others emigrate to America.

Detectives in Togas by Henry Winterfield

Seven boys in Ancient Rome solve strange crimes . . . thanks to some help from their cranky teacher, a little bit of logic, and a lot of amusing misadventure.

Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic

When Zlata first began her diary, she was 11 years old, and concerned mostly with friends, school, and MTV. As the diary ends, she has become used to constant bombing and snipers; severe shortages of food, water, and gas; and the end of a privileged adolescence in her native Sarajevo. Zlata has been described as the new Anne Frank.

7th Grade

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Among the Hidden (Shadow People series) by Margaret Haddix

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

Lunch Money by Andrew Clements

Sixth-grader Greg Kenton has always had a talent for making money. His latest scheme, creating and selling miniature comic books, looks to be a success. However, problems arise when his classmate and longtime nemesis, Maura, competes with him by making her own mini-stories.

Lyddie by Katherine Patterson

A story of an orphan girl, separated from her siblings, and her struggle to earn enough money to reunite them, along with her struggle for better working conditions in the Lowell, Mass. mills.

Witch Child by Celia Rees

During the witch hunts of the mid-1600s, many young Englishwomen died on the gallows, innocent victims of false or hysterical accusations of witchcraft. But what of those women who actually claimed the name "witch" as their own?

The Fighting Ground by Avi

Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.

The Ghost Wore Gray by Bruce Coville

Sixth-grader Nina convinced her architect father to let her best friend Chris go with them to stay in the old inn he's restoring. When they arrive, the girls find a faded photograph of a very handsome Confederate soldier. Nina and Chris are stunned when the ghost of the young soldier suddenly appears at the dinner table that night!

8th Grade

Heat by Mike Lupica

When someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.

The Wanderer by Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

Among Friends by Caroline B. Cooney

Through journal entries, six high-school juniors reveal their jealousies, frustrations, fears, and hopes.

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings

It was a mean-spirited prank--but no one was supposed to die. What happens now? Revealing the terrible secret would implicate Brady's friends in the accident, and it clouds his whole world with guilt and fear.

Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

Hannah thinks tonight's Passover Seder will be the same as always. Little does she know that this year she will be mysteriously transported into the past where only she knows the horrors that await.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky by Farah Ahmedi and Tamin Ansary

Farah Ahmedi, a victim of a land mine at twelve, tells of her childhood before and during the Taliban rule in Afghanistan, and how she and her Mother coped after coming to America.

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck

When Joey and his sister Mary Alice travel from their home in Chicago to their Grandmother's small town, they don't expect the crazy adventures they encounter there. In eight hilarious episodes taking place during the Great Depression, Grandma plots outlandish schemes to even the score with various colorful members of her community.

Wildcard Choices

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain (unabridged version)

This tale of boyhood adventure overflows with comedy, warmth, and slapstick energy. It brings to life an array of irresistible characters and a range of unforgettable incidents. Below Tom's sunny surface lurk hints of a darker reality, of youthful innocence confronting the realities of the adult world.

Teddy Roosevelt: American Rough Rider by John Garraty

Before Teddy Roosevelt earned his reputation as a strong, masculine hunter, explorer, and Rough Rider, he actually endured a sickly childhood. That's just one aspect of his life covered in this biography, which follows his transformation into a disciplined athlete and one of the world's best-known public servants and presidents.

