

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade for next fall: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please choose from the list below your book for summer reading.**

***Northern Light (8 & 9) by Jennifer Donnelly***

Based on an actual event in 1906 which inspired another famous novel and movie, main character Mattie Gokey is on hand for a murder at the Adirondacks resort where she works. Mattie also struggles to overcome her family's poverty in order to attend prestigious Barnard College and sorts through a bi-racial romance at a time in our country's history when this would have been socially unlikely. You'll encounter a great plot, several fascinating characters, and have plenty to think about at the book's conclusion!

***Flipped (8 & 9) by Van Drannen***

The first time Juli Baker saw Bryce Loski, she flipped. The first time he saw her, he ran. Not much changes until the eighth grade, when Juli's infatuation wanes just as Bryce's begins to kick in...A fast, funny, egg-cellent winner.

***Escaping into the Night (8 & 9) by Dina Freidman***

Halina Rudowski is on the run. When the Polish ghetto where she lives is liquidated, she narrowly escapes, but her mother is not as lucky. Along with her friend, Batya, Halina makes her way to a secret encampment in the woods where Jews survive by living underground. As the group struggles for food, handles in-fighting, and attempts to protect themselves from the advancing German army, Halina must face the reality of life without her mother. Based on historical events, this gripping tale sheds light on a little-known aspect of the holocaust, the underground forest encampments that saved several thousand Jews from the Nazis.

***The Golden Compass (all reading levels) by Philip Pullman***

This is the story of Lyra, an orphan who has a personal daemon, a soul in animal form. She has spent her childhood clambering over the college roofs with Roger the kitchen boy, spitting plum stones on the heads of passing scholars, hooting like an owl outside windows, racing through the narrow streets, stealing apples from the market, or waging war. But Lyra's carefree existence changes forever when she and her daemon first prevent an assassination attempt against her uncle, the powerful Lord Asriel. This is the first in a trilogy.

***The Phantom Tollbooth (all reading levels) by Norton Juster***

The story follows the journey of Milo, a boy bored with basically everything around him. One day he receives a mysterious package that turns out to be a tollbooth. For lack of anything better to do, he puts it together and begins to play, only to find himself driving through an entirely different world. There he meets all sort of curious creatures, and the author, Norton Juster, plays with words as if they were tangible objects to juggle. He continually surprises the reader by turning ordinary events into magical occurrences. As Milo heads toward Dictionopolis he meets with the Whether Man ("for after all it's more important to know whether there will be weather than what the weather will be"), passes through The Doldrums (populated by Lethargarians), and picks up a watchdog named Tock (who has a giant alarm clock for a body). The brilliant satire and double entendre intensifies in the Word Market, where after a brief scuffle with Officer Short Shift, Milo and Tock set off toward the Mountains of Ignorance to rescue the twin Princesses, Rhyme and Reason. Anyone with an appreciation for language, irony, or *Alice in Wonderland*-style adventure will adore this book for years on end.

***When You Reach Me (8 & 9) by Rebecca Stead***

Twelve-year-old Miranda has enough to worry about: her best friend, who suddenly refuses to hang out together; a boy she might kind of like; the homeless guy on the corner near her New York City apartment; and her single mom, an aspiring game show contestant. But now Miranda is getting creepy hidden notes that tell her to write down the story of what happens to her -- but not inform anyone. It will take a tragedy to show Miranda that neither the notes nor her friendships are quite what she imagined.

***The Little Prince (all reading levels) by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry***

The title character, the "little prince," lives on a small faraway planet called Asteroid 325. One day he finds a mysterious rose and falls in love with it; after the rose lies to him, he feels he can no longer trust her, so he leaves his home planet and sets out to explore other worlds. He ends up on Earth and meets a number of animals and humans whose behavior seems strange to him. The narrator of the book, a pilot whose plane crashes in the Sahara Desert, befriends the little prince, and they talk about the things that are truly important in life.

***Born to Run (8 & 9) by Christopher McDougall***

A quirky story about a mysterious tribe of distance-running natives from the Copper Canyons of Mexico, one reviewer calls *Born to Run...*"a wonderful, rollicking tale.... [Christopher] McDougall does a masterful job as a suspense writer, slowly, slowly, slowly building history, anthropology, personalities, and running science until the tension is almost exquisite.... Once you've gotten into it, you can't put it down until you find out how it ends. And who wins."

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian (8 & 9) by Sherman Alexie***

Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the Indian reservation, “the rez,” to attend an all-white, farm-town high school, where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, this novel is based on the author's own experiences.

***The Notorious Benedict Arnold (all reading levels) by Steve Sheinkin***

A true story of adventure, heroism, and treachery about one of America's most misunderstood hero and villain. He was fearless in the line of battle and felt that he could save the Americans from the horrible British. At the same time he seemed driven for recognition that would at some point turn him against what he loved the most: his own country. The book is packed with exciting first-person accounts of battles scenes, and the shocking betrayals that became an important part of Arnold's life. He was truly a man with two competing personalities. Was he a hero driven by others who were jealous of him and conspired against him, or was he always a villain?

***A Wrinkle in Time (all reading levels) by Madeleine L'Engle***

The story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem. A tesseract is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would rob the reader of the enjoyment of this unusual book.

***Life of Pi (8 & 9) by Yann Martell***

Sixteen-year-old Pi Patel is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries on various faiths for size, attracting "religions the way a dog attracts fleas." Planning a move to Canada, his father packs up the family and their menagerie and they hitch a ride on an enormous freighter. After a harrowing shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with a wounded zebra, a spotted hyena, a seasick orangutan, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.

***Heat (all reading levels) by Mike Lupica***

Growing up in the Bronx and playing Little League baseball in the shadow of Yankee Stadium, it's no surprise that twelve-year-old Michael Arroyo loves baseball, especially the New York Yankees. Michael's the best Little League pitcher in the district and seems destined to lead his all-star team to the championship game, which will be held inside Yankee Stadium. But all that changes when a jealous rival coach challenges whether Michael is as young as he claims to be. Placed on the sidelines, Michael desperately tries to find a way to get his birth certificate from Cuba, while at the same time keeping social services from finding out that he and his older brother are living on their own following the recent death of their beloved papi. He gets help from an unimaginable place!

***The Secret Life of Bees (8 & 9) by Sue Monk Kidd***

Set in South Carolina in 1964, this is the tale of Lily Owens, a fourteen-year-old girl who is haunted by the memory of her late mother. To escape her lonely life and troubled relationship with her father, Lily flees with Rosaleen, her caregiver and only friend, to a South Carolina town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by the intelligent and independent Boatwright sisters, Lily finds solace in their mesmerizing world of beekeeping.

***True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle (all reading levels) by Avi***

Ever dreamed of an adventure on the open sea? The *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* is a first hand account of thirteen-year-old Charlotte's journey across the Atlantic Ocean from England to Providence, Rhode Island in 1832. This is not an ordinary passage, as she is the only passenger on a ship with an all male crew. From the start of the journey Charlotte feels unsettled and that's just the beginning—she's in for quite an adventure. Mystery, intrigue, and murder mixed with life on the high sea, this Newbury Honor book is well worth the read.