

**Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District**  
**106 Washington Avenue**  
**Plainview, New York 11803**



June, 2016

Dear parents, guardians, and incoming grade eight students,

Summer reading provides an excellent opportunity for students to continue to enhance literacy skills developed throughout the school year. It is also an opportunity to engage students in reading for fun and at their own level of interest and ability. To this end, the Plainview–Old Bethpage School District is issuing a Summer Reading List to all middle school students.

Please make every effort to read as much as possible over the upcoming summer. It would be helpful to keep track of the titles and authors of books read to share with teachers upon the return of school in September. While we strongly encourage reading multiple titles, **students must read one book from the attached list and will be required to complete a writing assignment in September that will contribute to their first quarter average.** Please find an *optional* reading worksheet enclosed which can serve as a note-taking resource toward the first quarter assessment. While it is not a formal assignment, it will certainly help to assist students with their reading comprehension and the organization of their thoughts.

The Middle School teachers and librarians developed a diverse list from titles recommended by the American Library Association, professional journals, and the librarians at our local public library. We invite parents and guardians to carefully review the list in an effort to guide children in making appropriate selections in terms of text difficulty as well as the subject matter discussed. While a text might be appropriate in terms of its complexity, some books might address themes that some families see as too mature for a certain age group. If a student is not able to find an acceptable title from the grade-level list due to content or text complexity, please reach out to Jeffrey Yagaloff at [jjagaloff@pobschools.org](mailto:jjagaloff@pobschools.org) so an alternate plan can be set *in advance of the opening of the school year.*

The Plainview–Old Bethpage Public Library has received copies of our Summer Reading Lists and will be happy to help you select books. Public libraries provide a great opportunity to use computers, search the Internet, and socialize with peers. In addition, a link will be provided on the district's website to connect you with the 2016 statewide summer reading program, "On Your Mark, Get Set... Read!" For students interested in participating in summer reading contests, please visit the following links:

- <http://www.scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2016>
- [http://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/summer-reading/\\_/N-rs9](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/summer-reading/_/N-rs9)

On behalf of the Plainview-Old Bethpage schools, we wish you a healthy and enjoyable summer. Please enjoy frequent visits to libraries and book stores. Make literacy, in all of its aspects, a part of the time you spend together this summer.

Ms. Eileen Annino    Ms. Alice Bowman    Mr. Christopher Donarummo    Mr. Jeffrey Yagaloff  
*Literacy Coordinator*                      *Principal*                      *Principal*                      *ELA Chair*

*"Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light."*  
~ Vera Nazarian

## **10 Easy Ways to Get Children to Read this Summer**

1. Get your child a library card at your local public library. It's free!
2. Sign your child up for Summer Reading at the local public library and enjoy free programs with fun activities, storytelling, reading contests, crafts and more.
3. Read with your child every day. Take advantage of "waiting" time to share books: on trips, at the doctor's office, in line at the grocery store.
4. Take a basket of books for reading breaks from the sun, water, and sand at the beach, lake, or pool.
5. Read on your own and talk to your child about what you're reading. Families who share reading experiences raise children who read well.
6. Visit the library every week and bring the whole family.
7. Need books in languages other than English? Ask a librarian!
8. Use the closed captioning during TV shows so children see the words as they hear them.
9. Keep a list on the refrigerator of the books everyone has read during the summer.
10. Discover the world by reading books from your local public library. Choose a subject of interest for the entire family, so that every family member can share what they have learned and share ideas.

**For more information visit [www.summerreadingnys.org](http://www.summerreadingnys.org)**

*Summer Reading at New York Libraries is a program of the Office of Cultural Education in the New York State Education Department and is funded through the Federal Library Services and Technology Act, with funds awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.*

**Plainview-Old Bethpage School District  
Mattlin & Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle Schools  
Incoming Grade 8 Summer Reading List - Summer 2016**

- Adlington, L.J. *Cherry Heaven*  
Science Fiction  
Kat and Tanka J move with their adoptive parents to the New Frontier and settle into a home called Cherry Heaven, but Luka confirms their suspicion that New Frontier is not the utopia it seems to be.
- Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*  
Realistic/Mature  
Junior leaves his school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.
- Almond, David. *Kit's Wilderness*  
Printz Award/Fantasy  
Kit goes to live with his grandfather in an old coal mining town and finds him and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.
- Anderson, M.T. *Feed*  
Science Fiction/Mature  
Humans are hard-wired to get feeds from Internet/Television and the result is consumer driven teenagers constantly encouraged to buy, buy, buy.
- Avi. *City of Orphans*  
Historical  
In 1893 New York, Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works, in a book that includes historical notes.
- The Traitors Gate*  
Historical  
When his father is arrested as a debtor in 1849 London, fourteen-year-old John Huffman must take on unexpected responsibilities, from asking a distant relative for help to determining why people are spying on him and his family.
- Bauer, Joan. *Stand Tall*  
Realistic/Humor  
Tree, a six foot three inch tall twelve year old, copes with his parents' divorce, his failure as a basketball player.
- Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine*  
Realistic  
A legally blind 15 year old comes to learn the truth about his football hero brother.
- Blume, Judy. *Forever*  
Realistic/Mature  
Two high school seniors believe their love to be so strong that it will last forever.
- Bradbury, Jennifer. *Shift*  
Mystery  
Best friends Chris and Win head out on a cross country bicycle trek at the end of which Win goes missing.
- Brooks, Bruce. *The Moves Makes the Man*  
Realistic/Newbery Honor  
Jerome, a black athlete, shares his skills and interest in basketball with Bix, a white baseball player.

- Bunce, Elizabeth C. *A Curse Dark as Gold*  
 Fantasy  
 Charlotte struggles to keep her woolen mill running in the face of a huge mortgage and what the villagers believe is a curse.
- Carey, Janet Lee. *Dragon's Keep*  
 Fantasy  
 Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island, has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, while hiding from her people the dragon's claw she was born with that reflects only one of her mother's dark secrets.
- Carter, Ally *I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You* (and all titles in the Gallagher Girls series)  
 Mystery/Suspense  
 This is a novel about a sophomore girl who attends spy school. It is an entertaining novel about a teenage girl living a double life as a spy and as a normal girl in love with a normal boy.
- Cross My Heart and Hope to Spy* (and all titles in the Gallagher Girls series)  
 Mystery/Suspense  
 After staking out, obtaining, and then being forced to give up her first boyfriend, Josh, all Cammie Morgan wants is a peaceful semester. But that's easier said than done when you're a CIA legacy and go to the premier school in the world ... for spies.
- Clements, Andrew. *Things Not Seen* (all titles in the series)  
 Science Fiction  
 Fifteen year old Bobby wakes up to find himself invisible.
- Conner, Leslie. *Waiting For Normal*  
 Realistic  
 Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, NY.
- Cooney, Caroline B. *Diamonds in the Shadow*  
 Realistic  
 A Connecticut family sponsors an African refugee family, all of whom have been scarred by a civil war, and who inadvertently put their benefactors in harm's way.
- Cormier, Robert. *We All Fall Down* (all titles by author)  
 Realistic/Mature  
 All is not peaceful in small-town Burnside: drunk teenagers trash a house, a girl is thrown down the stairs, a murderer is quietly planning revenge, and Jane falls in love.
- Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion* (and its sequel, *The Lord of Opium*)  
 Newbery Medal/Science Fiction  
 Matt is the clone of El Patron, a drug lord, in this science fiction work that explores the social implications of technological advances and their effect on humanity.
- Fogelin, Adrian. *Crossing Jordan*  
 Realistic  
 When African American Jemmie moves in next door, Cass' father builds a fence separating the houses, but the girls become friends anyway and form the "Chocolate Milk" running team.
- George, Madeline. *Looks*  
 Realistic/Mature  
 An anorexic poet and an obese loner form an unlikely friendship and take revenge on the one who hurt them both.

- Gier, Kerstin. *Ruby Red* (and the remaining books in the trilogy – *Sapphire Blue* and *Emerald Green*)  
 Time Travel  
 Gwyneth discovers that she carries a time-travel gene, and soon she is journeying with Gideon, who shares the gift, through historical London trying to discover whom they can trust.
- Going, K.L. *Fat Kid Rules the World*  
 Realistic  
 Troy, a 300-pound HS student, is befriended by a punk rock guitarist who convinces him to join his band.
- Hesse, Karen. *Music of Dolphins*  
 Using computer technology, a fifteen-year-old girl who has been raised by dolphins, records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world.
- Hiassen, Carl. *Skink No Surrender*  
 Realistic  
 When their reckless cousin runs off with a guy she met online to avoid going to boarding school, long-suffering Richard and renegade Wild Skink brave storms, wildlife, and violence in a swampy region of Florida to find her.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Keeper of the Night*  
 Realistic  
 After the suicide of her mother, a young girl struggles to keep her family together as she grapples with her own grief.
- Johnston, Tony. *Bone by Bone by Bone*  
 Historical Fiction  
 In 1950's Tennessee, David's racist father refuses to allow him associate with Malcolm, who is an African American.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. *Cracker! Best Dog in Vietnam*  
 Historical Fiction  
 A young soldier bonds with his bomb sniffing dog.
- Outside Beauty*  
 Realistic  
 Three sisters are sent to live with their respective fathers while their mother recuperates from a car accident.
- Klages, Ellen. *The Green Glass Sea*  
 Historical  
 While her father works on the Manhattan Project, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp, and becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.
- Konigsburg, E.L. *Silent to the Bone* and companion novel *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place*.  
 Realistic/Mature  
 Branwell becomes unable to speak when the au pair accuses him of hurting his baby sister, and only his best friend can reach him to find out what really happened.
- Korman, Gordon. *Born to Rock*  
 Realistic/Mature  
 Leo, a conservative republican high school student, learns his father is a punk rock legend.

- Kostick, Conor. *Epic* (all titles in the series)  
 Fantasy  
 Fantasy and video games meet in *Epic*, a society where violence is banned, people must settle their disputes and, at the same time, try to stay alive in order to accumulate wealth and status in both the game world and reality.
- Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air*  
 Non-Fiction  
 A controversial account of the most recent Mount Everest disaster by a man who was there.
- Larson, Kirby. *Hattie Big Sky*  
 Historical Fiction  
 Hattie inherits her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana and has a year to make it successful in order to keep it.
- LeGuin, Ursula. *Gifts*  
 Fantasy  
 Uplanders have wondrous gifts - deadly gifts. Two children vow never to use their gifts lest they hurt someone.
- Marrin, Albert. *Volcano Beneath the Snow: John Brown's War Against Slavery*  
 Biography  
 Considers the character and influence of the abolitionist, discussing the religious beliefs that prompted his use of terrorism to combat slavery while assessing his role in the Harper's Ferry raid that helped trigger the Civil War.
- Mass, Wendy. *A Mango-Shaped Space*  
 Realistic  
 Sounds, numbers and letters have color for Mia, which leads to trouble in school.
- Meyer, Marissa. *Cinder* (all titles in the series)  
 Science fiction  
 As plague ravages the Earth, observed by a ruthless lunar people, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *A Handbook for Boys*  
 Realistic  
 Sixteen-year-old Jimmy, on probation for assault, talks about life with three old men in a Harlem barbershop and hears about the tools he can use to get what he wants.
- Lockdown*  
 Realistic  
 Teenage Reese, who is serving time at a juvenile detention facility, gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past.
- Oates, Joyce Carol. *Big Mouth & Ugly Girl*  
 Realistic/Mature  
 Accused of plotting to blow up the school, Matt finds an ally in an outspoken social outcast.
- Orlev, Uri. *Run, Boy, Run*  
 Historical Fiction  
 An eight-year-old Jewish boy struggles to survive in Warsaw during World War II.
- Paulsen, Gary. *The Transall Saga*  
 Science fiction  
 While backpacking in the desert, thirteen-year-old Mark falls into a tube of blue light and is transported into a more primitive world, where he must use his knowledge and skills to survive.

- Peck, Richard. *Are You in the House Alone?*  
 Realistic/Mature  
 After receiving a series of threatening notes, Gail is raped by one of the richest and most popular boys in her school - but nobody believes her story.
- The River Between Us*  
 Historical Fiction  
 The Pruitt family takes in two mysterious girls who have fled New Orleans to come to Illinois during the Civil War.
- Peterson, P.J. and Ivy Ruckman. *rob&sara.com*  
 Realistic  
 A military brat and a troubled teen email each other and develop a romance. But are they who they say they are?
- Reedy, Trent. *If You're Reading This*  
 Realistic  
 Mike was seven when his father was killed in mysterious circumstances in Afghanistan. Eight years later, the family still hasn't recovered. Then, out of the blue, Mike receives a letter from his father -- the first of a series Dad wrote in Afghanistan, just in case he didn't come home. But who's been keeping the letters all these years? And how did Dad actually die? As the answers to these mysteries are revealed, Mike and his family find a way to heal and move forward at last.
- Salisbury, Graham. *Hunt for the Bamboo Rat*  
 Historical  
 Based on a true story, this World War II novel tells how Zenji, 17, is sent from Hawaii to the Philippines to spy on the Japanese.
- Schmidt, Gary D. *Trouble*  
 Realistic  
 In order to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, Henry sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog, but on their trek they encounter the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin.
- Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Zen and the Art of Faking It*  
 Realistic  
 When San Lee moves to a new town and school and is looking for a way to stand out. His knowledge of Zen Buddhism provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.
- Soto, Gary. *The Afterlife*  
 Fantasy  
 After Chuy is stabbed to death he floats around the city of Fresno and recounts what he sees.
- St. John, Warren *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team*  
 Nonfiction  
 This is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh.
- Stork, Francisco. *Marcelo in the Real World*  
 Realistic  
 Marcelo, who has a form of autism, finds romance and injustice when he goes to work in the mailroom.
- Stratton, Allan. *Chanda's Secrets*  
 Realistic/Mature  
 Chanda Kabelo, a sixteen-year-old in a small South African town, faces down shame and stigma in her efforts to help friends and family members who are dying of AIDS.

- Swanson, James *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*  
 Nonfiction  
 The book is useful for those hoping for a rapid-fire, abridged version of the narrative of the pursuit for John Wilkes Booth.
- Thompson, Kate. *The New Policeman*  
 Fantasy  
 Fifteen year old J.J. leaves his Irish home in search of fairies to give his busy mom more time and uncovers a family secret.
- Trueman, Terry. *Stuck in Neutral*  
 Realistic  
 A teen that suffers from severe cerebral palsy relates his perceptions of life.
- Wagenen, Maya van. *Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek*  
 Biography  
 Presents a memoir of a one year social experiment in which teen author Maya Van Wagenen followed a 1950's popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell.
- Wein, Elizabeth. *Code Name Verity (all titles in series)*  
 Historical  
 In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all that she can.
- Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer*  
 Historical  
 After travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, Delphine and her two sisters discover that their mother, a dedicated poet, wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. *After Tupac & Foster*  
 Newbery Honor  
 Three girls from Queens become fast friends reinforced by their love of Tupac's rap music.  
*Miracle's Boys*  
 Realistic  
 Three teenage boys struggle to survive without their parents.
- Zevin, Gabrielle. *Elsewhere*  
 Fantasy  
 After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."
- Zindel, Paul. *The Gadget*  
 Historical Fiction  
 Stephen becomes caught in a web of secrecy and intrigue when he joins his father at Los Alamos where he and other scientists are working on a secret project to end World War II.



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

### Summer Reading 2016

This is a note-taking worksheet for you to log information on concerning your reading selection. This is *optional* and is not the actual assignment your teacher will be giving you in the first quarter. It is a great way for you to record your thoughts during the process of reading as well as immediately after completing your text choice. This can be especially important if you plan on reading your choice very early into the summer because it can serve as a study tool as you prepare for your first quarter assignment.

- What is the **title** of your selection?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the **author's name** of your selection?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Describe the **setting** of your selection:
  - What are the key **locations** where your story takes place? Describe them briefly.
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Explain **when** your story takes place. Does it take place during a certain month, year, season, or time period? Does most of the action occur during day or night? Ask yourself if there is anything of importance concerning this.
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe **two major characters** and **one minor character** from your selection.

- **Major Character One:**

- Name:

- \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe the physical appearance of this character:

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- Provide a few comments about this character's actions, personality, and what others think of him/her:

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- **Major Character Two:**

- Name:

- \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe the physical appearance of this character:

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- Provide a few comments about this character's actions, personality, and what others think of him/her:

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

○ **Minor Character One:**

▪ Name:

▪ \_\_\_\_\_

▪ Describe the physical appearance of this character:

▪ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

▪ Provide a few comments about this character's actions, personality,  
and what others think of him/her:

▪ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- The **conflict** is the major problem that occurs in a story. Stories almost always have an external conflict that exists between the central character and an additional source (for example, person vs. person, person vs. society, person vs. nature) and often have an internal conflict, such as when a character has a “battle” with him/herself over something such as a tough decision.

○ What are the external and internal conflicts in the story that you selected?

○ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- The **plot** of a story is its basic storyline and it generally follows a classic pattern of development. Reflect on how the plot progresses and summarize each step of its development.

- **Exposition** (This usually occurs at the very beginning of the story and provides background information and serves to introduce the characters, conflict, and setting):

- ---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- **Rising Action** (This is the portion of the story when the conflict develops beyond its initial introduction):

- ---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- **Climax** (This describes the turning point in a story when things change for the better or worse):

- ---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- **Falling Action** (This concerns the resolution of the conflict when a protagonist often “wins” or “loses” against his/her antagonist. It helps lead the story to its conclusion):

- ---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- **Resolution** (This serves as the conclusion of a story when conflicts are resolved, creating a sense of normalcy for characters):

- ---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- **Themes** are topics and broad ideas discussed in a story (for example, relationships, maturity, or freedom) and **morals** are lessons that readers take away from a story based on the featured characters’ experiences (for example, “Never judge a book by its cover.”).

- What topics are featured in your selection?

- ---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- What lesson about life does the author want you to learn from this story?

- ---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

