

**HILLSIDE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST
2023**

- 1) Each student is responsible for reading one Required Book for his grade, listed below.
- 2) Each student is responsible for reading *at least* two additional books of his choice. There are suggested books listed here, but students are not limited to these books. The additional books are simply suggestions for that grade's reading level.

STUDENTS ENTERING SEVENTH GRADE

REQUIRED: You must read the following:

Woods Runner Gary Paulsen

From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers who kidnapped them.

Suggestions for Additional Book Choices:

Alabama Moon Watt Key (*ALA Best Books for Young Adults*)

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known and making good friends, a relentless enemy, and finally, a new life.

Airborn Kenneth Oppel (*Printz honor book*)

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperon, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living above the Earth's surface.

The Boy Who Dared Susan Campbell Bartoletti

In October 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

Chains Laurie Halse Anderson (*Scott O'Dell Award*)*

The story of a thirteen-year-old African-American girl who is sold to a cruel, loyalist family living in New York City at the start of the Revolutionary War. Asked to spy on her owners for the Patriot cause, she is reluctant, until she realizes her loyalty lies with the side that can provide her with freedom.

Eragon Christopher Paolini *

In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon, finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, people with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Free Baseball Sue Corbett

Angry with his mother for having too little time for him, eleven-year-old Felix takes advantage of an opportunity to become batboy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder.

George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War Thomas B. Allen *

A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President, George Washington focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.

Heart of a Samurai Margi Preus (*Newbery Honor Award*)

In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

Hockey Player for Life Howard Shapiro

Tom is his hockey team's best player. When he is invited to be on an all-star team in Canada, Tom thinks this is the start of his march to the NHL. Tom leaves his hometown team and they end up missing the playoffs without him. After playing in two tournaments in Canada before being unceremoniously cut, Tom returns to his old team and must earn his teammates' and his coach's respect back. He becomes good friends with the team's worst player who teaches Tom what it means to be a hockey player for life!

Hoot Carl Hiaasen (*Newbery Honor Award*) *

Roy, a middle school boy who is the target of a school bully, gets involved in a mysterious case of vandalism and a barefoot boy's commitment to save burrowing owls living on a construction site.

Iron Thunder: The Battle Between the Monitor and the Merrimac: A Civil War Novel Avi *

Tom's job as an assistant to Captain John Ericsson, the inventor of the Monitor, makes him a target of Confederate spies.

The Lightning Thief, Percy Jackson Series Rick Riordan *

After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

Macaroni Boy Katherine Ayres

In Pittsburgh 1933, sixth-grader Mike Costa notices a connection between several strange occurrences, but the only way he can find out the truth about what's happening is to be nice to the class bully.

My Brother Sam is Dead James Lincoln Collier

Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution, when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

The Old Man and the Sea Ernest Hemingway (*1953 Pulitzer Prize*)

The story of a Cuban fisherman and his supreme ordeal; a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

Skellig David Almond (*Printz honor book*)

Unhappy about his baby sitter's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel.

Stormbreaker (Alex Rider Series) Anthony Horowitz

Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his uncle and guardian has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is sucked into his uncle's undercover world. The Special Operations Division of M16, his uncle's real employer, blackmails the teen into serving England. After two short weeks of training, Alex is equipped with several special toys like a Game Boy with unique cartridges that allow it to scan, fax, and emit smoke bombs. Alex's mission is to complete his uncle's last assignment, to discover the secret that Herod Sayle is hiding behind his generous donation of one of his supercomputers to every school in the country. When Alex enters Sayle's compound, he discovers a strange world of secrets and villains including Mr. Grin, an ex-circus knife catcher, and Yassen Gregorovich, professional hit man.

Surviving the Applewhites Stephanie S. Tolan

Jake Semple is notorious. Rumor has it he burned down his old school and got kicked out of every school in his home state. Only one place will take him, and that's a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists.

Tangerine 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.

The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts Richard Peck *

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean, old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting Jim Murphy *

Describes the Christmas truce that occurred along Western Front trenches in 1914 and features quotations from young men on both sides, a timeline, and additional source material.

Warriors Don't Cry Melba Pattillo Beals

In 1957, Melba Pattillo turned sixteen. That was also the year she became a warrior on the front lines of a civil rights firestorm. Following the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*, Melba was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock's Central High School.

The Westing Game Ellen Raskin (*1979 Newbery Medal*)

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Wednesday Wars Gary D. Schmitt (*Newbery Honor Book*) *

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Where the Red Fern Grows Wilson Rawls

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his own heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

*You may enjoy other books by this author or other books in this series

note:

Michael L. Printz Award (American Library Association award given for "Excellence in Young Adult Literature")

Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction