

The Upper Arlington Middle Schools' Summer Reading Program

Must Reads (required!) You need to read one of the two books listed for the grade level that you will be entering in the fall. (Remember to complete the reader response journal after you have read the book!)

For next year's 6th graders, choose either *Hoot* or *The Wanderer*

***Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen**

Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. And the running boy is intriguing: he was running away from the school bus, carried no books, and—here's the odd part—wore no shoes. Sensing a mystery, Roy sets himself on the boy's trail. The chase introduces him to potty-trained alligators, a fake-fart champion, some burrowing owls, a renegade eco-avenger, and several extremely poisonous snakes with unnaturally sparkling tails.

***The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech**

Thirteen-year-old Sophie is the only girl amongst the surly crew of *The Wanderer* made up of her three uncles and two cousins. They sail across the Atlantic toward England, the land of Bompie, her grandfather. The sea calls to Sophie -- promising adventure and the chance to explore and discover. But the personal journey she takes brings her deeper into a forgotten past than she ever knew she could travel to. Sophie's thirteen-year-old cousin Cody isn't even sure why his father brought him along on this voyage. Everyone, including his dad, thinks he's nothing but a knuckle headed doofus. But behind all the goofing off, he wonders if he has the strength to prove himself to the crew and to his father.

For next year's 7th graders, choose either *Pictures of Hollis Woods* or *Freak the Mighty*

***Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff**

When Hollis is sent to live with Josie, an elderly artist who is quirky and affectionate, she wants to stay. But Josie is growing more forgetful every day. If Social Services finds out, they'll take Hollis away and move Josie into a home. Well, Hollis Woods won't let anyone separate them. She's escaped the system before; this time, she plans to take Josie with her. Yet behind all her plans, Hollis longs for her life with the Regans, fixing each moment of her time with them in pictures she'll never forget.

***Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick**

All his life Max had been called stupid, dumb and slow. It didn't help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It also didn't help that people were afraid

of him. Along came Freak. He was weird, too. He had a little body and a big brain. Together they were unstoppable.

For next year's 8th graders, choose either *The Big Nothing* or *Stargirl*

***The Big Nothing* by Adrian Fogelin**

A middle-schooler struggles to cope with major family problems, including a brother who might be heading for the Persian Gulf, but finds an escape in piano lessons and the dream of a romance with a popular girl.

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli**

She's as magical as the desert sky. As strange as her pet rat. As mysterious as her own name. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High School in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned. And Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal.