

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List 2009

**In addition to the many books you are planning to read this summer, please read some from the list below. For each book you read, complete a 3x5 notecard: On one side put your first and last name, title of book, author. On the other, write a summary of the book. The summary must fit *on just one side* of the notecard.**

1. *Dovey Coe* by Frances O’Roark Dowell
2. *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko
3. *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi
4. *Boy* by Roald Dahl
5. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis
6. *Code Orange* by Caroline B. Cooney
7. *The Other Side of Truth* by Beverly Naidoo
8. *On the Devil’s Court* by Carl Deuker
9. *My Life in Dog Years* by Gary Paulsen
10. *First Test* by Tamora Pierce
11. *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII* by Joseph Bruchac
12. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
13. *It’s Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life* by Lance Armstrong
14. *The Kite Rider* by Geraldine McCaughrean
15. *Tears of a Tiger* by Sharon Draper
16. *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman
17. *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science* by John Fleischman
18. *Summer of My German Soldier* by Bette Greene
19. *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt
20. *Peak* by Roland Smith

**For ONE of the books from my list, complete one of the following activities. Length for each will vary, but 250-300 words would be appropriate for most.**

1. Imagine that you are a character in the book, and write a diary entry about your experiences, thoughts, and feelings.
2. Write a letter to a character in the book, giving her or him advice.
3. Imagine that you are the author of the book, and describe what happened to one of the characters years before or years after the time of the book.
4. Write a short composition on one of the themes for the book. For example, if one of the themes is love, you might write a composition about love, using examples from the book.
5. Write a poem, song, or story about character, conflict, theme, symbol, or another element of the book.
6. Interview one of the characters about the story or about anything your imagination comes up with, asking questions in your voice and giving answers in the character's voice.
7. Write about the main problem or conflict in the book. Who is involved and what is it about?
8. Finish the sentence: "I love (hate) the way the author (or a character) . . ." (Remember, 250-300 words!)

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Mr. Bailey  
Language Arts  
August 19, 2009

*Code Orange* by Caroline B. Cooney

Use this format when typing the final copy for your assignment: four-line heading in upper left corner, title and author of book centered, title *italicized*. Use Times New Roman font, size 12. Your note cards and writing assignment are due on August 19, 2009, the first full day of classes.