

Summer 2009

Dear Seventh Grader,

Welcome to the seventh grade! This year we will focus on some new and exciting works of literature. We will also expand our knowledge of written English. In order to prepare for the upcoming year, you must complete some work over the summer.

The purposes of our summer literacy program for BPCPS students are to promote continuous reading habits, to encourage reading for pleasure, to maintain writing skills and to establish a springboard for class discussion in the fall. Our goal is to develop independent readers and writers who will continue good literacy habits because they find personal value in reading and sharing good books.

Just like last summer, all seventh graders must read at least two books over the summer. There will be one book that you must read for your summer assignment and another book of your choice from a list of suggested books to enhance your development as an independent reader. Try the Boston Public Library or a bookstore for the books.

After you have enjoyed your books, you are to complete the attached assignments. Put the same effort into this assignment as you would put into your everyday work at Boston Prep. Remember, this is your first graded Reading assignment of the seventh grade! This counts as a homework grade. Make it SPECTACULAR! If any questions are left blank, you will not receive credit on this assignment.

This is a required assignment; it is due on **THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

See you in the fall!

Your 7th grade reading teacher,

Ms. Faulkner

Summer Reading

Grade 7

Summer 2008

This summer you **will** read the book, *Homecoming* by Cynthia Voigt

The Tillerman kids' mother just left them one day in a car in a mall parking lot. Their father had left them a long time ago. So, as usual, it was up to 13-year-old Dicey, the eldest of four, to take care of everything, make all the decisions, feed them, find places to sleep. But above all, Dicey would have to make sure to avoid the authorities who would split them up and place them in foster homes. Deep down, she hoped they could find an adult they could trust, someone who would take them in and love them. But she was afraid it was too much to hope for.

I recommend the following list of books for your second summer reading choice.

For readers who are struggling:

Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen .

Nightjohn is a story that is set in the south during the time of slavery. Based on an actual incident, Gary Paulsen tells about a young slave girl, Sarny, who is taught to read by another slave, Nightjohn. The book is very well written, complete with dialect that makes the book even more interesting to read. Nightjohn has escaped to the North where he was taught to read, but he keeps coming back to the south to further educate the slaves of the plantations. Nightjohn meets Sarny and convinces her that she should learn to read. Despite knowing the consequences, Nightjohn teaches Sarny to read one letter at a time each night after the others are asleep. Nightjohn makes Sarny promise that she will never say or write the letters that he is teaching her.

Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George

Julie of the Wolves is a book about survival in the wilderness. A young Eskimo girl, named both Julie Edward (her American name) and Miyax Kapugen (her Eskimo name), runs away from a traditional planned marriage that she finds intolerable. She becomes lost on the vast North Slope of the Alaskan Brooks Range, far away from even the most remote settlement. The long arctic winter is coming on and Julie must call on all her wits, her Eskimo skills, and her sensitivity to nature to find the food and shelter she needs to survive. Near her camp, she discovers a wolf den and...

For readers who are comfortable:

The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam by Huynh Quang Nhuong

Huynh Quang Nhuong grew up in the highlands of Vietnam, next to a jungle teeming with wildlife. Encounters with tigers, wild hogs, and deadly snakes were as much a part of his life as tending the rice fields while on the back of his pet water buffalo, Tank. Here are fifteen tales that will transport you into a world of lush beauty and terrible danger—and a way of life that is gone forever.

Dragonwings by Lawrence Yep.

In this historical novel about the pursuit of dreams, Moon Shadow is a young Chinese immigrant who comes to San Francisco at the turn of the century to join his father Windrider, whom he has never met. At first father and son live and work with relatives in the Chinese section of town, but when a man is killed and their lives are endangered, the two move out and make friends with a woman and her granddaughter. The four survive the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, but Moon Shadow and his father are forced to move again. With Moon Shadow's help, Windrider begins to pursue some of his long-held dreams.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli .

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out—under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes—for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body.

Freak the Mighty by W. Rodman Philbrick

Two boys -- a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces - forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force.

Money Hungry **or sequel** *Begging for Change* by Sharon G. Flake

All 13-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again.

Jazmin's Notebook by Nikki Grimes

Jazmin, a teenager who lives with her older sister in a small Harlem apartment in the 1960s, finds strength in writing poetry and keeping a record of the events in her sometimes difficult life

Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: a Year told Though Stuff by Jennifer L. Holm

Ginny makes a to do list for her seventh grade year, which includes landing a role in the school play, trying to make friends, ignoring her horoscope, and going to see her grandpa Joe in Florida; but she always seems to come up short in accomplishing any of it.

Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt

The Tillerman kids' mother just left them one day in a car in a mall parking lot. Their father had left them a long time ago. So, as usual, it was up to 13-year-old Dicey, the eldest of four, to take care of everything, make all the decisions, feed them, find places to sleep. But above all, Dicey would have to make sure to avoid the authorities who would split them up and place them in foster homes. Deep down, she hoped they could find an adult they could trust, someone who would take them in and love them. But she was afraid it was too much to hope for.

Heat by Mike Lupica

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof

For readers who want a challenge:

Witness by Karen Hesse

Leanora Sutter. Esther Hirsh. Merlin Van Tornhout. Johnny Reeves . . . These characters are among the unforgettable cast inhabiting a small Vermont town in 1924. A town that turns against its own when the Ku Klux Klan moves in. No one is safe, especially the two youngest, twelve-year-old Leanora, an African-American girl, and six-year-old Esther, who is Jewish. In this story of a community on the brink of disaster, told through the haunting and impassioned voices of its inhabitants, Newbery Award winner Karen Hesse takes readers into the hearts and minds of those who bear witness.

The Wanderer by Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the *Wanderer*, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with their uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

Defiance by Valerie Hobbs

Rick, a fourteen-year-old foster child, escapes from a juvenile detention facility near Las Vegas and travels to Canyonlands National Park in Utah where he meets a bird biologist working on a project to reintroduce condors to the wild.

Adam Canfield of the Slash by Michael Winierip

In this terrific debut, the Pulitzer Prize-winning "New York Times" columnist introduces a charming cast of middle-school newspaper reporters that stands up to authority to expose a school scandal.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

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.

The assignment is attached to this book list. This assignment, like all Boston Prep assignments, needs to be complete. If any questions are left blank, you will not receive credit on this assignment. You will be graded on your work.

Remember, this is your first graded assignment for the 2008-09 school year. Do your best!

Task Summer	<p>7th GRADE READING</p> <p>Summer Reading Assignment</p> <p><i>Due on first day of school (homework grade)</i></p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Date: <u>Summer, 2009</u></p>	Task Summer
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BOOK: Title: _____

Author: _____

SUMMARY: What happens at the beginning, middle and end of this book? Summarize the book in about one paragraph.

Background information (characters, main setting):

At the beginning:

In the middle:

At the end:

CHARACTER TRAITS:

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. The name of the **main character** in this story: _____

Describe her/him in 3-5 complete sentences:

2. One **character trait** (adjective) to describe the main character:

Provide evidence and explanation for the character trait you chose. (Include evidence from the text and quotation marks).

This evidence was on page ____

3. Another **character trait** (adjective) to describe the main character:

Provide evidence and explanation for the character trait you chose. (Include evidence from the text and quotation marks).

This evidence was on page ____