Upper Darby School District
2018 Middle School
Summer Reading Requirements

Middle school students in UDSD are required to read one fiction and one nonfiction book at each grade level. They are also required to complete a packet for books they read following the directions described below. All work is due to their homeroom teachers when school begins. Students should use the reading list below to select at least two required books, one fiction and one non-fiction.

Across Five Aprils
By Irene Hunt
This Newbery Award winning author presents the unforgettable story of Jethro Creighton—a brave boy who comes of age during the turbulent years of the Civil War. Told through letters and seen through the eyes of Jethro who is 9 when the war begins, it has a homespun tone and a piercing insight. (F)

Aquamarine
By Alice Hoffman
Aqua, a mermaid who has the ability to turn into a human, has struggled trying to fit in like the rest of us. The author Alice Hoffman expresses the trials and tribulations that one has to go through to find true love. (F)

Bud, Not Buddy
By Christopher Paul Curtis
In Depression-era Flint, Michigan, 10-year-old Bud Caldwell (BUD, not Buddy) is plucked from the “home” to go to a foster family. Before he knows it, he’s on the lam, determined to find his own way and sure that the things his Momma left him are clues to his father’s identity and whereabouts. (F)

Sounder
By William H. Armstrong
Set in the Deep South, this Newbery Medal-winning novel tells the story of the great coon dog, Sounder, and the poor sharecroppers who own him. During the difficult years of the nineteenth century South, an African-American boy and his poor family rarely have enough to eat. Each night, the boy’s father takes their dog, Sounder, out to look for food and the man grows more desperate by the day. (F)

Tangerine
By Edward Bloor
Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he’s not so blind that he can’t see there are some very unusual things about his family’s new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Where else does a sinkhole swallow the local school? The chaos is compounded by constant harassment from his football–star brother, and adjusting to life in Tangerine isn’t easy for Paul—until he joins the soccer team at his middle school.
With the help of his new teammates, Paul begins to discover what lies beneath the surface of his strange new hometown. (F)

**Wonder**  
*By R. J. Palacio*  
August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school—until now. He's about to start 5th grade at Beecher Prep, and if you've ever been the new kid then you know how hard that can be. The thing is Auggie's just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, despite appearances? (F)

**The Diary of a Young Girl**  
*By Anne Frank*  
Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. (NF)

**Immigrant Kids**  
*By Russell Freedman*  
America meant "freedom" to the immigrants of the early 1900s—but a freedom very different from what they expected. Cities were crowded and jobs were scarce. Children had to work selling newspapers, delivering goods, and laboring sweatshops. In this touching book, Newberry Medalist Russell Freedman offers a rare glimpse of what it meant to be a young newcomer to America. (NF)

**Jackie’s Nine: Jackie Robinson’s Values to Live By: Becoming Your Best Self**  
*By Sharon Robinson*  
This inspiring collection pays tribute to baseball legend and civil rights hero Jackie Robinson. Jackie’s daughter, Sharon, acts as a personal tour guide through the nine heartfelt, hard-won values that helped her father achieve his goals. (NF)

**A Really Short History of Nearly Everything**  
*By Bill Bryson*  
Bill's story-telling skill makes the "How?" and, just as importantly, the "Who?" of scientific discovery entertaining and accessible for all ages. In this exciting edition for younger readers, he covers the wonder and mysteries of time and space, the frequently bizarre and often obsessive scientists and the methods they used. (NF)

**Within Reach: My Everest Story**  
*By Mark Pfetzer*  
In the story “Within Reach: My Everest Story” by Mark Pfetzer and Jack Galvin, Mark works harder than anyone else to achieve his dream of summiting Mount Everest. He climbs many smaller mountain and exercises every night. He shows how hard work and never giving up can pay off with the support of his mom, dad and the people he meets along his journey through climbing. This book was significant because of the theme and the characters. (NF)
Summer Reading Instructions  
For  
Students Entering Grade 6

Welcome to Middle School! You are about to begin a new journey. You may know many of the students who are in your new school, but there are many new friends to make! Use your summer reading book to help introduce yourself to someone you have never met before.

• You should read at least two books during the summer, one fiction and one-nonfiction book.
• Using one book from the list write a “Dear New Friend” letter, instructions are below.

Dear New Friend...

As part of your summer reading project, write a letter to a new friend. Your letter should be at least one page in length. In your letter, please make some important connections between yourself and the main character in the book that you read from the either the Fiction or the Non-Fiction reading list.

For example:
• Describe your personality and your interests. How are you similar to or different from the main character in your book?
• Tell your new friend about the thing you feel is the most important thing in the world to you.
• Then, tell your friend what the most important thing in the world might be for your character.
• Talk to your friend about your family and other friends that you have.
• Tell him/her about the family and friends of your character.
• Tell your new friend your idea of the perfect day- down to the last detail!

You may type or neatly handwrite your letter. Please bring your letter with you on the first day of school.
Summer Reading Instructions
For
Students Entering Grade 7 and 8

We cannot wait to see you in 7th or 8th grade this year! Please take some time to enjoy reading this summer. Students entering grades 7 or 8 should read at least two books from the reading list during the summer.

• Read one fiction and one non-fiction book from the list
• Review "The Plot Thickens" instructions below
• Complete a Plot worksheet for your fiction selection
• Complete a one page summary for each book that includes the book title, author, your first and last name your grade and homeroom.

You may type or neatly handwrite your two summaries. Please bring your two summaries and plot worksheet (p5) with you to school on the first day.

The Plot Thickens!
Stories that are made up in the author’s imagination are called fiction. All fiction stories follow a plan of action called a plot pattern. The plot pattern includes the following:

• Exposition – presentation of the characters and the setting
• Conflict – the problem: a difficult or unusual situation which happens to a character
• Rising action – a series of events that happens as a result of the problem
• Climax – the point at which the action is the most exciting
• Falling action – the events that happen as the problem is being worked out
• Conclusion – the resolution of the problem

Other important terms to know:
Character - exciting and interesting people in the story
Protagonist – the main character or hero of the story
Antagonist – the opponent of the main character; the “bad guy”
Theme – the main idea of the story; the author’s message
Setting – where and when the story takes place
Point of view – the perspective from which the author tells the story
• First person – the story is told by only one character, written as “I”
• Third person limited – the story is told without explaining the thoughts and feelings of the characters
• Third person omniscient – the author reveals the thoughts and feelings of the characters
Use the information from *The Plot Thickens!* to complete the sentences below for your fiction selection.

Title __________________ Author ___________________

The setting of my book is ________________________________

The conflict or problem in the story is ________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

The climax of the story happens when ________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

The conclusion of the story occurs when ________________________________

The protagonist in the story is ________________________________

The antagonist in the story is ________________________________

The story is told from the point of view of ________________________________

The theme of the story is ________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Use this information to write a one-page summary for this book.