



## **Hawtree Creek Middle School~MS 297**

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South Ozone Park, NY 11420

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Dr. Maureen Hussey – Founding Principal

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### **Summer Book List** **entering 7th Grade**

Hawtree Creek Middle School students will read a *minimum* of three books during the summer and submit written responses on the first day of school for the 2025-2026 school year.

#### **STEP 1: Choose at least three books**

On the following pages are lists of fiction and non-fiction novels recommended for your summer reading. These are also based on what last year's seventh graders enjoyed reading. These are recommendations based on Lexile Level, but, as usual, you are welcome to read any book of your choosing. Some of these novels may be available at your local library. Some books you may need to purchase (Amazon.com) Please choose:

- At least one novel from the non-fiction list
- At least two novels from the fiction list

You don't need to stop at three. Read as many books as you would like! ☺

#### **STEP 2: Read the books!**

There is nothing more relaxing than reading outside in the sun or finding a shady spot to cool down and get lost in a new adventure. On average, 7th graders read at least 30 mins a day.

#### **STEP 3: Create 4 responses for each book (12 total)**

These responses may be:

- RACCE/RACECE responses
- Creative Writing entries

These responses may be:

- Typed (Times New Roman, size 12, black font, double spaced)
- Hand-written (double spaced)

These responses MUST INCLUDE:

- Heading
- Title and Author
- Number each response (1-12)

Look to the following page for guiding questions and prompts. You are welcome to create your own prompt.

**Guiding Questions, if needed, for Reading Responses**  
**Each response should have TWO pieces of text evidence**

<b>BOTH Nonfiction and Fiction</b>	<b>Fiction</b>	<b>Nonfiction</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does the title of the novel mean?</li> <li>2. What was the most important line from the novel?</li> <li>3. How do the ideas in this novel connect to another novel you have read or something happening in our world?</li> <li>4. How did this book change your mind about a certain topic, event, or group of people?</li> <li>5. What was the biggest confusion you had while reading this text?</li> <li>6. What will you do differently now that you have read this novel?</li> <li>7. What techniques did the author use to engage you and keep you interested?</li> <li>8. Which character in the novel do you most relate to and why?</li> <li>9. Which HCMS Character Trait does the character/person exhibit? Explain.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. What is a theme of the novel? (a message, lesson, or moral of the story?)</li> <li>11. How is the setting important to the story?</li> <li>12. How has the character changed from the beginning of the story to the end?</li> <li>13. What is the author's purpose for writing this story?</li> <li>14. Do you agree or disagree with the character's actions? Explain.</li> <li>15. What is the conflict in the novel and how is it resolved?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is it important for people to be aware of this topic? What does the author want readers to know?</li> <li>2. What questions do you still have about the topic after reading this book? What do you want to know more about?</li> <li>3. What is the central idea of this text? What does the author believe?</li> </ol>

## 600-700 Fiction:



### **Holes by Louis Sachar (660L)**

Stanley Yelnats has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.



### **Jackpot by Nic Stone (670)**

Seventeen-year-old Rico splits her time outside school between looking after her younger brother and working in the local gas station to help her mum pay the bills. So when she sells a jackpot-winning lotto ticket and the money goes unclaimed, Rico thinks maybe her luck has changed.



### **Simon vs the Homosapien's Agenda by Becky Albertalli (640L)**

Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight.



### **Monster by Walter Dean Myers (670L)**

Steve Harmon, a teenager in juvenile detention is on trial. Told through Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the novel shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.



### **Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (600L)**

Twelve-year-old Artemis is a millionaire, a genius-and above all, a criminal mastermind. But Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of the bedtime stories-they're dangerous!



### **The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline B. Cooney (660L)**

No one ever really paid close attention to the faces of the missing children on the milk cartons. But as Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl with her hair in tight pigtails, she felt overcome with shock. She recognized that little girl—it was her. How could it possibly be true?



### **Bury Me by K.R. Alexander (650L)**

No one ever leaves Copper Hollow. It's a town with a deadly history . . . but nobody ever talks about it. Kimberly and her friends try to destroy the doll . . . but every time they think it's gone, it comes back again. Is there any way to rid themselves of the evil once and for all?

## 600-700 Non-Fiction:



### **Beyond the Bars: Exploring the Secrets of the Police Station by Tammy Enz (670L)**

Where do the police keep their weapons? And where do the criminals go once they're arrested? Behind the scenes of the police station there's a whole world of activity that keeps citizens safe. Let's go beyond the bars to unlock the secrets of a police station.



### **Hoop Stars by Sydelle A. Kramer (600L)**

Introducing four basketball stars, including Shaquille O'Neal, David Robinson, Charles Barkley, and Hakeem Olajuwon, an easy-to-read collection of mini-biographies recounts their history-making career achievements.



**Space Junk by Steve Kortenkamp (620L)**

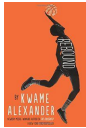
Describes the types of debris orbiting Earth and discusses the hazards space junk presents to spacecraft and astronauts.



**The Truth about Witches by Eric Braun – (640L)**

Witches have charmed us for years in popular fairy tales. Have you ever wondered what witches look like? What do you think witches use to cast spells? Hop on your broom, and fly through the pages of this book to find out the truth about witches.

## 700-800 Fiction



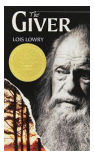
**Rebound by Kwame Alexander (780)**

This novel-in-verse follows Chuck, who is acting out as he mourns the premature death of his own father. His mother's solution is to send him to spend the summer at his grandparents' home, where he endures his grandfather's tough love and his cousin Roxie's superior skills as a baller. Alexander's non-rhyming poetry has propulsive, hard-hitting rhythm. A few poems are cast in graphic novel-style panels, which serve as nice breaks among the poems and illustrate how Chuck, a comic book lover, imagines himself.



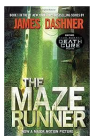
**All American Boys by Jason Reynolds (770L)**

All American Boys is a young adult novel that looks at a specific instance of police brutality from the perspectives of two high school classmates: Rashad, who is savagely beaten by a local policeman who (wrongly) suspects him of shoplifting and assaulting a white woman, and Quinn, who sees the beating and initially pretends he didn't.



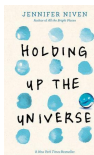
**The Giver by Lois Lowry (760L)**

Twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community



**The Maze Runner by James Dashner (770L)**

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround them is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.



**Holding up the Universe by Jennifer Niven (760L)**

The story follows Jack Masselin, a 17-year-old popular boy who secretly has a neurological disorder that inhibits his ability to recognize faces, and Libby Strout, a 16-year-old overweight girl who had to be lifted from her home by crane after a panic attack.



**Uglies by Scott Westerfield (790L)**

In a world where everyone gets an operation to make themselves “pretty,” the main character Tally wants to rebel against this society and remain “ugly.”



**Wonder by R.J. Palacio (790L)**

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

## 700-800 Non-Fiction



### **Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Li Jiang (770L)**

In 1966 Ji-li Jiang turned twelve. An outstanding student and leader, she had everything: brains, the admiration of her peers, and a bright future in China's Communist Party. But that year China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launched the Cultural Revolution, and everything changed.



### **The Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for Love of a Family by Dave Pelzer (720L)**

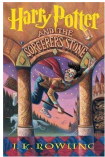
Dave is moved in and out of five different homes. He suffers shame and experiences resentment from those who feel that all foster kids are trouble and unworthy of being loved just because they are not part of a "real" family. Tears, laughter, devastation and hope create the journey of this little lost boy who searches desperately for just one thing -- the love of a family.



### **Born a Crime: Young Readers' Edition by Trevor Noah (780L)**

Written by the funny and popular talk show host from South Africa, Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist.

## 800-900 Fiction:



### **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling (880L)**

After 10 miserable years with his aunt and uncle, Harry Potter is invited to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Each book follows another year in Harry's education while more of his frightening destiny is revealed.



### **Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (810L)**

In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the other districts in line by forcing them to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight-to-the-death on live TV.



### **The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (850L)**

Hazel Grace Lancaster (Shailene Woodley), a 16-year-old cancer patient, meets and falls in love with Gus Waters (Ansel Elgort), a similarly afflicted teen from her cancer support group. Hazel feels that Gus really understands her.



### **Refugee by Alan Gratz**

A historical fiction novel that features 3 stories in one; Josef, a Jewish boy escaping Nazi Germany in the 1930s, Isabel, a Cuban girl escaping Castro's regime in 1994, and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy fleeing from the conflict in Syria in 2015.



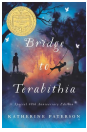
### **Chomp by Carl Hiaasen (800L)**

Wahoo Cray and his father, a professional animal wrangler, are hired to help with the latest episode of a reality series titled Expedition Survival!



### **Matilda by Roald Dahl (840L)**

Matilda is a sweet, exceptional young girl, but her parents think she's just a nuisance. She expects school to be different but there she has to face Miss Trunchbull, a menacing, kid-hating headmistress.. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves and Matilda may be just the one to do it!



**Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson (810L)**

Two kids create an imaginary world called Terabithia, which is inhabited by magical creatures. Though difficulties fill their ordinary lives, Jesse and Leslie rule as king and queen in Terabithia. Soon one of the friends must draw on the strength of their imaginary kingdom to cope with a tragedy.

**800-900 Non-Fiction:**



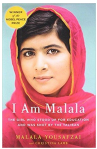
**We Beat the Street by The Three Doctors and Sharon Draper (860L)**

Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors.



**Lost Boy, Lost Girl by John Bul Dau (900L)**

One of thousands of children who fled strife in southern Sudan, John Bul Dau survived hunger, exhaustion, and violence. His wife, Martha, endured similar hardships. In this memorable book, the two convey the best of African values while relating searing accounts of famine and war.



**I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai (830L)**

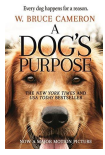
When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.



**Slay by Brittney Morris (980L)**

This tells the story of a young Black woman who has to be twice as much as her peers while secretly blaming herself for a senseless homicide that happened far from home.

## 900-1000 Fiction:



### **A Dog's Purpose by Bruce W. Cameron (970L)**

Surprised to find himself reborn as a rambunctious golden-haired puppy after a tragically short life as a stray mutt, Bailey's search for his new life's meaning leads him into the loving arms of 8-year-old Ethan.



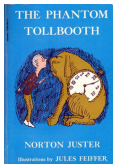
### **Freak The Mighty by Rodman Philbrick (930L)**

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.



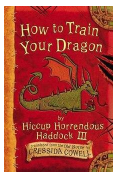
### **The Case of the Missing Marquess by Nancy Springer (970L)**

When Enola Holmes, the much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared-on her 14th birthday nonetheless-she knows she alone can find her. Disguising herself as a grieving widow, Enola sets out to the heart of London to uncover her mother's whereabouts.



### **The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster (1000L)**

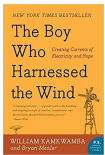
The story of a bored young boy named Milo who unexpectedly receives a magic tollbooth one afternoon and, having nothing better to do, drives through it in his toy car, transporting him to the Kingdom of Wisdom, once prosperous but now troubled.



### **How to Train your Dragon by Cressida Cowell (990L)**

A series of 12 books that follows Hiccup in the magical Viking world as he overcomes great obstacles on his journey to becoming a hero, the hard way.

## 900-1000 Non Fiction:



### **The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind by William Kamkwamba (960L)**

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill.



### **Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family and Trying to Get Back on The Board by Bethany Hamilton (960L)**

They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the passion that drives her to surf? How else could one explain that nothing, not even the loss of her arm could come between her and the waves?



### **The Freedom Writers Diary by Erin Gruwell (900L)**

Erin Gruwell became a teacher at a high school rampant with hostility and racial intolerance. For many of these students, Gruwell was the first person to treat them with dignity, to believe in their potential and help them see it themselves. Soon, their loyalty towards their teacher and burning enthusiasm to help end violence and intolerance became a force of its own.



### **Marley and Me by John Grogan (990L)**

John and Jenny had just begun their life together. They were young and in love, with a perfect little house and not a care in the world. Then they brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow furball of a puppy. Life would never be the same.

## 1000+ Fiction



### **The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien (1000L)**

Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who wanted to be left alone in quiet comfort. But the wizard Gandalf came along with a band of homeless dwarves. Soon Bilbo was drawn into their quest, facing evil orcs, savage wolves, giant spiders, and worse unknown dangers. Finally, it was Bilbo alone and unaided who had to confront the great dragon Smaug, the terror of an entire countryside.



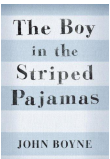
### **The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket (1010L)**

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are intelligent children. They are charming, and resourceful, and have pleasant facial features. Unfortunately, they are exceptionally unlucky. The three youngsters encounter a greedy and repulsive villain, itchy clothing, a disastrous fire, a plot to steal their fortune, a lumpy bed, a deadly serpent, a large brass reading lamp, a long knife, and a terrible odor.



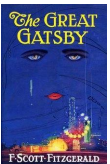
### **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon (1090L)**

A boy with autism sets out to solve the murder of a neighbor's dog and discovers unexpected truths about himself and the world.



### **The Boy in The Striped Pajamas by John Boyne (1000L)**

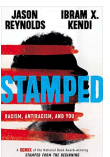
When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far far away. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.



### **The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1010L)**

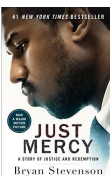
Set in Jazz Age New York, the novel tells the tragic story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan, a wealthy young woman whom he loved in his youth.

## 1000+ Non-Fiction



### **Stamped by Jason Reynolds (1140L)**

This book takes young readers on a journey of how racist ideals came to be in America, how they grew, and the people along the way who fought back. This is not your typical history book, as Reynolds will have you laughing at times and questioning everything you thought you believed at other times.



### **Just Mercy: Young Readers' Edition by Bryan Stevenson (1040L)**

Stevenson is a social justice activist and lawyer, Just Mercy illuminates the inequality in America's justice system and highlights the stories of many African American men who were wrongfully convicted. The main story is about Walter McMillain, a black man with a white girlfriend in Alabama, who was eventually convicted by a jury for a murder there was no proof he committed.



**Being Jazz by Jazz Jennings (1120L)**

Transgender activist Jazz Jennings holds little back in her frank, funny memoir -- she shares soaring highs and humiliating lows, her ambition and depression, and her unique experience with puberty. In *Being Jazz*, she writes with the bubbly voice and confident intimacy familiar to her fans from YouTube and TV.



**Proud: Young Readers' Edition by Ibtihaj Muhammad (1000L)**

*Proud* is the story of how Ibtihaj rose above it all with grace and compassion. Her exhilarating emergence from young outsider to national hero and outspoken activist is a timeless, uniquely American tale of hard work, determination, and resilience that hasn't been told