



Dear Parents,

Reading is one of the most important skills there is. Indeed, it is the foundation of almost all future learning for your child at Hilldale School and beyond. Families who encourage daily reading and writing will have more successful children. Your support at home is essential!

Reading experts note that most young readers suffer a back slide in reading skills during the summer down time. But that need not be the case! Families can make reading a priority during the summer. You can help your child succeed by the positive attitude you take toward reading to your child and hearing him/her read to you, by the expressive voice intonation you use, by questioning about what you and your child have read and about what your child can see in a book's pictures, and by the encouragement you express to your child as they try out their reading in a variety of venues. Please help to make reading a priority during the coming summer!

Every Hilldale student is encouraged to read as much as possible during the summer vacation. A list of recommended titles follows, and each student is **required** to read Where the Red Fern Grows. We will start the year off by discussing this book and doing corresponding activities during the opening days of school, so please make sure your child is ready to participate. We hope you will supplement the required reading with other books that you and your child choose from this or any other summer reading list.

Summer Reading List – Incoming Sixth Graders

Overall Theme: Environmentalism & Personal Responsibility

Time Period Theme: US History – Westward Expansion – Post Civil War Reconstruction

Required for all:

Where the Red Fern Grows

Wilson Rawls

Suggestions:

The Red Badge of Courage

Good Brother, Bad Brother: Story of Edwin Booth & John Wilkes Booth

With Every Drop of Blood

Annie Between the States

We Were There Too: Young People in U.S. History

The Cay

The Invisible Man

Around the World in 80 Days

Old Man and the Sea

I Am the Cheese

Kon-Tiki

Captains Courageous

Haveli

I Heard the Owl Call My Name

The Red Pony

Any Harry Potter book

A Family Apart

The Hunger Games

Little Women

Stephen Crane

James Cross Giblin

James Collier & Christopher Collier

L.M. Elliott

Phillip Hoose

Theodore Taylor

H.G. Wells

Jules Verne

Ernest Hemingway

Robert Cormier

Thor Heyerdahl

Rudyard Kipling

Suzanne Fisher Staples

Margaret Craven

John Steinbeck

J.K. Rowling

Joan Lowry Nixon

Suzanne Collins

Louisa May Alcott