

Accelerated Reader Info Sheet

Hi Parents and Middle School Students,

May 30, 2019

The middle school is going strong into Year 3 of the Accelerated Reader program – an online system to keep track of students’ independent reading.

This program works in conjunction with the STAR tests students are very familiar with and from those tests, a ZDP (Zone of Proximal Development) is generated. This is the range students can read comfortably in without the assistance of an adult.

For example, if the ZDP is 5.3-7.1, then a student can read up to grade level 7, month 1 and should be reading no lower than a 5th grade, month 3 book. (However, students should ALWAYS be encouraged to read, even books that are below their level.)


For the sake of SFB’s program, we will expect students to read within the ZPD for all school AR tests and for their summer reading assignment.

The ZPD of _____ is _____.

(This was based on the last STAR test in May.)

More information about the SFB reading and writing program will be provided at Back to School night at the beginning of the school year.

Thanks,
Middle School Team



Reading is dreaming
with open eyes

Summer Reading Book List

(The ***s by a title mean that your teachers really love the title and !!! means that the title is on current popular lists for middle school students.)

Choosing the book:

- You can choose any book to read for summer reading, as long it falls within your ZPD range. (This is a suggested list...read what interests you!)
- *Be sure to check arbookfind.com to make sure your book is on AR!*
- Do not limit yourself to one book! We challenge you to devour as many books as you can this summer – you just need to have one final project.

*****Students that are able to read 10+ books are invited to participate in a beginning of year party.**

Where to access books:

1. Our classroom library in the 8th grade – be sure to sign out the book though!
2. Public library
3. Scholastic.com – often have sales on titles (I still find Amazon is the better buy).
4. Your friends and family – if you like a book, pass it on!

(The books below were approved on *Common Sense Media*, a website for parents and educators to help guide children to make appropriate choices in media. A 13+ means it contains teen issues and therefore should be previewed by a parent or adult.)

Latest Additions:

- *All American Boys* by Brendan Kiely and Jason Reynolds (4.9 GE) !!!
- *A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen (5.4 GE) !!!
- *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly (9.2 GE)***
- *Fast Break* (5.5 GE) by Mike Lupica !!!
- *Love & Gelato* by Jenna Evans Welch (4.2 GE) !!!
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (4.3 GE)
- *Minion* by John David Anderson (5.0 GE)
- *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi 13+ (4.4 GE)
- *The School for Good and Evil* by Soman Chainani (5.2 GE)

- *Better Nate than Ever* by Tim Federle (5.9 GE)
- *Rebel of the Sands* by Alwyn Hamilton (5.0 GE) !!!
- *The Last Dragonslayer* by Jasper Fforde (5.8 GE)
- *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz (5.1 GE)
- *Trash* by Andy Mulligan 13+ (5.1 GE)
- *She is not Invisible* by Marcus Sedgewick (4.4 GE)
- *The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud (5.1 GE)
- *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfield (6.9 GE)
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (4.3 GE) *** !!!
- *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Greene (5.3 GE) !!!

Want more new releases? Check this website out!

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-lists>

Fantasy/Adventure

- The Legend Novels series by Marie Lu (adventure) (5.3-6.3 GE)
- The Lunar Chronicles series by Marissa Meyer 13+ (6.0 -7.0 GE)
- The Matched Trilogy (*Hatched, Crossed, Reached*) by Ally Condie (science fiction) +13 (4.2-5.0 GE)
- *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh (4.5 GE) ***
- *Eragon* (5.6 GE), *Eldest* (7.0 GE), *Brisingsr* (7.8 GE) by Christopher Paolini
- *The Golden Compass* (7.1 GE), *The Subtle Knife* (6.2 GE), and *The Amber Spyglass* (6.7 GE) by Phillip Pullman !!!
- The Heroes of Olympus Series by Rick Riordan (4.5-5.5 GE)***
- *Sabriel* (7.3 GE), *Lirael* (7.1), and *Abhorsen* (6.6) by Garth Nix
- *Airborn* (5.1 GE), *Skybreaker* (5.0), and *Starclimber* (4.9) by Kenneth Oppel
- The Bartimaeus Trilogy by Jonathan Stroud (4.4 – 5.9 GE)
- *Sea of Trolls* by Nancy Farmer (4.7 GE)
- *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones (5.4 GE)
- *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart (5.6 GE)
- *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau (4.9 GE) ***
- *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan (4.8 GE) !!!

Science Fiction

- *Monument 14* and *Sky on Fire* by Emmy Laybourne 13+ (4.0 GE)
- *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey 13+ (4.6 GE)
- *I am Number Four* by Pittacus Lore 13+ (4.4 GE)
- Divergent Series by Veronica Roth 13+ (4.8 – 5.7 GE)***
- The Ender Series by Orson Scott Card (5.2 – 6.6 GE)
- *The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Philbrick (5.0 GE)
- The Maximum Ride Series by James Patterson (4.4 – 5.6 GE)
- *Things Not Seen* by Andrew Clements (4.5 GE)

- The Hunger Games Series by Suzanne Collins (5.3 GE)***

Realistic Fiction

- *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Phillbrick (5.5 GE) !!!
- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers 13+ (5.6 GE)
- *Secret Lives of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd (5.7 GE)***
- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli (4.2 GE)***
- *Skellig* by David Almond (3.5 GE)
- *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson (5.3 GE)
- The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Series by Ann Brashares***(4.3-5.5)
- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech (4.9 GE)
- *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* by Kimberly Willis Holt (4.5 GE)
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (4.8 GE) !!!
- *The Fault in our Stars* by John Greene (5.3 GE)!!!
- *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone (5.8 GE)

Historical Fiction

- *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak 13+ (5.1 GE)***
- *Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne (5.8 GE)***
- *The Inventor's Secret* by Andrea Cremer (5.5 GE)
- *Moon over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool (5.3 GE)
- *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi (5.3 GE)
- *Under a War-Torn Sky* by Laura Malone Elliott (4.8 GE)
- *Samurai Shortstop* by Alan Gratz (4.9 GE)
- *The Ransom of Mercy Carter* by Caroline B. Cooney (5.7 GE)
- *Escape! Story of the Great Houdini* by Sid Fleischman (6.6 GE)

Mystery and Horror

- *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman (5.1 GE)
- *Doll Bones* by Holly Black (5.4 GE) !!!
- *Operation Red Jericho* by Joshua Mowll (6.0 GE)
- *Jade Green: A Ghost Story* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (5.8 GE)
- *The Third Eye* by Lois Lowry (5.5 GE)
- *The Face on the Milk Carton* (4.8 GE), *Whatever Happened to Janie?* (4.7 GE), and *Voice on the Radio* (4.6 GE) by Caroline B. Cooney 13+
- Cirque du Freak series by Darren Shan (4.8 GE)

Classics

- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte 13+ (7.9 GE)***
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith (5.8 GE)***
- *Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas (8.8 GE)***
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London (7.1 GE)
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (8.3 GE)***
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck (7.1 GE)***
- *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury (6.2 GE)***
- *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens (8.2 GE)
- *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson (7.1 GE)

Nonfiction

- *Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick (8.3 GE)
- *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai (7.1 GE)***
- *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer (8.9 GE)***
- *Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat 13+ (8.9 GE)

Sports

- *Travel Team* (5.4 GE) and *Heat* (5.3 GE) by Mike Lupica
- *Hoops* by Walter Dean Myers 13+ (4.6 GE)
- Baseball Card Adventures Series by Dan Gutman (4.2 – 5.4 GE)
- *Over the Wall* by John H. Ritter (4.9 GE)
- *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor (4.3 GE)
- *Booked* and *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (4.3 GE)

The Summer Project Info

Choose **1** of the following projects to complete that show your understanding of the novel you have read. This project will be one of your first important grades for the next year so make sure that it showcases your talent and abilities. This project could require a significant amount of time beyond just reading the book, so do not rush your project. Regardless of the project you choose you should include information relating and showing your understanding of: the plot of the story, the characters involved, the themes or big ideas in the story, and your opinion of the book.

1. Design a **multimedia** presentation (about 1 and a half minutes long) for your novel. Do not use Power Point, but be creative using technology. Options are endless! Some resources could be iMovie or Windows Movie Maker, or web based programs like Animoto (<https://animoto.com/>). Remember, your project must include plot events, character analysis and themes from your book.
2. Make an illustrated timeline of the novel. You must illustrate 10 different events/scenes from the story you selected. Your illustrations must be put in proper order for your book, and should show the characters and events of importance throughout your story. Be sure to include a written explanation of why you chose each scene and how it relates to the theme of the novel. Illustrations will be graded on quality and must be in color; no stick figures will be accepted. Remember, your project must include plot events, character analysis and themes from your book.
3. Create a newspaper for the town/city your story takes place in. Have the stories and features of the newspaper be about the characters and events in your novel. Your newspaper should contain information about the characters, setting, plot, and theme(s) of the novel. The newspaper should be informative and must contain text and pictures. You could include editorials, weather reports, sports, reports, feature stories. Be creative! Here is a link for a newspaper template: <http://www.extranewspapers.com/newspaper-template-pack-word-school/> Remember, your project must include plot events, character analysis and themes from your book.
4. Talk Show: Imagine the characters from the book are on a talk show that is either about an issue that arose in the book or a show for people that are interested in reading the book. Create a script for the talk show and record a short video of the interview. You will host the show, and decide who to invite as guests. Provide enough

scripting to lead the audience to an understanding of the issue or the novel itself. While you read the book think about the main ideas and message the book conveys. Make sure your interview questions and responses are open ended so you guests are prompted to do most of the talking. If, for example, you have your interviewer ask, “Did you like being the main character in the story?” the guest might give a one word answer like “Yes”. Instead ask, “What was the best part about being the main character in this book?”

	<i>Exceeds Expectations</i>	<i>Meets Expectations</i>	<i>Below Expectations</i>
<u>THEME</u> <u>20 points</u>	Project shows clear understanding of the big ideas and messages behind the novel. Includes insightful comments not only about what themes are present but how those themes can be expressed beyond the novel. (19-20 pts)	One major theme from the story is included and explained by the student. Some effort has been made to show how these themes were expressed and could relate. (14-18 pts)	One theme is listed but is not explained or explored in much detail. (13 and below)
<u>CHARACTERS</u> <u>20 points</u>	All characters are fully explored and discussed through the student’s project, including character motivations and traits. The project shows a clear understanding of the how the author created the characters. (19-20 pts)	All major characters are described through the student’s project, but some minor characters may be missing discussion on character traits and motivations. The project shows some understanding of how the author created the characters. (14-18 pts)	Some characters may be listed or missing, very little comment on characterization is provided. (13 and below)
<u>PLOT</u> <u>20 points</u>	The plot of the novel is fully explained and explored. The project shows a careful and detailed reading of the novel. Student has made multiple connections and	The plot of the story is included and complete. This is not simply a summary of the story but a well written explanation of what takes place throughout the novel. Provides	Student has provided a brief summary of the events in the novel without commentary or explanation. (13 and below)

	insights into the plot beyond simply explaining the events. (19-20 pts)	some connections and insight on the events. (14-18 pts)	
<u>QUALITY</u> <u>40 points</u>	Project is clearly something the student worked hard on. Artwork is carefully drawn and colored, written portions are typed and free from errors. The project shows a finished quality that a student should be proud of and demonstrates exceptional effort. (38-40 pts)	Project shows effort to produce a finished, high quality product. Most Illustrations show the result of time and attention. Some errors may persist but they do not distract from the content of the work. (28-37 pts)	Some time was spent on project but there are clear signs that more effort was needed. Extensive errors can be distracting and should have been fixed before a final copy was turned in. (27 and below pts)

10 Book Challenge

Middle Schoolers who complete the 10 book challenge will be invited to our Back to School Party. Write the titles of the books you read below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Student Name _____

Parent Signature
