



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 The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey. We will start the year off right by discussing the story 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 list or any other source.

Summer Reading List—Incoming Seventh Grade
Overall Theme: Interconnectivity & Civic Responsibility
Time Period Theme: US History – Industrialization – End of 20th Century

Required for all:

+The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Sean Covey

Encouraged:

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens workbook Sean Covey
+Call of the Wild Jack London

Additional Choices:

+The Founding Fathers on Leadership	Donald T. Phillips
*Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of WWII	Joseph Bruchac
*Under A War-Town Sky	Laura Elliott
+ *Number the Stars (Holocaust story)	Lois Lowry
+*The Devil's Arithmetic (Holocaust story)	Jane Yolen
*Winnie's War	Jenny Moss
*The Gem of the Desert: A Japanese-American Internment Camp	Margaret Bane Eberle
*Flags of our Fathers	Michael French
*The Bomb	Theodore Taylor
*Jar of Dreams	Yoshiko Uchida
The Clay Marble	Minfong Ho
A Million Thanks	Shauna Fleming
Armageddon Summer	Jane Yolen
Nothing But the Truth	Avi
Speak	Laurie Halse Anderson
The Power of One	Bryce Courtenay
The Highest Tide	Jim Lynch

*denotes historical fiction relevant to the time period

+available at school to borrow