

# CCS Middle School Summer Reading 2011

## Sixth Grade



**WHY:** We encourage all middle school students to read throughout the summer to enhance reading enjoyment while increasing reading proficiency.

**WHAT:** To support these goals, students will need to read one required book and at least two books of their choice from the designated list.

### HOW:

- 1) During/after reading, students should complete a **Book Report Form** for each of their novels of choice.
- 2) Students will complete **Study Questions** for the required novel. It can be obtained on the CCS website.
- 3) **What to bring on the first day of school:** You will need three items. You will need **two Book Report Forms**, one for each of your books chosen from the list, and your set of **study questions** and answers for your required book.

### **Required Reading: *Island of the Blue Dolphins* • Author: Scott O'Dell**

In the Pacific there is an island that looks like a big fish sunning itself in the sea. Around it, blue dolphins swim, otters play, and sea elephants and sea birds abound. Once, Indians also lived on the island. And when they left and sailed to the east, one young girl was left behind. This is the story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Year after year, she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away. But while she waited, she kept herself alive by building a shelter, making weapons, finding food, and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs. It is not only an unusual adventure of survival, but also a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.

*Please read the blurbs taken from the book covers, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.puffin.co.uk](http://www.puffin.co.uk) to get an idea of which books you might like.*

### **Students should select TWO of the titles below which they have NOT read.**

1. ***Across Five Aprils* – Author: Irene Hunt** **HISTORICAL FICTION**  
Jethro's family farms in Southern Illinois and is divided about which side of the war to support. Two of his brothers fight for the North and one fights for the South. The remaining family members face trouble from the community because of the brother who went South. When Jethro's father has a heart attack, Jethro has to become the man of the family and the main farmer. He is a sensitive boy and hears of the war through letters, finding out that it is not a pleasant experience. By writing a letter to Abraham Lincoln, his hero, Jethro helps his cousin who deserted the Northern army. By the end of the novel, an enlightened Jethro comes to the realization of the horrors of war.
2. ***Anne of Green Gables* – Author: L.M. Montgomery (or any book in the series)** **REALISTIC FICTION**  
Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert are in for a big surprise. They are waiting for an orphan boy to help with the work at Green Gables – but a skinny, red-haired girl turns up instead. Feisty and full of spirit, Anne Shirley charms her way into the Cuthberts' affection with her vivid imagination and constant chatter. It's not long before Anne finds herself in trouble, but soon it becomes impossible for the Cuthberts to imagine life without 'their' Anne – and for the people of Avonlea to recall what it was like before this wildly creative little girl whirled into town.

- 3. *The City of Ember* – Author: Jeanne De Prau** **SCIENCE FICTION**  
It is always night in the city of Ember. But there is no moon, no stars. The only light during the regular twelve hours of "day" comes from floodlamps that cast a yellowish glow over the streets of the city. Beyond are the pitch-black Unknown Regions, which no one has ever explored because an understanding of fire and electricity has been lost, and with it the idea of a Moveable Light. "Besides," they tell each other, "there is nowhere but here" Among the many other things the people of Ember have forgotten is their past and a direction for their future. For 250 years they have lived pleasantly, because there has been plenty of everything in the vast storerooms. But now there are more and more empty shelves--and more and more times when the lights flicker and go out, leaving them in terrifying blackness for long minutes. What will happen when the generator finally fails?
- 4. *The Chronicles of Narnia* – Author: C.S. Lewis (or any book in the series)** **FANTASY**  
*The Chronicles of Narnia*, by C.S. Lewis, is one of the very few sets of books that should be read three times: in childhood, early adulthood, and late in life. In brief, four children travel repeatedly to a world in which they are far more than mere children and everything is far more than it seems. Richly told, populated with fascinating characters, perfectly realized in detail of world and pacing of plot, and profoundly allegorical, the story is infused throughout with the timeless issues of good and evil, faith and hope.
- 5. *Johnny Tremain* – Author: Ester Forbes** **HISTORICAL FICTION**  
Johnny Tremain, a young apprentice silversmith, is caught up in the danger and excitement of Boston in the 1770s, just before the Revolutionary War. Johnny can't help being swept along by the powerful currents that will lead to the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington. But even more gripping than living through the drama of Revolutionary Boston is the important discovery Johnny makes about his own life.
- 6. *Hoot* – Author: Carl Hiassen** **REALISTIC FICTION**  
Roy Eberhardt is used to the new-kid drill. His family has lived all over, and Florida bullies are pretty much like bullies everywhere. But Roy finds himself oddly indebted to the hulking Dana Matherson. If Dana hadn't been mashing his face against the school bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. And the running boy is the first interesting thing Roy's seen in Florida. He was running away from the school bus. He had no books, no backpack, and no shoes. Sensing a mystery, Roy sets himself on the boy's trail.
- 7. *Light in the Forest* – Author: Conrad Richter** **HISTORIC FICTION**  
When he was just four years old, John Cameron Butler was captured by the Lenne Lenape Indians. He has since been adopted by the Indians, who named him True Son, and has grown to love the only family he has ever known, as well as the ways of his people. But now it's 1765 and in order to make a land deal, the Lenne Lenape and other tribes have agreed to return all their captives to the white Army, including now-15-year-old True Son/John. When he arrives at the Butler home in Paxton, Pa., True Son chafes at his white family's speech, customs and clothing, acting defiant and depressed. He soon manages a dangerous escape and rejoins his Indian relatives. But once back among his people, True Son commits an act of betrayal that forces the Lenne Lenape to disown him forever, leaving him a young man unsure of where he belongs.
- 8. *Mockingbird* – Author: Kathryn Erksine** **REALISTIC FICTION**  
Ten-year-old Caitlin's world had always been black and white. Anything else was confusing; but her brother, Devon, helped her understand. Then tragedy struck, and now nothing makes sense. As a girl with Asperger's syndrome, Caitlin turns to what she does know—textbooks and dictionaries. And after reading the definition of *closure* ('klo-zher), she realizes that this is what everyone needs. In her search for closure, she discovers that black and white are surrounded by shades of gray, and that those are beautiful and necessary for healing.
- 9. *The Penderwicks* – Author: Jeanne Birdsall (book one or two)** **REALISTIC FICTION**  
When the four Penderwicks sisters find themselves staying on a beautiful estate called Arundel for their summer holidays, they can't wait to explore the wonderful, sprawling grounds. And even more wonderful is Jeffrey, son of Arundel's owner—the perfect companion for summer adventures. But Jeffrey's mother is less than thrilled with the Penderwick sisters and warns the new friends to stay out of trouble. Which, of course, they will. Won't they?

**10. *The Secret Garden* – Author: Frances Hodgson Burnett**

**REALISTIC FICTION**

After losing her parents, young Mary Lennox is sent from India to live in her uncle's gloomy mansion on the wild English moors. She is lonely and has no one to play with, but one day she learns of a secret garden somewhere in the grounds that no one is allowed to enter. Then Mary uncovers an old key in a flowerbed – and a gust of magic leads her to the hidden door. Slowly she turns the key and enters a world she could never have imagined.

**11. *Tuck Everlasting*- Author: Natalie Babbitt**

**FANTASY**

Doomed to—or blessed with—eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing than it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.

**\*The Book Report Forms can be downloaded from the CCS website: [www.cvillecatholic.org](http://www.cvillecatholic.org).**