



SUMMER REQUIRED READING (2018-2019)

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY YOUR CHILD'S ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER

4TH Grade

Title: *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

The summer Opal and her father, the preacher, move to Naomi, Florida, Opal goes into the Winn-Dixie supermarket and comes out with a dog. A big, ugly, suffering dog with a sterling sense of humor. A dog she dubs Winn-Dixie. Because of Winn-Dixie, the preacher tells Opal ten things about her absent mother, one for each year Opal has been alive. Winn-Dixie is better at making friends than anyone Opal has ever known, and together they meet the local librarian, Miss Franny Block, who once fought off a bear with a copy of *War and Peace*. They meet Gloria Dump, who is nearly blind but sees with her heart, and Otis, an ex-con who sets the animals in his pet shop loose after hours, then lulls them with his guitar. Opal spends all that sweet summer collecting stories about her new friends, and thinking about her mother. But because of Winn-Dixie, Opal learns that friendship-and forgiveness-can sneak up on you like a sudden summer storm.

Suggested Purchase: Barnes and Nobles \$6.99

5TH Grade

Title: *Riding Freedom* by Pam Munoz Ryan

How does a 12-year-old girl become a “man” who was famous all over California as a one-eyed stagecoach driver, the best in the state? How does a skinny 12-year-old girl grow up to be a landowner and the first woman to vote? Follow Charley and Charlotte from Massachusetts to Rhode Island and finally to California, and let them tell you how! Girls couldn’t travel alone in the 1860s, but boys could. And Charlotte hadn’t been taught to be a girl anyway. She couldn’t sew a stitch, had never had a doll or a tea party, and didn’t know what it meant to be a lady. But she could run like the wind, and ride better than any of the boys in the orphanage. It seemed easy enough to pretend to be a boy. She borrowed some boys’ clothes and enough money for a stagecoach ticket, cut her hair, and left. From then on her name was Charley Parker.

Suggested Purchase: Amazon price: \$5.99 Barnes and Noble price: \$6.99

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6TH Grade

Title: *The Wish Giver*

by Bill Brittain

When a strange little man comes to the Coven Tree Church Social promising he can give people exactly what they ask for, three young believers-in-magic each make a wish that comes true in the most unexpected way.

Suggested Purchase:

Amazon Price: \$4.99

Barnes and Noble Price: \$5.99

7TH Grade

Title: *Wonder*

by R.J. Palacio

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. *Wonder*, now a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

Suggested Purchase:

Amazon price: \$5.94

Barnes and Noble price: \$9.76



These novels should be read over the summer.

Students should be prepared to discuss this novel upon their return to class.

Students will participate in a unit, centered on this novel, within their Literature class.