

**J.P. McConnell Middle School**  
**Summer Reading Documentation 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

You must select two books to read from the list of books for the grade level you are entering in August 2011. One book should be fiction, and the other book should be non-fiction. You will complete a card for each of the two books. For returning McConnell students and rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Lovin ES, Cooper ES, or Harbins ES your cards are due by August 19, 2011. If you are new to McConnell, your language arts teacher will assign your due date.

1. Use only 5" x 8" index cards, or you may cut a piece of card stock to this size.
2. Use only one card for each book.
3. Complete your work neatly. You may use a computer to type the information, print it, and then you may adhere it to the card.
4. Have a parent sign both cards in order to receive full credit.

On the **FRONT** of the card, include the following:

**TOP of card**

Title:	Name:
Author:	Grade:
Setting:	Parent Signature:

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**BOTTOM of card**

Memorable Quote or Scene (for **fiction/biography**):  
Interesting Quote or Fact (for **non-fiction**):

On the **BACK** of the card, include the following:

**TOP of card**

**Fiction/Biography:** Description of 1-2 major characters

**Nonfiction:** Identify a significant person or group who contributed to the major idea(s) of the book

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**BOTTOM of card**

**Fiction:** Summary (Tell plot and include conclusion)

**Nonfiction/Biography:** Summarize the main ideas

Please write in complete sentences.

**J.P. McConnell Summer Reading List**  
**Rising 7th Grade 2011**

Directions: Read any **two books** (one fiction and one non-fiction) from this list and complete the reading response documentation.

**Fiction**

**Bound by Donna Jo Napoli** - In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well. Historical Fiction

**The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis** - Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest. Realistic/Multicultural

**Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson** - In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. Historical Fiction

**Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer** - Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Realistic/Science Fiction

**The Name of This Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch** - Cassandra and Max find a missing magician's notebook and start to investigate the fire that burned down his house and his mysterious "symphony of smells." Mystery/Adventure/Humor

**Princess Academy by Shannon Hale** - (Newbery Honor '06) While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland. Fantasy

**Seekers: The Quest Begins by Erin Hunter** - (GA Book Award Nominee '10) Three young bears of different species--one black, one polar, and one grizzly--travel on a perilous quest to the Northern Lights, escorting a shape-shifting grizzly cub whose destiny will affect them all. Fantasy/Series

**The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss** - This classic novel is about the survival and adventures of a Swiss family who are shipwrecked on an uncharted island in the nineteenth century and their story of adventure and survival. Classic/Adventure

**Tangerine by Edward Bloor** - (ALA Best Book for Young Adults) Paul Fisher, a stellar soccer player, despite being legally blind, finally comes into his own when his family moves to the strange town of Tangerine, Florida. Realistic/Sports

**When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead** - (Newbery Medal Winner '10) As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. Mystery

**Peak by Roland Smith** In this high-altitude adventure, 14-year-old Peak Marcello's passion for climbing is clearly in the genes, but when he is arrested for scaling tall buildings, his mom and stepdad make a deal with the judge to ship him out of the country to live with her ex-husband and squelch the media attention that might inspire "Spider Boy" copycats. Little does Peak know, this new adventure includes climbing Mt. Everest. Realistic/Adventure

**Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen** In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and how their families have changed over the years. Realistic

**Rescue Josh McGuire by Ben Mikaelson** When thirteen-year-old Josh runs away to the mountains of Montana with an orphaned bear cub destined for laboratory testing, they both must fight for their lives in a sudden snowstorm. Realistic/Adventure

**Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings** Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, 13 year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong. Realistic

**Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech** After her mother leaves home, 13 year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left. Realistic

**Miracle on 49<sup>th</sup> Street by Mike Lupica** Molly Parker sets out to find her long estranged father, NBA/Boston Celtics star Josh Cameron, after her mother dies. Realistic

**The Alchemist: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott** The legend: Nicholas Flamel lives. The secret of eternal life is hidden within the book he protects—the Book of Abraham the Mage. In the wrong hands, the book will destroy the world. That's exactly what Dr. John Dee plans to do when he steals it. If the prophecy is right, Sophie and Josh Newman are the only ones with the power to save the world as we know it. Fantasy

**Deep, Dark, and Dangerous by Mary Downing Hahn** Just before summer begins, 13-year-old Ali finds an odd photograph in the attic. She knows the two children in it are her mother, Claire, and her Aunt Dulcie. But who's the third person? Ali figures she'll find out while she's vacationing in Maine with Dulcie and her four-year-old daughter, Emma. Then she meets Sissy, a kid who's mean and spiteful and a bad influence on Emma. Mystery/Ghost story

**The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer** Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested. Matt's first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster -- except for El Patrón. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself, because Matt is himself. Science fiction

**Schooled by Gordon Korman** How does the new kid and school nerd become elected class president? As a joke that's how. But, Cap, who grew up on a hippie commune, turns the tables on everyone.

**The Hero and the Crown by Robin McKinley** From childhood, Aerin had been haunted by the story of her mother-a "witchwoman" who enspelled the king and then died in childbirth. Aerin grew up wild, doing her best to live up to her reputation as the disappointment of the realm. But little did the young princess know the long-dormant powers of her mother would wield their own destiny and leave Aerin with a duty to her scornful homeland that she couldn't refuse. (This is recommended for PROBE students.)

### **Non-Fiction**

**Chew on this: Everything You Don't Want to Know about Fast Food by Eric Schlosser** - A look at fast food, what's in it, how it's made, and what it does to our bodies.

**Guts: The True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian Books by Gary Paulsen** - The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson.

**\*Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World... One Child at a Time by Greg Mortenson** - (adapted for young people by Sarah Thomson) Greg Mortenson recounts the experiences he had while trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children.

**\*Understanding the Holy Land: Answering Questions about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict by Mitch Frank** - Presents a series of questions and answers that seek to explain the origins and conflict behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, failed attempts at peace, and its significance to the rest of the world.