

J.P. McConnell Middle School
Summer Reading Documentation 8th 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 6th 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:

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

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 8th Grade 2011

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

Fiction

The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti - In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people. Historical Fiction

Code Talker: A Novel by Joseph Bruchac - After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue. Historical Fiction

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman - (Newbery Medal Winner '09) The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures. Horror/Ghosts

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins - Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death. Science Fiction/Adventure

The Last Universe by William Sleator - When her desperately ill older brother insists that she take him into their mysterious backyard garden, designed by their quantum physicist great uncle, fourteen-year-old Susan discovers that things are not always what they seem. Sci-Fi

Million-Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica - Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind, so when he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed. Realistic/Sports

Red Moon at Sharpsburg by Rosemary Wells - Even though the odds are against her and the Civil War has ruined her home and given her a view of the darker side of humanity, thirteen-year-old India Moody continues to aspire to become a scientist and attend Oberlin College. Historical Fiction

Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan - Siblings Carter and Sadie join their father in a research project at the British Museum and soon discover that an evil Egyptian god has been unleashed on them, banishing their father into oblivion. Adventure/Series

Sand Dollar Summer by Kimberly Jones - When twelve-year-old Lise spends the summer on an island in Maine with her self-reliant mother and bright--but oddly mute--younger brother, her formerly safe world is complicated by an aged Indian neighbor, her mother's childhood friend, and a hurricane. Realistic

Savvy by Ingrid Law - (GA Book Award Nominee '10) Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. Fantasy

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform. Realistic

That Was Then, This is Now by S.E. Hinton Sixteen year old Mark and Byron have been like brothers since childhood, but now as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate. Realistic

Slam by Walter Dean Myers Sixteen year old Greg "Slam" Harris never doubted himself on the court until he found himself going one-on-one with his future, and he didn't have the ball. Realistic

Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Ediface, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians. Fantasy

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak Narrated by Death, this story follows Leisel as she steals books in Nazi Germany while she and her best friend Rudy discover the power of words, language and friendship.

Reading level: Lexile level:

The Boy Who Dared by Susan C. Bartoletti This historical fiction is based on the true life of Helmuth Hubener, who made leaflets against the Nazis during WW2. Reading Level: Lexile level:

Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper Coretta Scott King Award Fifteen-year-old Amari loves life in her home village in Africa. She spends her days strolling along the stream, daydreaming about her handsome future husband, teasing her little brother, and avoiding chores. But everything changes the day the pale-faced visitors arrive. Reading level: Lexile level:

Speak by Laurie H. Anderson A novel about a teenager who chooses not to speak rather than to give voice to what really happened to her. Reading level: Lexile level:

Sunrise Over Fallujah by Waler Dean Myers Robin Perry, aka Birdy, has made the decision to enlist. Certain members of his family have expressed their concern and even disapproval of Robin's decision to serve. Through occasional letters to family members, readers learn about many of Robin's wartime experiences. Reading level: Lexile level:

What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell World War II is over, and Evie's father is back from the war. On a whim, Joe decides to uproot the family for an extended vacation to Florida. While there, Evie and her family run into Peter Coleridge, a young ex-GI who served with Joe in the war. Peter is charming and movie-star handsome, and Evie soon finds herself falling head over heels. But Peter has brought with him secrets about Evie's family, and Evie finds herself caught in a web of lies. Historical

***Chains** by Laurie Halse Anderson As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom. Historical

Non-Fiction

Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini by Sid Fleischman - A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926.

Flags of Our Fathers: A Young People's Edition by James Bradley (adapted by Michael French) - James Bradley examines the lives of the six young men who raised the American flag over Iwo Jima in February 1945 and were immortalized by a famous photograph--one of whom was Bradley's father.

***Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement** by Ann Bausum - (Siebert Honor Book) Recounts the freedom ride of John Lewis and Jim Zwerg into the South in 1961 as part of the Civil Rights Movement.

***Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps** by Andrea Warren - A biography of Jack Mandelbaum, who survived Nazi concentration camps when he was a teenager.

Within Reach: My Everest Story by Mark Pfetzer & Jack Galvin - The author describes how he spent his teenage years climbing mountains in the United States, South America, Africa, and Asia, with an emphasis on his two expeditions up Mount Everest.

*Curriculum Related