



Boston Collegiate Charter School  
Summer Reading and Writing 2011  
Entering Grade 7

**2 books total plus one written assignment**

- **One required book:** The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
  - **At least one** book from the Free Choice Book List (attached)
  - **A letter, consisting of at least four paragraphs, to your advisor. See attached assignment.**
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**BOSTON COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL**

**6TH GRADE → 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUMMER READING FREE CHOICE LIST**

**NOTEWORTHY TITLES**

Cameron, Ann.                      **COLIBRÍ (Realistic Fiction)**

Twelve-year-old Rosa's compelling story unfolds as she regains her identity and confidence. Her riveting story is steeped in the culture, traditions and folk beliefs of modern Guatemala.

Fleming, Candace                      **BEN FRANKLIN'S ALMANAC: BEING A TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE GOOD GENTLEMAN'S LIFE (Biography)**

Presented in the style of Franklin's own original almanac, Fleming's fascinating biography is chock full of information that makes history jump right out of the page.

Giff, Patricia Reilly                      **PICTURES OF HOLLIS WOODS (Realistic Fiction)**

12-year-old Hollis Woods has been sent to (and running away from) one foster home after another all her life. She is an amazing artist. With descriptions of her drawings, Hollis tells a moving story of a deeply bonding relationship with her newest foster mother, artist Josie, and her dream of a perfect family. This is a 2003 Newbery Honor Book.

Paolini, Christopher                      **ERAGON (Fantasy)**

At the beginning of the story, fifteen-year-old farm boy Eragon encounters magic and magical objects and quickly realizes that he is a gifted Dragon Rider. He takes on the dangerous and exciting task in fighting the evil powers that will destroy his Empire. This is Book 1 in the Inheritance series.

Paulsen, Gary                      **HOW ANGEL PETERSON GOT HIS NAME: AND OTHER OUTRAGEOUS TALES OF EXTREME SPORTS (Memoir)**

Author Gary Paulsen (HATCHET, DOGWOOD, TRANSAL SAGA, etc.) remembers his childhood in his hometown in Minnesota filled with amusing incidents of attempting "extreme sporting" such as jumping three barrels on a bicycle and hang gliding from an Army surplus target kite.

Reeve, Philip                      **MORTAL ENGINES (Sci-fi)**

In this original and fast-paced science fiction set in a post-apocalypse future, cities of the world move around on tractor treads pursuing and scavenging each other.\*

White, Ruth                      **TADPOLE (Realistic Fiction)**

Carolina, the 8-year-old narrator, shows the reader what life is like in the small rural town in Kentucky, 1955, for a family of mother and girls, without a father. They are poor, and yet happy, united, and hopeful. They belong to a tightly-knit community and are willing to help their loved ones. When Tad(pole) runs away from his abusive uncle, Carolina and her sisters (cousins to Tad) help hide Tad and eventually assist him in seeking his fortune. Stories like this can be dull and sad, but this one is filled with humorous scenes and lovable characters that readers will smile throughout all the way through.

- Several annotations are cited, with permission, from the 2004 Notable Children's Books web site, administered by Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC.) To see the entire 2004 Notable Children's Books list

## FICTION

Bloor, Edward

### **TANGERINE**

This story features: a heavily near-sighted STAR GOALIE on a student soccer team, his menacing older brother, his new friends from THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, and death by lightening. A very exciting and insightful story.

Clements, Andrew

### **THE LANDRY NEWS**

Fifth-grader Cara Landry publishes her homemade newspaper, the Landry News, and reports truth and education. This paper exposes the laziness of her once enthusiastic teacher, Mr. Larson, and results in a large scale media frenzy. Written by the same author of Frindle, this is another amusing but thoughtful book.

Creech, Sharon

### **WALK TWO MOONS**

Sal, who is part Indian, heads west to find the mother who left her, and to seek her cultural identity. This story of courage and a search for one's roots is the winner of the 1995 Newbery Award. Also: ABSOLUTELY NORMAL CHAOS.

Creech, Sharon

### **THE WANDERER**

Sophie and her cousin Cody keep journals during their voyage aboard the sailboat, Wanderer, on the way to see their ailing grandfather in England. This is a Newbery Honor Book

English, Karen

### **FRANCIE**

While waiting to move north, spunky Francie navigates the segregated society of rural "Jim Crow-era" Alabama, helping an African-American boy accused of assault to escape.

Hearne, Betsy

### **WISHES, KISSES, AND PIGS**

When 11-year-old Louise' accidental wish comes true that turns her older brother into a pig, a series of comical situations soon follow. This is a tremendously enjoyable story with a lot of heart.

Hill, Kirkpatrick

### **TOUGHBOY AND SISTER**

The death of their drunken father strand Toughboy and his younger sister at a remote fishing cabin in the Yukon, where they spend a summer trying to cope with dwindling food and hostile wildlife.

Holt, Kimberly Willis

### **WHEN ZACHARY BEAVER CAME TO TOWN**

When Zachary Beaver, a 600-pound teenager, came to Antler, Texas, home of 13-year-old Toby Wilson, Toby's world and his view of the world will change dramatically.

Konigsburg, E.L

### **THE VIEW FROM SATURDAY**

While preparing for the Academic Bowl, four students and their teacher learn as much from each other as they do from their books. The 1997 Newbery Medal Winner.

Koss, Amy Golden

### **THE GIRLS**

Told from 5 different girls' perspectives, Maya's experience of being "dropped" from a popular group of 5 girls in her school is realistic, cruel, but ultimately triumphant.

Levine, Gail Carson

### **DAVE AT NIGHT**

Dave becomes an orphan at the beginning of the story and is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys (or Hell Hole of Brats, or any other combination of words that make up the abbreviation HHB.) He never stops trying to

escape. When he sneaks out at night he meets a mysterious old man who introduces him to a different life and world. This is a heart-warming and exciting story, based loosely on Levine's own father.

MacLachlan, Patricia           **JOURNEY**

Journey is 11 the summer his mother leaves him and his sister Cat with their grandparents. Journey finds that the camera is a means of finding things that his naked eye has missed – things like the love that still binds his family together even though his mother has left.

McEwan, Ian                   **THE DAYDREAMER**

The daydreams of ten-year-old Peter are presented in a series of vivid, humorous, and sometimes bizarre episodes that include changing places with a cat and a baby, being attacked by a group of dolls, and catching a burglar.

Paterson, Katherine           **FLIP-FLOP GIRL**

Vinnie, whose family moves to Virginia after her father dies, is fascinated with her classmate Lupe -- a fascination that quickly turns to rivalry when she is led to believe that their teacher favors Lupe over herself.

Paterson, Katherine           **JACOB HAVE I LOVED**

Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity. Others: THE GREAT GILLY HOPKINS

Peck, Richard                 **A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO: A NOVEL IN STORIES**

This Depression-era novel is made up of seven humorous, rollicking tales about a boy and the summers he spent with his larger-than-life grandmother. The 1999 Newbery Honor Book.

Peck, Richard                 **A YEAR DOWN YONDER**

A rip-roaring story set against the backdrop of the Depression Era, features a grandmother who is a sharp shooter, bakes the most delicious pies, steals pumpkins from her neighbor's garden, plays tricks on Halloween pranksters, and is truly kind-hearted. The 2001 Newbery winner, this book is the sequel to A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO.

Sachar, Louis                 **HOLES**

Stanley Yelnats (his name is a palindrome) finds himself digging holes at a Texas detention camp for wayward boys in this stunningly circular novel about bad luck, justice, friendship, and fate. The 1999 Newbery Award Book.

Voight, Cynthia               **HOME COMING (series)**

At the beginning of the summer, their mother left Dicey and her brothers and sister in a car in a parking lot... and never came back. So Dicey led them on a long and difficult journey to find a home with the grandmother they'd never met. This is a wonderful book with characters you'll never forget. The sequel to the book is Dicey's Song, and Dicey is the most memorable heroine to come along in a long time. In it you'll meet a boy named Jeff Greene. . .his story is told in a companion novel, A Solitary Blue.

Wiles, Deborah               **LOVE, RUBY LAVENDER**

Nine-year-old Ruby Lavender corresponds with her grandmother by leaving notes and letters in the hollow of a tree in town. Ruby Lavender is full of life and excitement, but what happened in the accident last summer cast a dark shadow over her life and makes her and Melba Jane arch-enemies. In this poignant, sometimes very comical, story, readers see how mis-understanding and misinformation can lead to bigger divide amongst people and how truth and facts make it possible for people to forgive each other.

## CLASSICS

Alcott, Louisa May                   **LITTLE MEN**

At the close of Little Women Jo tells her family that she and her husband will open a school for boys at Plumfield. This is the story of Jo's school and the boys --for all those readers who never wanted Little Women to end. The story continues in Jo's Boys.

London, Jack                         **THE CALL OF THE WILD**

The classic survival story of a domesticated dog stolen from his California home to work as a sled dog during the Alaskan gold rush.

Montgomery, L.M.                 **ANNE OF GREEN GABLES (Series)**

This is the historically heroic tale of eleven-year-old Anne, an orphan child who is adopted by a foster family, and her struggles to win the heart of her foster mother.

Nesbit, E.                             **THE RAILWAY CHILDREN**

This is the classic tale of three marvelously unsupervised children and their delightful adventures as they live near a railway in the turn-of-the-century English countryside. Also, **THE ENCHANTED CASTLE**.

Stevenson, Robert L.             **TREASURE ISLAND**

Generations have loved this tale of adventure, piracy, and hidden wealth. Jim Haling sets out to recover the hidden fortune which many dangerous men are plotting to obtain. His adventures on the island are filled with thrills and suspense.

## SCIENCE FICTION

Asimov, Isaac                       **FANTASTIC VOYAGE**

Four men and one woman, reduced to a microscopic fraction of their original size, board a miniaturized submarine and travel through the bloodstream of a brilliant scientist to save his life--and the world.

Asimov, Isaac                       **FOUNDATION (series)**

In this classic science fiction tale, the Foundations are created by Hari Seldon to preserve human culture after the collapse of the first galactic empire. The series follows the developments as the Foundations struggle to survive and fulfill the mission.

DuPrau, Jeanne                   **THE CITY OF EMBER (Science Fiction)**

It is the year 241 in the City of Ember. People are getting really desperate: the canned food supply which was believed to be endless is shrinking rapidly; the generator for electricity that is the only source of light for the entire city is faltering; the potatoes in the Greenhouse are suffering from a strange disease. In addition, no one has ever discovered what is beyond the Edge of the City, except for endless darkness. Twelve-year-old Lina and Doon are determined to find a way out of Ember and save the citizens of their beloved City. This adventurous story will keep you on the edge of your seat until the exhilarating end.

## FANTASY

Aiken, Joan                         **IS UNDERGROUND**

Bound to keep a promise to her dead uncle, Is travels to the mysterious north country to find two missing boys--

one of them a prince-- and to discover why so many children in London are disappearing. The latest book in the popular Wolves Chronicles.

Alexander, Lloyd                   **THE BOOK OF THREE Series**

The first title in the Chronicles of Prydain, in which Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper of Prydain becomes involved in a hazardous mission to save his country from the forces of evil.

Almond, David                   **KIT'S WILDERNESS**

In an old coal-mining town, thirteen-year-old Kit meets a boy who invites him to play the game of "Death," and discovers the stories and ghosts of his child-ancestors.

Anthony, Piers                   **THE XANTH Series**

For those who like their fantasy adventures laced with humor and puns--enter the world of Xanth, the enchanted land where magic rules, and every citizen has a special spell only he can cast. The series begins with A Spell for Chameleon.

Bradshaw, Gillian               **THE DRAGON AND THE THIEF**

In ancient Egypt, an unlucky young man meets a wealthy dragon and together they have dangerous -- but exciting --adventures.

Brooks, Terry                   **THE SWORD OF SHANNARA (Series)**

Spanning hundreds of years, this richly detailed fantasy saga combines sword-and-sorcery and quest elements in following the adventures of assorted elves, trolls, dwarfs, gnomes, humans, and sorcerers both good and evil. Also: The Elfstones of Shannara, The Wishsong of Shannara, The Scions of Shannara, and First King of Shannara.

Chetwin, Grace                   **THE RIDDLE AND THE RUNE**

To find his wizard mother and return her magic rune, Tom must first solve a riddle and thwart the evil Katak.

Cooper, Susan                   **THE BOGGART**

By mistake, Emily and her brother, Jessup, carry a mischievous old spirit with them from Castle Keep in Scotland to their home in Canada, where it creates havoc in their lives.

Cooper, Susan                   **OVER SEA, UNDER STONE**

The first of The Dark is Risingseries in which the three Drew children find an ancient map in the attic and begin the search for a grail that will reveal the true story of King Arthur -- and entrap them in a battle between the forces of Light

Duane, Diane                   **HIGH WIZARDRY**

When her younger sister uses the family computer with its special wizard software to travel to worlds light years away, Nita uses her wizardry to try and find her. Also: So You Want to Be a Wizard and Deep Wizardry.

Eddings, David                   **PAWN OF PROPHECY**

The first book in the Belgariad series, in which the sorcerer Belgarath, his daughter Polgara, and his grandson Garion, strive to fulfill the prophecy that sets Garion against the evil god Torak. The saga continues in the Mallorean series.

Enzensberger, Hans Magnus. Translated by Michael Henry Heim

**THE NUMBER DEVIL: A MATHEMATICAL ADVENTURE**

12-year-old Robert is bored with math and can't stand his math teacher whose main interest in life is to secretly

eat pretzels when his students are solving math problems. When the Number Devil starts to visit Robert in his dreams, however, Robert is intrigued and inspired by the funky things numbers can do!

Jones, Diana Wynne           **HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE and CASTLE IN THE AIR**

In these two stories, quite different in their settings, Jones weaves magic and humor to create the foremost entertainment for her readers.

Jones, Diana Wynne           **A CHARMED LIFE (The Chrestomanci series)**

Magic is an everyday affair in the charmed world of the story. It bubbles with invention and surprises. You'll meet Cat and Gwendolen and Chrestomanci -- and you'll never know who may turn out to be a witch or an enchanter! Don't miss other titles with Chrestomanci -- LIVES OF CHRISTOPHER CHANT, THE MAGICIANS OF CAPRONA, and WITCH WEEK -- wickedly fun read.

L'Engle, Madeleine           **MANY WATERS**

Sandy and Dennys, twins, find themselves in a harsh, remote desert land where unicorns, mammoths and humans are embroiled in many conflicts. A continuation of the author's famed Time books, A WRINKLE IN TIME is the first title, then A WINKD IN THE DOOR, then A SWIFTLY TILTING PLANET.

McGraw, Eloise               **THE MOORCHILD**

A changeling, half-folk and half-human, struggles with her identity and place in the medieval village of Torskaal. A 1997 Newbery Honor Book.

McKinley, Robin              **THE HERO AND THE CROWN and THE BLUE SWORD**

Seeking her birthright, Aerin, daughter of a Damarian king, becomes the legendary female warrior whose blue sword is wielded years later by Harry Crewe, a young woman destined to be another female warrior.

McMullan, Kate              **UNDER THE MUMMY'S SPELL**

Peter takes dares. When his friend dares him to kiss a mummy, it unleashes an ancient power struggle with an evil force from the past. Chapters alternate between Peter's world and ancient Egypt, keeping the action fast, the mood intense, and the dialogue funny.

Pierce, Tamora              **THE IMMORTALS (series)**

WILD MAGIC, WOLF-SPEAKER, EMPEROR MAGE, and THE REALMS OF THE GODS are the first two titles in this series in which you will discover all the incredible and fantastic abilities of Daine's, including possessing any animal's body to use as her own and bringing creatures back from the dead.

Pullman, Phillip             **THE GOLDEN COMPASS**

Possibly one of the most important fantasy work for young readers this decade. This mesmerizing tale about Lyra, a girl living in a London that is strangely similar to and yet different from "our" London, and her ability to foretell future using the alethiometer (the golden compass) will grab you and compel you to devour the next title in the planned trilogy, THE SUBTLE KNIFE, where Lyra meets the boy who finds the subtle knife that enables them to go from world to world to world.

Pullman, Philip              **THE AMBER SPYGLASS**

In this powerful ending of a thrilling trilogy, as war rages and Dust drains from the sky, the fate of the living and dead comes to depend on Lyra and Will, two ordinary children with extraordinary powers. The first two titles in the trilogy are THE GOLDEN COMPASS and THE SUBTLE KNIFE.

Rowling, J.K.               **HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE (and the rest of the series)**

Harry Potter is an orphan who, upon turning 11, finds himself attending the mysterious Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He is famous and he is clueless about why he is so famous – until he starts exploring

and discovering all sorts of incredible powers he has. This first book of a series is followed by HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS, HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN, and HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE, HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHEONIX, HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE, and HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HOLLOWES.

Wrede, Patricia

**DEALING WITH DRAGONS**

Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved in fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom. The first story in The Enchanted Forest Chronicles series.

**MYSTERY & SUSPENSE**

Duncan, Lois

**SUMMER OF FEAR**

Cousin Julia has come to stay. Although everyone else finds her enchanting, Rachel is sure something is terribly wrong--and she's right! Also: STRANGER WITH MY FACE and DOWN A DARK HALL.

Hoobler, Dorothy

**THE DEMON IN THE TEAHOUSE**

14-year-old Seikei, the adopted son of Judge Ooka, a Japanese "Sherlock Holm" is sent to solve the mystery of the fires and murders of Geishas in Edo and its nearby pleasure town? The first novel in this series is

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

**JADE GREEN**

This is a chilling ghost story in which an orphaned girl, Judith, moving in with her uncle, is confronted with the spirit (and the bloody severed hand) of a girl, Jade Green. Judith tries to solve the sinister mystery on her own.

Roberts, Willo Davis

**CAUGHT!**

After a bus journey in search of their father, Vickie and her younger sister discover that he is missing and may need their help.

Turner, Megan Whalen

**THE THIEF**

Tales of gods and goddesses are woven throughout this story of Gen, a master thief, who is on an adventurous journey for his king to steal a precious stone. A 1997 Newbery Honor Book.

**HISTORICAL FICTION**

Choi, Sook Nyul

**YEAR OF IMPOSSIBLE GOODBYES**

A young Korean girl survives the oppressive Japanese and Russian occupation of North Korea during the 1940's, to later escape to freedom in South Korea.

Curtis, Christopher Paul

**THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM - 1963**

A novel that begins as a lighthearted romp follows ten-year-old Kenny and the rest of the "Weird Watsons" of Flint, Michigan, as they travel South in 1963 and become witnesses of a tragic event of the civil-rights movement.

Drucker, Malka

**JACOB'S RESCUE: A HOLOCAUST STORY**

In answer to his daughter's questions, a man recalls the terrifying years of his childhood when a brave Polish couple hid him and other Jewish children from the Nazis. Based on a true story.

Hahn, Mary Downing

**STEPPING ON THE CRACKS**

In 1944, while her brother is overseas fighting in WW II, Margaret discovers that the school bully Gordy is hiding his own brother, an army deserter, in the woods.

Hesse, Karen

**LETTERS FROM RIFKA**

In letters to her cousin, Rifka chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left behind in Belgium while the others emigrate to America.

Hunt, Irene

**ACROSS FIVE APRILS**

Jethro must run from the farm in southern Illinois, almost alone, during the Civil War. Dangers on the home front prove as exciting as those in battle.

Lyons, Mary

**LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL**

This is a fictionalized version of the life of Harriet Jacobs, told in the form of letters that she might have written during her slavery in North Carolina and as she prepared for escape to the North in 1842.

Park, Linda Sue

**A SINGLE SHARD**

Set in 12th Century Korea, orphaned boy Tree-ear's set out on quests to become accepted into a family, as a budding artist, and as an adopted son. This is a touching story about striving to be both a fine craftsman and a fine human being. 2002 Newbery Medal Winner.

Ryan, Pam Munoz

**ESPERANZA RISING**

Esperanza, 13, immigrated from Mexico to California with her mother after her father's death. Her luxurious life before she came to the States was a stark contrast to her life as a migrant-worker in the 1930's. Esperanza's spirit helped her overcome all the hardship and find hope and human dignity again. Inspired by the author's grandmother's stories, this lyrical novel won The Pura Belpre Author Medal in 2002.

Speare, Elizabeth

**THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND**

Kit, an orphan from Barbados, comes to live with her relatives in the Colony of Connecticut. When she befriends an old woman accused of witchcraft, Kit gets drawn into the hysteria of the great witch hunt.

Taylor, Mildred

**THE LAND**

This epic-scaled novel set in the post-Civil War time, delineates the childhood and young manhood of Paul Edward Logan, son of a white slave owner and a slave woman. Being given much privilege as a child (able to read and write, and treated as one of the legitimate children, etc.) Paul Edward has to suffer much with the reality of life as he grows older. Taylor's masterful skills in portraying the landscape, creating deep and vivid characters, and telling a most compelling story won her the Coretta Scott King Award of 2002, the top 10 best books for young adults, and a Printz Award Honor book for Young Adults.

Westall, Robert

**BLITZCAT**

During World War II a black cat journeys all across war-ravaged England in an

Wolff, Virginia Euwer

**BAT 6**

Twenty-one Oregon girls recall a fateful softball game in 1949 when bigotry left over from World War II throws them a curve ball.

**BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

- Blumberg, Rhoda                    **SHIPWRECKED**  
A true and dramatic account of the very first Japanese man who came to the United States after his fishing boat was shipwrecked in the 1800's.
- Cleary, Beverly                    **A GIRL FROM YAM HILL**  
This is the beloved author's story of her childhood growing up in Oregon in the 1920's and 1930's. Readers will delight in glimpses of her life that later became part of her books.
- Filipovic, Zlata                    **ZLATA'S DIARY**  
This diary of a young girl's feelings during the Bosnian war that disrupted her life when it suddenly broke out in her Sarajevo neighborhood has been compared with the diary of Anne Frank.
- Freedman, Russell                **THE LIFE AND DEATH OF CRAZY HORSE**  
This is an ALA recommended biography of the Oglala leader who relentlessly resisted the white man's attempt to take over Indian lands.
- Freedman, Russell                **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LIFE OF DISCOVERY**  
The marvelously rich and full life of this legendary first lady is profiled in an excellent photo-biography. A Newbery Honor Book.
- Freedman, Russell                **MARTHA GRAHAM: A DANCER'S LIFE**  
Illustrated with dynamic photographs, this biography captures the multi-faced life of the famous dancer Martha Graham with beautiful prose.
- Gourse, Leslie                    **DIZZY GILLESPIE AND THE BIRTH OF BEBOP**  
This is the story of jazz great Dizzy Gillespie, his passion for music and how he charted new territory and won recognition for one of America's greatest original art forms.
- Haskins, James                    **BAYARD RUSTIN-BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**  
In this 1997 biography of Bayard Rustin, one understands fully his behind-the-scene's strength and importance in the American civil rights movement, and how much his ideas strongly influenced Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Jiang, Ji-Li                        **RED SCARF GIRL: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution**  
Political terror and personal turmoil shape the lives of a girl and her family in this riveting memoir about growing up in China during the Cultural Revolution.
- Lawlor, Laurie                    **HELEN KELLER: REBELLIOUS SPIRIT**  
This carefully researched and fluidly written biography on Helen Keller portrays her as a distinctive and sometimes flawed individual.
- Lobel, Anita                        **NO PRETTY PICTURES: A Child of War.**  
A beloved author-illustrator recounts her childhood experiences as a Polish Jew in hiding, in transit, and in concentration camps before finding refuge in Sweden.
- Myers, Walter Dean                **TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE: THE FIGHT FOR HAITI'S FREEDOM**  
Forty-one ominous paintings, first exhibited in 1940, give backbone to this gripping picture biography of the heroic Haitian freedom fighter who led his country to its independence in 1804.

Partridge, Elizabeth

**RESTLESS SPIRIT: The Life and Work of Dorothea Lange**

A famed photographer blended artistry and activism better than career and family, according to this intimate biography featuring more than 60 examples of Lange's stirring documentary-style work.

Paulsen, Gary

**MY LIFE IN DOG YEARS**

Nine essays about favorite dogs in Paulsen's life that deeply affected him with their intelligence, loyalty or sense of humor and that befriended, protected or even taught him.

Paulsen, Gary

**WOODSONG**

This is the compelling memoir of Paulsen's intimate relationship with Minnesota's North Woods and the dog team he trained for the Iditarod, a dogsled race across Alaska.

Reiss, Johanna

**THE UPSTAIRS ROOM**

Rachel and Simi, two sisters, have to hide in a room on a Dutch farm in order to survive during World War II. This memorable story is based on the author's own experiences as a young girl during the Holocaust.

Spinelli, Jerry

**KNOTS IN MY YO-YO STRING**

Spinelli, author of *MANIAC MAGEE* and *WRINGER*, turns regular happenings in his life, like sidewalk races and his first kiss, into hilarious episodes in this autobiography.

Uchida, Yoshika

**THE INVISIBLE THREAD**

In her autobiography, the author Yoshiko Uchida describes growing up in California as a Nisei, a second-generation Japanese American, and the story of her family's internment in a Utah concentration camp during World War II.

Watkins, Yoko Kawashima **MY BROTHER, MY SISTER AND I**

In this long awaited sequel to *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*, Yoko, Ko, and Hideyo are living as refugees in Japan in 1947 while trying to locate their missing father. Thirteen-year-old Yoko, her older brother and sister must endure a bad fire, injury, and false charges of arson, theft, and murder.



Boston Collegiate Charter School  
Summer Writing Assignment  
Entering Grade 7 & 8  
Due on the first day of school!

In addition to reading two books this summer, you are to write a letter to your 7<sup>th</sup> grade advisor telling us all about you. We are so excited to get to know you! Your letter must be **at least 4** paragraphs long and must answer **at least three** of the questions below.

- What do you like about school?
- What do you feel good at?
- What do you like to do in your spare time?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- How do you like to learn? (In groups, individually, by doing projects, etc.)
- Who lives with you in your home?
- Do you have a favorite place?
- What are three adjectives you would use to describe yourself?
- What do you want your teachers to know about you?
- What don't people understand about you?

***Your letter will be graded for:***

- Spelling
- Punctuation
- Grammar
- Capitalization
- Sentence Variation

*Do your best work! This letter will be the first piece of work your new teachers get from you!*

## **Prewriting**

**(What should your teachers know about you?)**







