



Boston Collegiate Charter School  
Summer Reading and Writing 2011  
Entering Grade 8

**2 books total plus one written assignment**

- **One required book:** When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
- **At least one** book from the Free Choice Book List (attached)
- **A letter, consisting of at least four paragraphs, to your new teachers.**

**BOSTON COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL**

**ENTERING EIGHTH SUMMER READING FREE CHOICE LIST**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade → 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**FICTION (REALISTIC AND HISTORICAL)**

ABELOVE, JOAN

**GO AND COME BACK**

Set in a fictional tribe in the Peruvian jungle, the story is told from a first-person point of view of a young tribal girl about her encounters with two anthropologists from New York.

ALMOND, DAVID

**THE FIRE-EATERS**

Having grown up in Keely Bay, in 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, young Bobby Burns is grateful for the wonderfully talented and unique people he has come to know in his community, but when his father gets sick and he is sent to a new school with an abusive teacher, Bobby turns to his friend, fire-eater Ailsa Spink for support in seeing him through dark times ahead.

BAUER, JOAN

**HOPE WAS HERE**

Sixteen-year-old Hope and her aunt move to a small town in Wisconsin to join the "short order dance" of life at the Welcome Stairways Diner. In the course of just a few months, Hope encounters issues as diverse as her customers: corruption in politics, a new love, serious illness and the meaning of family. Newbery Honor Book

BAUER, JOAN

**SQUASHED**

Ellie Morgan's life would be almost perfect if she could just get her potentially prize-winning pumpkin, Max, to put on about 200 pounds, and if she could take off twenty herself. Then she could become a famous pumpkin-growing personality and squash that obnoxious Cyril Pool once and for all, and maybe get a new boyfriend in the process.

BROOKS, BRUCE

**THE MOVES MAKE THE MAN**

As Jerome, a black athlete, shares his skills and interest in basketball with Bix, a white baseball player, their friendship grows and the game becomes a reflection of both their lives.

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.

CHOI, SOOK NYUL

**YEAR OF IMPOSSIBLE GOODBYES**

This is the incredibly moving account of a young Korean girl's life during the Japanese occupation of Korea, and the tale of her harrowing journey to the safety of the 38th parallel.

COLE, BROCK

**THE GOATS**

Targets of a cruel prank, Laura and Howie, two young teenagers, run away from their summer camp. They soon find themselves facing danger and adventure together and forming steadfast and enduring friendship.

CORMIER, ROBERT

**THE CHOCOLATE WAR and BEYOND THE CHOCOLATE WAR**

These are two powerful, suspenseful novels about high school politics, cruelty, and conformity. Cormier's other memorable, if unsettling, novels worth reading are AFTER THE FIRST DEATH, I AM THE CHEESE, and WE ALL FALL DOWN.

DESAI HIDIER, TANUJA

**BORN CONFUSED**

Dimple Lala, the insightful 17-year-old narrator of this story of an ABCD (American Born Confused Desi,) tells

about her life as a New Jersey Indian-American school girl who, as a perpetual outsider, is always trying to find herself.

**FAST, HOWARD**

**APRIL MORNING**

An hour-by-hour account of the Battle of Lexington, this account of historical fiction is compelling to the end.

**FINE, ANNE**

**UP ON CLOUD NINE**

In Ian's words, his wacky best buddy Stolly is the most ingenious trouble-maker in history. Although hilarious recollections abound, the readers are keenly aware a dark, suicidal streak in Stolly. Now he lies in a coma in the hospital after falling (or jumping) off of the roof. Told with wry and dark humor but full of compassion, this superbly crafted novel was the finalist for the prestigious Carnegie Award in England.

**FLEISCHMAN, PAUL**

**SEEK**

In an intricate narrative pattern that is also a Radio Play, **SEEK** tells the story of Rob who is obsessed with a quest of seeking out his father, who was a talk radio host and who left him when he was a baby.

**FLEISCHMAN, PAUL**

**WHIRLIGIG**

When sixteen-year-old Brent Bishop accidentally causes the death of a young woman, he is sent on an unusual journey of repentance, building wind toys across the land.

**GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY**

**PICTURES OF HOLLIS WOODS**

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.

**GILMORE, KATE**

**ENTER THREE WITCHES**

Sixteen-year-old Bren finds living with witches hard enough, but how can he prevent his girlfriend from discovering their existence! Full of humorous remarks and situations, this is quite a gem..

**HENKES, KEVIN**

**OLIVE'S OCEAN**

12-year-old Martha receives a page from the journal of a classmate, Olive, who has died in an accident. Olive's entry about a desire to be Martha's friend, to see the ocean, and to become a writer propels Martha into a journey from childhood to the brink of adolescence.

**HESSE, KAREN**

**WITNESS**

In 11 voices, and 11 individual view points, this story of the influence of KKK in the early 20th century in a small town in Vermont unfolds.

**HO, MINFONG**

**RICE WITHOUT RAIN**

From changes in her rural village to the student protests in Bangkok, events propel 17-year - old Jinda with increasing speed toward choices that she must make about her own life.

**HOLT, KIMBERLY WILLIS**

**KEEPER OF THE NIGHT**

13-year-old Isabel's life on the Island of Guam is shattered after her mother's suicide. Keeper of the Night chronicles, in poetic prose and sparkling imagery, Isabel's doubts, worries, and her strong will to reconstruct life for herself and her remaining family.

**KERR, M.E.**

**NIGHT KITES (and others)**

Seventeen-year-old Jim's relationships with his family and friends change when his older brother is diagnosed with AIDS.

KONIGSBURG, E.L.

**OUTCASTS OF 19 SCHUYLAR PLACE**

Margaret Rose, age 12, hates being in Camp Talequa where she suffers from the taunting and humiliating by a clique of girls. She is rescued by her great-grand uncles. But, she soon finds out that something the uncles have been building for the last 45 years is going to be destroyed. Margaret Rose springs into action to save the day.

LASKY, KATHRYN

**BEYOND THE BURNING TIME**

This fictional re-creation of the Salem witch trials gives frightening immediacy to the term witch-hunt as we get caught up in the escalation of events when Mary's mother is brought to trial. It is a novel of the past that becomes a page-turner for today's readers.

LIPSYTE, ROBERT

**THE CHEMO KID** (and others, especially the **CONTENDER** and **ONE FAT SUMMER**)

This intriguing novel tells the story of Fred Bauer, an unremarkable high-school wimp whose life is utterly changed when he discovers a cancerous growth on his neck.

LISLE, JANET TAYLOR

**THE ART OF KEEPING COOL**

Set during World War II, two cousins face family secrets and community violence aimed at a refugee from Nazi Germany, raising questions about mob mentality, creativity and survival.

MARTIN, ANN M

**A CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE**

Hattie Owen divides her 12-year-old life history into Before Adam and After Adam. Adam is her mentally disabled uncle whose existence was hidden away by Hattie's parents and grandparents, until the summer when she turns 12. This is a 2003 Newbery Honor title.

McKAY, HILARY

**SAFFY'S ANGEL**

Saffy finds out at the beginning of this humorous story that she was adopted, into this very loving but quirky family of artists. She becomes obsessed with the idea to search for an angel statue in Italy which she remembers from the toddler days with her mother. Her riotous trip and the collection of eccentric characters make this a memorable read.

MOSHER, RICHARD

**ZAZOO**

Zazoo, a Vietnamese orphan adopted by a French man who had a terrible and sorrowful past, has to deal with an aging foster parent, her own budding sense of romance, and grappling with the dark past when Nazis invaded France. Even though the tone is tender and often reflective, the story is charged with deep emotion and the plot gripping.

MYERS, WALTER DEAN

**FALLEN ANGELS**

This is a gripping war novel about the price five young men pay for their tour of duty in Vietnam.

MYERS, WALTER DEAN

**MONSTER**

This Young Adult Book of the Year (Prinz Award) winner tells a powerful and thoughtful story from the viewpoint of a 16-year-old boy Steve Harmon who is accused of assistance in a murder robbery case and is undergoing trial. The book takes the unusual form of Steve's imaginary screenplay.

NELSON, THERESA

**RUBY ELECTRIC**

Ruby deals with her real life problems by visualizing screen plays in her head. Full of humor and drama, Ruby's voice crackles with electricity.

ORLEV, URI

**RUN, BOY, RUN**

At the age of eight, Srulik is left alone in the Warsaw Ghetto, and must fend for himself, even forgetting his name, in order to survive the Holocaust. The 2004 Batchelder Award winner for best translated children's book of the year..

PECK, RICHARD

**THE RIVER BETWEEN US**

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the American Civil War, this intriguing family history of the Pruitts and their mysterious guests: the flamboyant Delphine Duval and her silent maid Calinda features unforgettable characters, vivid descriptions of the home front and the battle fields, and a surprising ending.

PFEFFER, SUSAN BETH

**THE YEAR WITHOUT MICHAEL**

When fourteen-year-old Michael suddenly disappears, the remaining members of his family are thrown into a state of uncertainty and agony.

SEBESTYEN, OUIDA

**WORDS BY HEART**

Father sets high standards for his Missouri share-cropping family, who struggle against the hatred of neighbors.

SPINELLI, JERRY

**MILKWEED**

Set during WWII, within the Warsaw Ghetto, MILKWEED is the story of a little orphan boy, who does not remember his parents, does not really know his name, and does not know whether he is a Gypsy or a Jew. This story, told through Misha's innocent voice and with plenty of actions, shows the horror of the Jewish Holocaust and the nobility of human spirit.

THEROUS, PAUL

**THE MOSQUITO COAST (and others)**

Fourteen-year-old Charlie Fox records his family's experiences pursuing his disgruntled father's utopian dream in the Honduran wilderness.

TOWNSEND, SUE

**THE ADRIAN MOLE DIARIES**

(The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 3/4 : The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole)

Hilarious and quirky, these "secret" diaries of a 13-year-old English boy have entertained many teen readers for a long time. Read it and you'll see how teenage angst can be so vividly and humorously captured.

VOIGT, CYNTHIA

**COME A STRANGER**

This is one of the last books in the series that begins with Homecoming, continues with Dicey's Song, and A Solitary Blue. This time the story is about Dicey's friend Minna, a black girl who comes face to face with racism, and has to come to terms with her life. You'll meet memorable characters in these books.

VOIGT, CYNTHIA

**IZZY, WILLY-NILLY**

Who are your real friends? Izzy struggles to rethink her friendships after losing a leg in a car crash.

WOLFF, VIRGINIA EUWER

**TRUE BELIEVER**

The journal-verse-style writing delivers a genuine and interesting voice of Verna LaVaughn, 15-year-old inner-city school girl who strives to better herself to "get out" of her neighborhood and the life which is constantly in poverty and in danger of violence. Readers will not be able to put down the book. This is the sequel to the equally superb MAKE LEMONADE.

WOODSON, JACQUELIN

**I HADN'T MEANT TO TELL YOU THIS**

In a quiet, beautiful friendship story, two young teenagers resist the racism in their school and the sorrow in their families and help each other find the strength to go on.

WOUK, HERMAN

**MARJORIE MORNINGSTAR**

Nineteen-year-old Marjorie is offered the job of her dreams -- working in a summer stock company where she meets her first love.

YOLEN, JANE AND ROBERT J. HARRIS **GIRL IN A CAGE**

In 1306, 11-year-old Marjorie, daughter of Robert Bruce, newly crowned king of Scotland finds herself captured by the enemy, locked in an iron cage and is displayed outdoors day and night in the Town Square. This is a compelling historical fiction.

## **CLASSICS/AWARD WINNERS**

**ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY**                      **LITTLE WOMEN** (and others)

The March sisters come of age in Concord during the Civil War.

**AUEL, JEAN**                                **CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR** (series)

This is the best-selling epic of a lost girl adopted into a tribe of prehistoric hunter-gathers.

**CRANE, STEPHEN**                        **THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE**

A young soldier comes of age under the stress of Civil War combat.

**DICKENS, CHARLES**                      **GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

Pip's life is changed by a strange circumstance. He grows to adulthood expecting a great inheritance and marriage with his childhood sweetheart -- but neither expectation is fulfilled.

**FINNEY, JACK**                            **TIME AND AGAIN** and **FROM TIME TO TIME**

For mystery and romance, science fiction and nostalgia, this novel is a must-read!! One night, Si Morley steps out of his twentieth-century Upper West Side apartment - right into the winter of 1882.

**KINSELLA, W.P.**                            **SHOELESS JOE**

Read this classic story of dreams and baseball! It will enchant you!

**KIPLING, RUDYARD**                      **KIM**

A young Irish boy in colonial India is involved with a native mystic and the Secret Service.

**LONDON, JACK**                            **THE CALL OF THE WILD**

This enduring classic story tells the story of an extraordinary dog named Buck who is torn between his love of man and his love of the wild. Another Jack London classic is **WHITE FANG**, also highly recommended.

**PATERSON, KATHERINE**                      **JACOB HAVE I LOVED**

Louise knew that she was the despised twin and that Caroline was the one everyone loved best. It took her a long time and a lot of growing up until she could accept herself as a worthwhile person. A Newbery Award Winner.

**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 d-hearted. This Newbery winner is the sequel to **A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO**.

**SMITH, BETTY**                              **A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN**

This is the delightful and moving story of the hardships, sorrows and happiness of Francie, a poor girl living in Brooklyn at the turn of the century. A popular novel for generations, it continues to find a wide audience today.

**STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS**                      **TREASURE ISLAND** (and others, especially **KIDNAPPED**)

Generations have loved this tale about Jim Wawkins who sets out to recover the hidden fortune that many dangerous men are plotting to obtain.

**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. 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, and is one of the top 10 best books for young adults.

TWAIN, MARK

**THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER**

This is the classically moving story about the swapped identities of a poor Cockney lad and the Prince of Wales. For any Arthurian fan out there, A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT definitely offers a very different view.

TWAIN, MARK

**THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER & THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN**

Twain's matchless excursion delves into the joys and troubles of boyhood on the Mississippi.

**MYSTERY/HORROR**

ADAMS, DOUGLAS

**DIRK GENTLY'S HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY**

An ageless absent-minded professor tries to outwit a billion-year-old ghost in this zany murder mystery.

BUNTING, EVE

**THE PRESENCE**

In alternating point of views, the chilling story of 17-year-old Catherine and her encounter with an evil spirit (The Presence) who resides inside a church and has ensnared young girls for decades unfolds.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA

**MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS (and others)**

Hercule Poirot investigates a variety of motives for murder as the Calais Coach races across Europe. The passengers provide the intriguing clues. AND THEN THERE WERE NONE is another masterpiece of psycho-thriller.

DOYLE, SIR ARTHUR CONAN

**THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (and others)**

You and Dr. Watson can attempt to figure out all the clues which Sherlock Holmes finds so simple.

NAYLOR, PHYLLIS REYNOLDS **JADE GREEN: A GHOST STORY**

While living with her uncle in a house haunted by the ghost of a young woman, recently orphaned Judith Sparrow wonders if her one small transgression causes mysterious happenings.

NIXON, JOAN LOWERY

**THE OTHER SIDE OF DARK (and many others)**

Stacey has been in a coma for four years. When she awakens, she finds herself suddenly 17 years old and ready to locate and identify the boy who murdered her mother.

WYNNE-JONES, TIM

**THE BOY IN THE BURNING HOUSE**

In this action-packed thriller, 14-year-old Jim tries to solve the mystery of his father's disappearance from their rural Canadian community. He gets help from the disturbed Ruth Rose, who suspects her stepfather, a local pastor, and together they discover a series of secrets.

**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.

BRADBURY, RAY

**DANDELION WINE**

A twelve-year-old boy experiences the events of a strange and wonderful summer.

BRADBURY, RAY

**FAHRENHEIT 451**

This is the classic tale of an unsettling future in which all books are banned or burned.

CARD, ORSON SCOTT

**ENDER'S GAME** (series)

In this first book of a series (SPEAKER FOR THE DEAD, XENOCIDE & CHILDREN OF THE MIND), young (very young) Ender Wiggin is destined to become the leader of a troop of child army in a space mission to completely annihilate an alien species on another planet. New York Times called this Hugo and Nebula awards winner "intense." but it has more than just intensity. It is intelligent and full of surprises and imagination.

CLARKE, ARTHUR C.

**CHILDHOOD'S END**

In the near future, Earth is invaded and ruled by a kindly superior species, which is preparing humanity for a giant evolutionary step forward.

CLARKE, ARTHUR C.

**2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY**

After a signal is discovered on the moon, astronauts set out to trace its source, only to have their plans endangered by a computer gone berserk.

CRICHTON, MICHAEL

**THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN**

In a race to find out why people are dying in a small western town and whether Los Angeles will be next, Crichton is at his best.

DuPrau, Jeanne.

**THE CITY OF EMBER**

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.

FARMER, NANCY

**HOUSE OF THE SCORPION**

In a future world, young Matt is a perfect clone of the elderly (140 years old) Matteo Alacran, the de facto King of a country called Opium. This book won the 2002 National Book Award for Young Readers.

HADDIX, MARGARET

**AMONG THE IMPOSTERS**

In **AMONG THE HIDDEN**, at a future U.S. when every family can only have two children, Luke has been hidden since birth, safe for the time being from the Population Police. This page-turner will keep readers on their toes the entire time.

HERBERT, FRANK

**DUNE** (series)

This is the epic series about a desert world and the immense struggle for wealth and power.

LEHMANN, CHRISTIAN (translated from French by William Rodarmor)

**ULTIMATE GAME**

Lehmann's novel relates moments in the lives of three teenagers who purchase a computer game that recreates a virtual reality of a time machine of history's evils: war after war. Eric and Charles are pitted against Andreas, the oldest, whose need for power propels him to play the game as judge, jury, and finally, prey.

O'BRIEN, ROBERT C.

**Z FOR ZACHARIAH**

Seemingly the only person left alive after the holocaust of a war, Anne Burden is relieved to see a man arrive into her valley -- until she realizes that he is a tyrant and she must somehow escape.

REEVE, PHILIP

**MORTAL ENGINES**

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.

SARGENT, PAMELA

**EARTHSEED**

The ship hurtles through space, looking for a home for Zoheret and her companions. But before they can populate a new planet, they must learn to conquer the very human instincts that destroyed their ancestors

SLEATOR, WILLIAM

**MARCO'S MILLIONS**

In this exciting prequel to THE BOXES, Marco discovers the tool and secret to traveling amongst the planets via a passageway in his basement. High emotional prices have to be paid at the end for this knowledge and ability.

WELLS, H.G.

**THE WAR OF THE WORLDS**

The Martians are landing on earth! They've already destroyed London. Who or what can stop them from taking over the whole world? This classic story brings the hysteria and madness of such a nightmare to life.

**FANTASY**

ANTHONY, PIERS

**SPLIT INFINITY**

Welcome to the astonishing parallel worlds of Phaze and Proton, where magic and science maintain an uneasy truce. For all those who loved the Xanth series, this is the first book in The Apprentice Adept series.

BEAGLE, PETER

**THE LAST UNICORN**

A funny/sad story in which an enchanting unicorn - joined on her journey by a bungling magician, a pure-at-heart wench, and a butterfly - leaves her idyllic forest in search of others of her kind.

BILLINGSLEY, FRANNY

**FOLK KEEPER**

Fifteen-year-old Corinna Stonewall never feels cold, always knows exactly what time it is, and her hair grows two inches each night while she sleeps. She possesses extraordinary powers even beyond her own imagination. This inventive and dark fantasy is a wonderful fusion of selkie tales and romance.

BRADSHAW, GILLIAN

**BEYOND THE NORTH WIND**

The Greek God Apollo sends a talented young magician from his home in ancient Greece to the land of the Arimaspians to conquer the one-eyed giants and save the griffins -- in a book filled with magic, heroism and myth.

BROOKS, TERRY

**SHANNARA (series)**

This is the richly detailed epic fantasy about three scientists who strive to save their Four Lands.

COOPER, SUSAN

**KING OF SHADOWS**

A young actor, 13-year-old Nat, travels back in time to 1599 and performs at the Globe Theatre alongside Master William Shakespeare himself in the first ever production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. The two form a bond that helps Nat come to terms with his own loss from a family tragedy.

EDDINGS, DAVID

**PAWN OF PROPHECY**

This is the beginning volume in a fantasy series set against a history of 7,000 years of the struggles of Gods and Kings and men -- of strange lands and events -- and a prophecy that must be fulfilled.

HILTON, JAMES

**LOST HORIZON**

Four people are brought against their will to the mysterious land of Shangri-La, a place where no one grows old.

JONES, DIANA WYNNE

**HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE**

When a witch turns 17-year-old Sophie into an old woman, Sophie goes to live with the feared wizard Howl in his castle and becomes embroiled in the zany events that eventually lead to her happiness. This book is now made into a feature length animation by the Japanese animator, Miyazaki (Spirited Away.)

JONES, DIANA WYNNE

**THE MERLIN CONSPIRACY**

Told alternately by Roddy and Nick, this complex, riveting fantasy moves swiftly along as the characters combine their newfound magical powers and learn the actions in one world may have long reaching effects in other worlds.

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. This is a continuation of the author's famed Time Trilogy, *A Wrinkle in Time*.

MAHY, MARGARET

**UNDERRUNNERS**

A network of tunnels formed by the subterranean erosion of soil serves as a refuge for Tristram Catt -- until the day he meets the mysterious Winola, who has tunneled her way out of the nearby Children's House.

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.

McKINLEY, ROBIN

**THE OUTLAWS OF SHERWOOD**

Everyone should read this wonderful retelling of the Robin Hood story filled with historical details and greater roles for women.

NICHOLSON, WILLIAM

**SLAVES OF THE MASTERY**

In this powerful sequel to *THE WIND SINGER*, Kestrel and Bowman have to combine their magic and intellectual power to find against the slave-holding mastery.

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*.

SPRINGER, NANCY

**I AM MORGAN LE FAY**

The arch-villain in the Arthurian legend, Morga le Fay, gets to tell her own story from a magically gifted little girl to the embittered grown woman whose struggle against Fate (her namesake) seems always turns back to haunt her. An earlier companion to this novel is *I AM MORDRED*.

STEWART, MARY R.

**THE CRYSTAL CAVE (series)**

This series consists of the spellbinding adventures of King Arthur's court told by a master storyteller.

TOLKIEN, J.R.R.

**THE LORD OF THE RING (series)**

Starting with *THE HOBBIT*, the journey through Middle Earth, told with poetic language and vivid description of creatures and landscapes, this classic series (*FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING*, *THE TWO TOWERS* and *THE RETURN OF THE KING*) has enjoyed the highest acclaim in the realm of fantasy writings in our century.

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.

WHITE, T.H.

**THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING**

The magnificent legend of King Arthur is retold as a novel for modern readers. Arthur's anguish over war, the love story of Guinevere and Lancelot, and the evil Mordred comprise the story of Camelot. Also: *The Book of Merlyn*.

## **BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIRS**

ANGELOU, MAYA

### **I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS (1st of series)**

This is Angelou's moving and award-winning autobiography that recalls the joy and pain of growing up in the South during the depression.

FLEMING, CANDACE

### **BEN FRANKLIN'S ALMANAC: BEING A TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE GOOD GENTLEMAN'S LIFE**

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.

FREEDMAN, RUSSELL

### **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LIFE OF DISCOVERY**

Widely recognized as one of the most influential women of her time, Eleanor Roosevelt began life as an "ugly duckling" -- but grew into an extraordinary and courageous defender of human rights.

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.

GOURSE, LESLIE

### **DIZZY GILLESPIE AND THE BIRTH OF BEEBOP**

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.

GRAHAM, ROBIN

### **DOVE**

Sixteen-year-old Robin Graham sails solo around the world.

GUNTHER, JOHN

### **DEATH BE NOT PROUD**

Gunther's moving story of his son's courageous battle against cancer is compelling.

HAYDEN, TOREY

### **ONE CHILD (and others)**

This is a remarkable true story about the relationship between a neglected six - year-old girl and the teacher who teaches her to love.

HERRIOT, JAMES

### **ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL (series)**

The humorous, serious and heartwarming adventures of an English veterinarian are fun to read.

HOUSTON, JEANNE WAKATSUKI

### **FAREWELL TO MANZANAR**

This is an autobiographical account of one Japanese American family's attempt to survive the indignities of internment during World War II.

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.

MATHABANE, MARK

### **KAFFIR BOY**

Under Apartheid, a young man comes of age in this autobiographical account.

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.

ROTH-HANO, RENEE

**TOUCH WOOD and SAFE HARBORS**

A French Jewish girl is hidden in a convent during the Holocaust. After the war she begins a new life in America.

TAYLOR, ROB

**THE BREACH**

This is an extraordinary true story of physical adventure, tragedy, and spiritual challenge at the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

WARREN, ANDREA

**SURVIVING HITLER: A BOY IN THE NAZI DEATH CAMP**

(biography)

This is a powerful story of Jack Mandelbaum. As a teenager during WWII, he spent three horrific years in a concentration camp, and as a grown man, he chose the path of tolerance and forgiveness.

WATKINS, YOKO

**SO FAR FROM THE BAMBOO GROVE (Sequel: MY BROTHER,**

**MY SISTER AND I)**

An autobiographical account of Yoko's escape from Korea to Japan with her mother and sister at the end of World War II, this heart-wrenching novel recounts the terrible hardships they had to bear in order to return to their homeland.

ZINDEL, PAUL

**THE PIGMAN AND ME**

This is a fast-paced, humorous autobiography by the author of *The Pigman*, who had a little help from his own "pigman."

## **SHORT STORIES**

BRADBURY, RAY

**THE ILLUSTRATED MAN**

Bradbury is at his very best in these eighteen tales involving time and space -- without and within.

BRADBURY, RAY

**THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES**

Bradbury continues to enrich us with these short stories about the Earth and Mars.

GALLO, DONALD R., ed.

**CONNECTIONS; SHORT STORIES VISIONS; 19 SHORT STORIES**

Gallo has edited several volumes of short stories by well known writers for young adults.

LARDNER, RING

**HAIRCUT AND OTHER STORIES**

Ring Lardner, a satirist with a keen voice, writes of ordinary people with razor-sharp wit.

LONDON, JACK

**TO BUILD A FIRE AND OTHER STORIES**

Jack London, author of *The Call of the Wild*, continues his adventures in this collection of stories.

MCKISSACK, PATRICIA

**DARK THIRTY**

This is a wonderful collection of ghost stories with African American themes, designed to be told during the dark-thirty---the half hour before sunset---when ghosts seem all too unbelievable..

POE, EDGAR ALLEN

**SELECTED TALES**

These horror and detective stories are timeless - to be read and re-read.

ROCKMAN, HAZEL, ed.

**SOMEHOW TENDERNESS SURVIVES: STORIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

This is a wonderful anthology of ten stories and memoirs by black and white South African writers.



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

In addition to reading two books this summer, you are to write a letter to your 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher 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?)**







