

Dear Junior High Parents,

Ray Bradbury, the author of Fahrenheit 451 says, “You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.” At Westwood, we want to build a culture of book lovers! We need your help to build a reader in your home. Have a reading time---let them see you read---encourage excellence!

With this in mind, we are excited to be implementing a summer reading program for our middle school. Less time on phones and playing games and more time exploring the world through the written word will help expand the brain in a positive way! We hope that you will encourage the program and support it. Reading is a sure way to raise SAT scores and to prepare your child for college success. Attached you will find a reading list that you will need to investigate with your child. Google the book and read the short introduction and the grade level to see if you think it will be interesting and appropriate for your child. We are only requiring one book and one personal response to the book. I have attached a sample of a personal response. The response is due on the first day of class. It should be 5 to 8 sentences in paragraph form that tells what the student liked or disliked about the book. \*It should tell what lesson he or she might have learned from reading the book. \*It should end with a sentence that tells how relevant this book was for you. One book is required, but you may choose two more for extra credit. All responses are due on the first day of class. We have included high interest books and classics on the list, and the reading level spans from 4<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Help us to change reading from a chore to a delight by spending time with your child choosing the book. Visiting a bookstore and even browsing online can be a fun time together!

Sample Book Response- Write it neatly or type it.

Your Name

Book Title (Underlined)

Author of Book

The novel Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury is easy to read and interesting because it is about a time in the future when firefighters start fires instead of putting them out. They burn houses if people in the house have books because the government doesn’t want people reading books. Another thing I liked was the mechanical hound because it could be programmed to track a person down and stick him with a needle that would put him to sleep or even kill him. It is a mystery because I didn’t know if the main character would survive or not. The lesson that the book teaches is that if a society is not careful, the government could take basic rights away. Taking books away or even controlling what people read and hear and see on television can make the people unaware of what is going on in the world. The book was relevant to me because I like to read and would hate it if someone took that right away from me.

One important rule: do not use the words YOU, YOUR, or YOURS when writing the paragraph!

## JR. HIGH SUMMER READING LIST

REBOUND. ALEXANDER, KWAME

THE JOURNEY OF LITTLE CHARLIE. CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER

NIGHT DIARY. HIRANANDANI, VEERA

EVERY SHINY THING. JENSON, CORDELIA AND MORRISON, LAURIE

SEVENTH WISH. MESSNER, KATE

BREAKOUT. MESSNER, KATE

RESISTANCE. NIELSEN, JENNIFER

MY BRIGADISTA YEAR. PATERSON, KATHERINE

NEVERMOOR: THE TRIALS OF MORRIGAN CROW. TOWNSEND, JESSICA

HARBOR ME. WOODSON, JACQUELINE

HATCHET. PAULSON, GARY

A WRINKLE IN TIME. L'ENGLE, MADELINE

THE HARRY POTTER SERIES. ROWLING, J. K.

THE NARNIA SERIES. LEWIS, C. S.

THE HOBBIT. TOLKIEN, J. R. R.

THE PERCY JACKSON SERIES. RIORDAN, RICK (THE LIGHTNING THEIF IS READ IN CLASS)

THE HUNGER GAMES. COLLINS, SUZANNE

ENDER'S GAME. CARD, ORSON SCOTT

DIVERGENT. ROTH, VERONICA

TWILIGHT SERIES. MEYER, STEPHANIE

THE LOST HERO SERIES. RIORDAN, RICK

ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. BLUME, JUDY

THE LORD OF THE RINGS. TOLKIEN, J. R. R.

ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS. O'DELL, SCOTT

HOLES. SACHAR, LOUIS

STARGIRL. SPINELLI, JERRY

FABLEHAVEN SERIES. MULL, BRANDON

THE BREADWINNER. ELLIS, DEBORAH

THE MAZE RUNNER. DASHNER, JAMES

WONDER. PALACIO, R. J.

WAR HORSE. MORPURGO, MICHAEL

MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY SERIES. STEWART, TRENTON LEE

MAXIMUM RIDE SERIES. PATTERSON, JAMES

KEEPER OF LOST CITIES SERIES. MESSENGER, SHANNON

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS. BOYNE, JOHN

LITTLE WOMEN. ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY

THE SECRET GARDEN. BURNETT, FRANCES HODGSON

FISH IN A TREE. HUNT, LYNDIA MULLALY

TUCK EVERLASTING. BABBITT, NATALIE

ELLA ENCHANTED. LEVINE, GAIL CARSON

THE GIVER SERIES. LOWERY, LOIS

THE INHERITANCE CYCLE. PAOLINI, CHRISTOPHER