

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

SUMMER READING: GRADE 7

2010-11

CONTENT AREA: ENGLISH

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS: Reading 7-1.1 : 25 Books or Book Equivalents
Writing 7-2.2: Writing in Response to Literary Text
Writing 7-2.6: Writing Conventions

OBJECTIVES: ALL STUDENTS WILL:

- ❖ Choose one (1) of the books from the list below.
- ❖ Keep a journal (requirements listed below) that will be used to complete the assessment of the summer reading at the beginning of the school year.

BOOK LIST:

<u>Pictures of Hollis Woods</u> by Patricia Reilly Giff	<u>Guts</u> (non-fiction) by Gary Paulsen
<u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u> (challenging) by Gennifer Choldenko	<u>Slam!</u> (challenging) by Walter Dean Myers
<u>Schooled</u> By Gordon Korman	

YOUR JOURNAL: While reading your book, you need to complete journal entries. Your journal entries should address the following components in the novel:

- ❖ Plot (what was the book about)
- ❖ Setting (where and when)
- ❖ Characters (pay attention to the main character's personality and physical appearance as well as any important supporting characters)
- ❖ Conflict (major problem in the story)
- ❖ Resolution (how the main character solved/resolved the conflict)

THE ASSESSMENT: During the first 2 weeks of school, you will complete an assessment for the summer reading book. You will be allowed to use your journal entries during the assessment, so be sure to come prepared!

Grade 7 Choices

Description from the inside cover of Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff

When Hollis is sent to Josie, an elderly artist who is quirky and affectionate, she wants to stay. But Josie is growing more forgetful every day. If Social Services finds out, they'll take Hollis away and move Josie into a home. Well, Hollis Woods won't let anyone separate them. She's escaped the system before; this time, she plans to take Josie with her.

Yet behind all her plans, Hollis longs for her life with the Regans, fixing each moment of her time with them in pictures she'll never forget.

Description from the inside cover of Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

"1935. I want to be on Alcatraz like I want poison oak on my private parts. But apparently nobody cares, because now I'm Moose Flanagan, Alcatraz Island Boy all so my sister can go to the Esther P. Marinoff School, where kids have macaroni salad in their hair and wear their clothes inside out and there isn't a chalkboard or a book in sight.

Good Moose. Obedient Moose. I always do what I'm supposed to do."

When Moose's family moves to Alcatraz so his father can work as a guard and his sister can attend a special school in San Francisco, Moose has to leave his friends and his winning baseball team behind. But it's worth it, right? If his sister, Natalie, can finally get help, maybe his family will finally be normal.

But as it turns out, life on Alcatraz is much more complicated than even Moose would have predicted.

His dad is so busy, he's never around. His mom's preoccupation with Natalie's condition (today it would be called autism) is even worse now that there's no extended family to help with her tantrums and constant needs. And of course, there's never enough money.

When Moose meets Piper, the cute daughter of the Warden, he knows right off she's trouble. But she's also strangely irresistible. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parent's expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

Description from the back of the paperback copy of Guts by Gary Paulsen

Here are the real events that inspired Gary Paulsen to write Brian Robeson's story in *Hatchet*, *The River*, *Brian's Winter* and *Brian's Return*: a stint as a volunteer emergency worker; the death that became the pilot's death in *Hatchet*; plane crashes he's seen; and his own near misses. He takes the readers on his first hunting trips, showing the wonder and solace of nature along with his hilarious mishaps and mistakes. He shares special memories, such as the night he attracted every mosquito in the county, and how he met the moose who made it "personal". There's a handy chapter titled "Eating Eyeballs and Guts or Starving: The Fine Art of Wilderness Nutrition" – recipes included.

Description from scholastic.com Slam! By Walter Dean Myers

Greg "Slam" Harris is 17 and can do it all on the basketball court. He's seen ballplayers come and go, and he knows he could be one of the lucky ones. Slam's grades aren't so hot though, and when his teachers jam his troubles in his face, he blows up. Slam never doubted himself on the court until he found himself going one-on-one with his own future, and he didn't have the ball. Sixteen-year-old Greg "Slam" Harris can really play the game of basketball. At six-three, he has the quickness to handle the point guard position and, as his tag implies, he can slam-dunk at will. Slam is doing poorly academically, a fact his teachers remind him of constantly. Slam is painfully aware of his own shortcomings, but when he's told the obvious truths, he reacts angrily. Yes, he's in trouble, but he doesn't want it rubbed in his face. On one hand, Slam knows that he could be one of the lucky ones, playing his way out of the inner city playgrounds and into a new beginning. But he could also be one of the hordes of young players who fall by the wayside. When his coach decides to make another player the point guard and the star of the team, Slam realizes that his destiny might not be in his own hands.

Description from RI Teen Book Award: Schooled by Gordon Korman

When Capricorn's hippie grandmother falls ill and she can no longer continue to home-school him, he must attend public school and experience life with his peers for the first time.