



Grace Snell Middle Summer Reading Program 2011



Rising Sixth Grade List

Reading is the foundation of literacy and a lifelong skill that must be fostered. Our summer reading program is designed to help our students understand the following:

- Reading can be an enjoyable pastime.
- Reading is a skill that improves with practice.
- Reading is the basis for improving academic achievement.
- Reading can be for pleasure; not just to acquire information.
- Reading can be a family activity when parents inspire children to read.

Students are required to choose one book to read from the following list. For this book, students will complete the attached graphic organizer (It can also be found on our website). Students will bring this organizer with them when they return to school. This organizer will be used by students to complete an in class performance-based assessment.

The following are the books for Summer 2011. Descriptions of each book are given to help your student in choosing the one that will interest him or her the most.

Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez

Strange Case of the Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger

N.E.R.D.S (Book 1) by Michael Buckley

11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass

Marley: A Dog Like No Other by John Grogan

Quake! Disaster in San Francisco by Gail Karwoski

Grace Snell Middle School Summer Reading 2011 for 6th Grade

****Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez (Grades 4-7)**

Sixth-grader Tyler Paquette lives in a dairy-farming community in Vermont. His father was injured in a tractor accident and must now turn to undocumented Mexican laborers to run the farm. Thus, a trailer on the property soon becomes home to the Cruz family—sixth-grader Mari, her two younger sisters, father, and two uncles, all needing work to survive and living with fear of *la migra*. They have had no word on Mari's mother, missing now for several months. Tyler and Mari share an interest in stargazing, and their extended families grow close over the course of one year with holiday celebrations and shared gatherings. This timely novel, torn right from the newspaper headlines, conveys a positive message of cooperation and understanding.

****Strange Case of the Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger (Grades 3-6)**

Tommy and his friends think that Dwight is a weirdo who's "always talking about robots or spiders or something." In true Dwight fashion, he shows up at school one day brandishing a little origami Yoda finger puppet. The really weird thing is that it doles out very un-Dwight-like bits of wisdom, and the mystery is whether the Yoda is just Dwight talking in a funny voice or if it actually has mystical powers. The book is structured as a collection of stories gathered by Tommy and told by kids who either believe or don't. See, Tommy has a more vested interest than just idle curiosity—he is dying to know if he can trust Yoda's advice about asking the cute girl to dance with him at the PTA Fun Night.

****N.E.R.D.S.: National Espionage, Rescue, and Defense Society (Book 1)* by Michael Buckley (Grades 5-7)**

NERDS combines all the excitement of international espionage with all the awkwardness of elementary school, and the results are hilarious. A group of unpopular fifth graders run a spy network from inside their school. With the help of cutting-edge science, they transform their nerdy qualities into incredible abilities! Their enemies are an array of James Bond-style villains, each with an evil plan more diabolical and more ridiculous than the last.

****11 Birthdays* by Wendy Mass (Grades 4-6)**

It's Amanda's 11th birthday and she is super excited---after all, 11 is so different from 10. But from the start, everything goes wrong. The worst part of it all is that she and her best friend, Leo, with whom she's shared every birthday, are on the outs and this will be the first birthday they haven't shared together. When Amanda turns in for the night, glad to have her birthday behind her, she wakes up happy for a new day. Or is it? Her birthday seems to be repeating itself. What is going on?! And how can she fix it? Only time, friendship, and a little luck will tell. . .

***Marley: A Dog Like No Other* by John Grogan (Grades 4-6)**

Acquired by Grogan and his wife in Florida when he was a puppy, Marley, an oversize, energetic, and supremely loving yellow Lab, was expelled from his first obedience school but successfully auditioned for a part in a movie. He bolted his food, chewed everything in sight, and went berserk in thunderstorms. After moving to Pennsylvania with the growing Grogan family, he discovered the joy of snow, tobogganing down the hill on his master's stomach. Although never really well-behaved, Marley made his home in their hearts for 13 years. Young readers with pets of their own will recognize the unconditional affection Marley gave and the love he earned in return. Both humorous and sentimental, this should attract a broad range of readers.

***Quake! Disaster in San Francisco* by Gail Langer Karwoski (Grades 4-6)**

It is 1906, and 13-year-old Jacob Kaufman, who lives in San Francisco with his father and little sister, is outside when a major earthquake shakes the city, cracking streets and toppling buildings. After Jacob and his dog save the life of San, a Chinese boy, the two join together to search for their families and for food and temporary shelter. Though San occasionally faces racial hostility, the boys meet many strangers who help them through the difficult days. In the appended author's note, Karwoski discusses the earthquake, the events and social changes that followed. What actually happened is reflected in the story, which emphasizes the communication and sharing that took place as different groups--the Jews, the Irish, and the Italians--found common bonds in coping with disaster. Prejudice against the Chinese, however, was more resistant to change.

***Georgia Children's Book Award Winner**

Story Mapping

