

Summer 2008 Reading List S.C.A.P.A. Rising Seventh Graders

Students are required to read a total of four books during the summer. Choose two books from the language arts' list, one book from the science list, and one book from the social studies' list. Within two weeks of returning to school, students will be required to take Accelerated Reader (A.R.) tests on all of these books. In addition, students will prepare a quadraform book project on their science content book and write a book review on their social studies' book. The books listed below can be found at the Lexington Public Library and at local or on-line book stores. Enjoy!

LANGUAGE ARTS (Choose two from this list.)

1. **The Alchemist** by Paulo Coelho. "Santiago...journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success, and eventually to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment. The story ... is about becoming self-empowered, overcoming depression, and believing in dreams." (6.4 B.L.)
2. **And Then There Were None** by Agatha Christie. Considered the best mystery novel ever written by many readers, *And Then There Were None* is the story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. Once his guests have arrived, the host accuses each person of murder. Unable to leave the island, the guests begin to share their darkest secrets--until they begin to die. (7.1 B.L.)
3. **Bad Boy: A Memoir** by Walter Dean Myers. (6.5 B.L.) This superb memoir begins simply with an account of Myers's family history and his boyhood. Vivid detail makes the Harlem of the '40s come alive, from the music and children's games to the everyday struggle for survival. As Myers grows older, however, his story also grows in complexity. Soon readers are caught up in his turbulent adolescence and his slow, painful development as a writer. (6.5 B.L.)
4. **Black Beauty** by Anna Sewell. "Every child loves a story about a horse, and Black Beauty remains one of the finest, most touching ever written. Set in Victorian London, the novel follows the shifting fortunes of a horse as he moves from owner to owner. Narrated by the noble Black Beauty himself, the tale offers an animal's perspective of the world, and highlights the thoughtless, even cruel treatment animals endured during that period." (7.3 B.L.)
5. **The Call of the Wild** by Jack London. This classic story is about a kidnapped dog and the Alaskan Gold Rush of 1896.(7.3 B.L.)
6. **Downriver** by Will Hobbs. A group of troubled teenagers are brought together in an outward bound adventure whitewater rafting down the Grand Canyon. (6.6 B.L.)
7. **Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** by Robert Louis Stevenson. "Spawned by a nightmare that Stevenson had, this classic tale of the dark, primordial night of the soul remains a masterpiece of the duality of good and evil within us all." (7.2 B.L.)
8. **Dragonwings** by Laurence Yep. "This Newbery Honor book (HarperCollins, 1975) offers insights into the lives of Chinese-Americans in early 20th century California. The story begins as eight-year-old Moon Shadow Lee journeys across the Pacific to join his proud and clever father at the family-owned laundry in San Francisco. The boy recounts their problems with prejudice, as well as the kindness of uncles and cousins." (6.6 B.L.)
9. **The Fellowship of the Ring** by J.R.R. Tolkien. In ancient times, the Rings of Power were crafted by the Elvensmiths, and Sauron, the Dark Lord, forged the One Ring, filling it with his own power so that he could rule all others. But the One Ring was taken from him, and though he sought it throughout Middle-earth, still it remained lost to him. (7.5 B.L.)
10. **Flyte** by Angie Sage. Septimus Heap, Apprentice to the ExtraOrdinary Wizard, is back in this sequel to *Magyk*. The defeated, but not destroyed, DomDaniel is still bent on ruling the Castle as ExtraOrdinary Wizard by removing Jenna, the rightful heir to the throne. This time it's Simon Heap who, as the necromancer's new Apprentice, pursues Jenna

through both new and familiar territory. (6.0 B.L.)

11. **The Glory Field** by Walter Dean Myers. Spanning nearly 250 years of African American history, this emotionally charged saga of the Lewis family traces an ongoing battle for freedom and equality. Beginning with young Muhammad Bilal's journey from Africa in 1753 and ending with a 1990s family reunion set on the plantation where Muhammad was a slave, this series of resonant stories shows how each generation comes of age by taking a stand against oppression. (6.3 B.L.)
12. **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** by J.K. Rowling. (6.8 B.L.)
13. **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** by J.K. Rowling. (7.2 B.L.)
14. **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** by J.K. Rowling (7.2 B.L.)
15. **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** by J.K. Rowling (6.9 B.L.)
16. **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams. Join Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction. (6.6 B.L.)
17. **The Hobbit: There and Back Again** by J.R.R. Tolkein. Bilbo Baggins, a well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in hobbit-hole until one day Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. (7.2 B.L.)
18. **The Long Patrol** by Brian Jacques. (6.0 B.L.) "As young Tammo dreams of joining the Long Patrol--the legendary army of fighting hares that serves the Lady Cregga Rose Eyes, Ruler of Salamandastron--the brutal reality of a battle with Damug Warfang's mighty battalion of savage RapsCALLIONS fast approaches."
19. **Magyk** by Angie Sage. Fantasy fans will find a good jolt of action, mystery and humor in this magyk-filled adventure. Infants switched at birth, spell casting, Brownies, boggarts, dastardly villains and wizards add lively scenery and action throughout. (6.0 B.L.)
20. **Martin the Warrior** by Brian Jacques. "Bedrang the Stoat has his evil eyes set on ruling over his own empire, and will do anything to make sure that his ultimate fantasy is fulfilled. But little does he realize that the quiet, nameless mouse he is holding captive will one day turn out to be the heroic and fearless Martin the Warrior." (6.5 B.L.)
21. **Mattimeo** by Brian Jacques. "Preparations for the feast for the Summer of the Golden Rain are underway at Redwall Abbey, and young Mattimeo's mother sets him to work with the other inhabitants. His father, Matthius, is the guardian of Redwall Abbey and it is this fact that puts the young Mattimeo in danger, as the evil Slagar the Fox plots to kidnap him in a bid to shake the very foundations of the Abbey and its inhabitants." (6.5 B.L.)
22. **Mossflower** by Brian Jacques. "Martin the Warrior finds himself trespassing on the land of Verdagua, King of a Thousand Eyes, as he lies sick and near dying. With his last strength, Verdagua is struggling to make a decision on who should replace him as ruler of Mossflower Country. As Martin and his newfound friend and fellow prisoner Gonff become embroiled in the battle against Verdagua's ruthless daughter, Tsarmina, a bloody fight between good and evil ensues." (6.6. B.L.)
23. **Murder on the Orient Express** by Agatha Christie. On the long train ride from Istanbul to Paris, detective Poirot must find the killer of a much-hated millionaire among 13 suspects with reasons to kill. (6.2 B.L.)
24. **National Velvet** by Enid Bagnold. "Fourteen-year-old Velvet is determined to turn her untamed horse into a champion and personally ride him to victory in the world's greatest steeplechase, the Grand National." (7.1 B.L.)
25. **Nothing But the Truth** by Avi. Structured as a series of journal entries, memos, letters and dialogues, this highly original novel emerges as a witty satire of high school politics, revealing how truth can easily become distorted. After Philip Malloy, a clownish, rather unmotivated freshman, is punished for causing a disturbance (humming "The Star

Spangled Banner"), facts about the incident become exaggerated until a minor school infraction turns into a national scandal. (6.9 B.L.)

26. **Outcast of Redwall** by Brian Jacques. "When ferret Swartt Sixclaw and his arch enemy Sunflash the Mace swear a pledge of death upon each other, a young creature is cruelly banished from the safety of Redwall. As he grows, he seeks revenge on the people of Redwall and finds himself embroiled in a hostile battle with far-reaching consequences." (6.7 B.L.)
27. **The Outsiders** by S.E. Hinton. "S.E. Hinton's 1967 classic, published when she was a freshman in college, is as appropriate and realistic today as it was then. Fourteen-year-old Ponyboy, his brothers, and his friends are poor outcasts--"greasers." They have little but always stick together. After they're victims of the town's "socs (socials)--kids with lots of money, tough cars, and chips on their shoulders--everyone comes to realize how deep and serious their divide is." (6.7 B.L.)
28. **Physk** by Angie Sage. Few fans of the best-selling Septimus Heap series will be disappointed by this excellent third adventure, which counters the fraying novelty of the DomDaniel plotline with a brand new villain--a former queen whose malevolent spirit is accidentally released from an enchanted portrait. Along with a deadly epidemic, the spirit brings turmoil to the kingdom and to Septimus, who is forcibly apprenticed to an alchemist living many centuries earlier. (6.5 B.L.)
29. **The Princess Academy**-Shannon Hale. The thought of being a princess never occurred to the girls living on Mount Eskel. Most plan to work in the quarry like the generations before them. When it is announced that the prince will choose a bride from their village, 14-year-old Miri, who thinks she is being kept from working in the quarry because of her small stature, believes that this is her opportunity to prove her worth to her father. All eligible females are sent off to attend a special academy where they face many challenges and hardships as they are forced to adapt to the cultured life of a lowlander. (6.0 B.L.)
30. **Red Scarf Girl** by Ji-Li Jiang. "Ji-Li has written a compelling memoir which reveals her gradual disillusionment with what she had been taught to believe about the Chinese communist government. A highly successful student, Ji-Li's life begins to unravel during the Cultural Revolution when her family wants her to turn down a chance to be trained by the government as a gymnast. Self-centered at first, the effects that propaganda have upon the lives of people she respects - including her own family - expand her concerns beyond her own. A unique yet universal coming-of-age story." (6.5 B.L.)
31. **Redwall** by Brian Jacques. "As the inhabitants of Redwall Abbey bask in the glorious Summer of the Late Rose, all is quiet and peaceful. But things are not as they seem. Cluny the Scourge, the evil one-eyed rat warlord, is hell-bent on destroying the tranquility as he prepares to fight a bloody battle for the ownership of Redwall." (6.8 B.L.)
32. **The Return of the King** by J.R.R. Tolkien. This is book three in The Lord of the Rings trilogy. (6.2 B.L.)
33. **Salamandastron** by Brian Jacques. "As the inhabitants of Redwall relax in the haze of the long, hot summer, they are unaware that the neighboring stronghold of Salamandastron lies besieged by the evil weasel army of Ferhago the Assassin. Nor do they realize that Mara, beloved daughter of Urthsipe, Badger Lord of the Fire Mountain, is in terrible danger. But when a lightning bolt uncovers the sword of Martin the Warrior, young Samkin embarks on adventure that leads him to Mara, and their lives become inextricably entwined." (6.7 B.L.)
34. **Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes** by Chris Crutcher. An obese boy and a disfigured girl suffer the emotional scars of years of mockery at the hands of their peers. They share a hard-boiled view of the world until events in their senior year hurl them in very different directions. A story about a friendship with staying power, written with pathos and pointed

humor. (7.0 B.L.)

35. **The Sword in the Stone** by T.H. White. “*The Sword And The Stone* recreates, against the background of magnificent pageantry and dark magic that was medieval England, the education and training of young King Arthur, who was to become the greatest of Britain's legendary rulers.” (7.5 B.L.)
36. **The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle** by Avi. On a long, grueling journey from England to Rhode Island in 1802, a 12 year old changes from a prim and proper girl to a swashbuckling mate of a mutinous crew and is accused of murder by the captain. Awash with shipboard activity, intense feelings, and a keen sense of time and place, the story is a throwback to good old-fashioned adventure yarns on the high seas. (7.2 B.L.)
37. **The Two Towers** by J.R.R. Tolkein. This is book two in The Lord of the Rings trilogy. (6.3 B.L.)
38. **White Fang** by Jack London. London tells the story of a wolf-dog who endures great cruelty before he comes to know human kindness. (7.7 B.L.)
39. **The Year of Impossible Goodbyes** – Sook Nyui Choi. A ten-year-old girl describes her Korean family's experiences during the Japanese occupation of Korea as World War II comes to an end. (7.0 B.L.)

SCIENCE (Choose one from this list.)

1. **All Things Bright and Beautiful** by James Herriot. “We meet an unforgettable cast of characters, animal and human, in the second volume of Herriot's memoirs. Herriot is now Siegfried's partner in the country veterinary practice, and we go with him on his rounds, cheering his successes, mourning his losses, and smiling at the humor he finds so often.” (6.7 B.L.)
2. **Born Free** by Joy Adamson. “Adamson recounts her adventures as the surrogate mother of an orphaned lion cub named Elsa (with parenting duties shared by her husband George and by a delightfully imperturbable rock hyrax named Pati), whom she raised as a welcome member of her human and animal family while painstakingly teaching Elsa the skills she would need to survive in the wild. Her teaching, against all odds, was effective: three years later, the Adamsons took Elsa to a place near that of her birth and set her loose, hoping that she would find her "real pride" among other lions of the Kenya grasslands--as she soon did.” (7.8 B.L.)
3. **Charles Darwin: The Life of a Revolutionary Thinker** by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. “Drawing from published sources as well as the thousands of letters Darwin left behind, Patent creates a vivid picture of the man as a gregarious, loving father, beset by ill health for most of his life, as well as a probing thinker, careful observer, and gifted writer.” (9.1 B.L.)
4. **Code Orange** by Caroline Cooney. “Cooney leads a gregarious New York City teenager to a century-old sample of smallpox scabs. As dedicated to avoiding study as he is to getting closer to classmate Olivia, Mitty is oblivious to the danger he, she, and everyone else in the crowded city is in from his possible exposure to this hyper-contagious, utterly devastating disease--until he starts looking into smallpox for a school project. Drawing from several medical resources, which she lists at the end, Cooney lays out the illness's history and symptoms in precise, gruesome detail as a horrified Mitty writhes on the horns of a dilemma: Is the virus still active?” (6.2 B.L.)
5. **Double Helix** by Nancy Werlin. “Eli Samuels struggles with the knowledge that he has a 50/50 chance of getting Huntington's disease as he has watched his mother disintegrate as a result of having the wrong gene. When Eli takes a job at Wyatt Transgenics, he makes a startling discovery that connects his family to the genetic engineering experiments of famous geneticist Quincy Wyatt.” (5.0 B.L.)
6. **In the Shadow of Man** by Jane Goodall. “IN THE SHADOW OF MAN, first published in 1971, remains one of the most extraordinary observations of chimpanzee behavior in the wild. Goodall begins with the story of how she arrived in Africa and her first days there, but wisely switches the attention from herself to the endangered chimpanzees she studies. She not only recognizes individuals but learns their distinctive personalities, describing in compelling detail the smallest of moments that illuminate who these great animals are.” (8.7 B.L.)
7. **Rocket Boys** by Homer Hickam. “Inspired by Werner von Braun and his Cape Canaveral team,

14-year-old Homer Hickam decided in 1957 to build his own rockets. They were his ticket out of Coalwood, West Virginia, a mining town that everyone knew was dying--everyone except Sonny's father, the mine superintendent and a company man so dedicated that his family rarely saw him. Hickam's smart, iconoclastic mother wanted her son to become something more than a miner and, along with a female science teacher, encouraged the efforts of his grandiosely named Big Creek Missile Agency. He grew up to be a NASA engineer and his memoir of the bumpy ride toward a gold medal at the National Science Fair in 1960--an unprecedented honor for a miner's kid--is rich in humor as well as warm sentiment.” (5.9 B.L.)

8. **The Hot Zone** by Richard Preston. “The dramatic and chilling story of an Ebola virus outbreak in a suburban Washington, D.C. laboratory, with descriptions of frightening historical epidemics of rare and lethal viruses. More hair-raising than anything Hollywood could think of, because it's all true.” (7.3 B.L.)

SOCIAL STUDIES (Choose one from this list. You will complete a book review when you return to school in the fall.)

1. Cushman, Karen. *Catherine, Called Birdy* The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off. (7.4 B.L.)

2. Snyder, Zilpha Keatly. *The Egypt Game* It is only a game for six children, until an oracle tells the truth and a murderer appears. (5.5 B.L.)

3. Cushman, Karen. *The Midwife's Apprentice* In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world. (6.5 B.L.)

4. Barrett, Tracy. *Anna of Byzantium* Anna is the daughter of an Emperor and the next heir to the Byzantine Empire, or is she? Anna knew when her little brother was born that he was going to cause trouble for her. Now, brother John has his eye on the throne, and Anna's Grandmother is poised to help him become the next Emperor. (6.4 B.L.)

5. Cushman, Karen. *Matilda Bone* Fourteen-year old Matilda has spend most of her life in a manor house. But suddenly Matilda finds herself in Blood and Bone Alley apprenticed to Peg the Bonesetter. Bloodlettings, bone settings, foul remedies, and scary surgeries give the reader a taste of the practice of medicine in the Middle Ages. (5.7 B.L.)

6. Meyer, Carolyn. *Mary, Bloody Mary* A story based on the life of Mary Tudor, half sister to Queen Elizabeth and daughter to Henry VIII. As a baby, Mary was adored by her father and was thought to be the next heir to the throne. But gradually the King decides that his heir must be male and begins an affair with Anne Boleyn. Follow Mary's story as she is separated from her Mother, stripped of her title and banished. (6.3 B.L.)

7. DuPrau, Jeanne. *City of Ember*. The year is 241. Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger and finds part of an ancient message she feels sure will help save her decaying city. (5.0 B.L.)

8. Turner, Megan Whalen. *The Thief*. Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone. (6.0 B.L.)

9. McGraw, Jarvis. *The Golden Goblet*. In this novel set in ancient Egypt, a young goldsmith's apprentice is forced to work as a stonecutter by a cruel stepbrother who is in the business of robbing tombs. (6.3 B.L.)

10. Gregory, Kristiana. *Cleopatra VII: Daughter of the Nile* While her father is in hiding after attempts on his life, twelve-year-old Cleopatra records in her diary how she fears for her own safety and hopes to survive to become Queen of Egypt some day. (6.2 B.L.)

11. Hawass, Zahi. ***Curse of the Pharaohs: My Adventures*** Zahi A. Hawass, currently in charge of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Egypt, tells true stories of archeology and Egypt's treasures.(7.4 B.L.)
12. Millard, Anne. ***The Great Pyramid of Giza*** This book explores the origins and history of the Great Pyramid of Giza from the days of Khufu's father, Sneferu, to the Great Pyramid's status today as a landmark of world history. (8.4 B.L.)
13. Green, Robert. ***Hannibal*** This book presents the life and military exploits of the famous Carthaginian general. (6.9 B.L.)
14. Bellairs, John. ***The Mummy, the Wall and the Crypt*** (6.2 B.L.)
15. Markle, Sandra. ***Outside and Inside Mummies*** This book describes the high technology that is being used to uncover the many secrets of mummies, including how they died, their age, and their diet. (7.3 B.L.)
16. Hilliam, David. ***Richard the Lionheart and the Third Crusade***. This book relates how King Richard I of England and his troops nearly wrested Jerusalem from Muslim leader Saladin and the Saracens during the Third Crusade in 1191 AD. (8.1 B.L.)
17. Giblin, James. ***Secret of the Sphinx*** This book discusses some of Egypt's most famous artifacts and monuments, including the pyramids, the Rosetta Stone, and, especially, the Great Sphinx, presenting research and speculation about their origins and their future. (8.2 B.L.)
18. Isaacson, Philip. ***Short Walk around the Pyramids*** An introduction to art that considers the quality and style of various objects. (7.9 B.L.)
19. Hawass, Zahi. ***Tutankhamun: The Mystery of the Boy*** He was crowned King of Egypt at about age nine and died abruptly and mysteriously at age 18. This book scrutinizes the artifacts found in King Tut's tomb 3,500 years after his death, and recreates his life and times.(6.6 B.L.)