

Summer 2008 Reading List

S.C.A.P.A. Rising Eighth 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. **All Creatures Great and Small** by James Herriott. (8.9B.L.) Read about one of the world's favorite veterinarians, James Herriott, and learn about his beloved, hilarious and touching animal patients.
2. **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** by Betty Smith. Bright but lonely, poor but resourceful, Francie Nolan is captured from ages 11 to 16 with poignancy and love. She is her daddy's "prima donna" and she treasures his love while fighting to win her mother's. Although she never achieves the place in her mother's heart that her brother holds, her strength and perseverance guide her through difficult times. (7.5 B.L.)
3. **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.)
4. **Catherine, Called Birdy** by Karen Cushman. This unusual book provides an insider's look at the life of Birdy, 14, the daughter of a minor English nobleman. The year is 1290 and the vehicle for storytelling is the girl's witty, irreverent diary. She looks with a clear and critical eye upon the world around her, telling of the people she knows and of the daily events in her small manor house. (7.4 B.L.)
5. **Death of an Expert Witness** by P.D. James. "DEATH OF AN EXPERT WITNESS shows the writer at her best, creating a memorable setting in rural England, a host of very believable characters, and a complex plot, with all aspects of the work coming together in seamless fashion." (8.5 B.L.)
6. **Fallen Angels** by Walter Dean Myers. This is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service during the Vietnam War when his dream of attending college falls through. (7.1 B.L.)
7. **The Fellowship of the Ring** by J.R.R. Tolkein. 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.)
8. **Frankenstein** by Mary Shelly. A chilling classic book about Victor, a curious individual who comes up with an idea of recreating life after it has been destroyed. He regrets making his creation due to the destruction caused to those around him. (9.8 B.L.)
9. **Gods and Generals** by Jeff Shaara. In a prequel of sorts to his father Michael Shaara's 1974 epic novel *The Killer Angels*, Jeff Shaara explores the lives of Generals Lee, Hancock, Jackson and Chamberlain as the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg approaches. (7.0 B.L.)
10. **Hang a Thousand Trees With Ribbons** by Ann Rinaldi. The author's "latest contribution to historical fiction tells the story of the first important African-American poet. Since Phillis Wheatley lived in Boston just before the Revolutionary War, readers get a dose of U.S. history as well." (7.1 B.L.)
11. **The Hobbit: There and Back Again** – 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.)
12. **Hound of the Baskervilles** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "The novel tells the story of Sir Henry Baskerville, who arrives at Baskerville Hall to investigate the mysterious death of his uncle, Sir Charles. Charles' strange and unexpected death resurrects long-ignored fears about an ancient and vengeful beast and a Baskerville family curse. Holmes, always calm and calculating, uses his keen powers of observation to discern the fine lines between good and evil, truth and fiction, and reason and superstition, even as the story's events threaten to spiral out of control." (8.3 B.L.)
13. **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte. "Having grown up an orphan in the home of her cruel aunt and at a harsh charity school, Jane Eyre becomes an independent and spirited survivor—qualities that serve her well as governess at Thornfield Hall. But when she finds love with her sardonic employer, Rochester,

the discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a choice. Should she stay with him whatever the consequences or follow her convictions, even if it means leaving her beloved?" (10 B.L.)

14. **The Last Full Measure** by Jeff Shaara. *The Last Full Measure* picks up with Confederate General Robert E. Lee's retreat from Pennsylvania and continues through the end of the war. Shaara focuses on the characters of Lee and Union commander Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, both of whom play prominent roles in the earlier books. He also introduces a new one: Ulysses S. Grant, the Union general who would finally defeat the South--something no soldier before him could manage. (7.3 B.L.)
15. **Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott. "The four March girls -- practical Meg, rambunctious Jo, sweet Beth and childish artist Amy -- live in genteel poverty with their mother Marmee; their father is away in the Civil War. Despite having little money, the girls keep their spirits up with writing, gardening, homemade plays, and the occasional romp with wealthier pals. Their pal, "poor little rich boy" Laurie, joins in and becomes their adoptive brother, as the girls deal with Meg's first romance, Beth's life-threatening illness, and fears for their father's safety." (8.6 B.L.)
16. **Mrs. McGinty's Dead** by Agatha Christie. "Mrs. McGinty is an elderly cleaning woman whose brutal murder in her village of Broadhinny leads to the arrest of her lodger, James Bentley. The motive appears to be robbery as her small cache of savings is found hidden near her cottage and her blood and hair are found on Bentley's coat. But Superintendent Spence suspects something is not quite right and calls in Hercule Poirot to investigate this crime." (7.9 B.L.)
17. **My Antonia** by Willa Cather. "In this extraordinary novel, Miss Cather weaves together the story of Antonia Shimerda, an immigrant girl from Bohemia who represents the optimism, determination and pure grit that newcomers to America needed to make a successful life, and that of American-born Jim Burden, our narrator." (8.0 B.L.)
18. **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen. "Elizabeth Bennet is the perfect Austen heroine: intelligent, generous, sensible, incapable of jealousy or any other major sin. That makes her sound like an insufferable goody-goody, but the truth is she's a completely hip character, who if provoked is not above skewering her antagonist with a piece of her exceptionally sharp -- but always polite -- 18th century wit. The point is, you spend the whole book absolutely fixated on the critical question: will Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy hook up?" (11.0 B.L.)
19. **A Separate Peace** by John Knowles. This book, set in New England during World War II, is about two boys with extremely different personalities who are best friends. They attend a private boarding school during their last summer before being old enough to face the war. (9.5 B.L.)
20. **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.)
21. **Stotan!** by Chris Crutcher. "To be a Stotan (a cross between a Stoic and a Spartan) is to push one's physical and emotional capabilities beyond the limit, as four high school swimmers find out when they accept the challenge of a week-long endurance test devised by their coach. Though it is swim team captain Walker Dupree who narrates, this is every bit as much an ensemble novel as it is four individual stories." (7.5 B.L.)
22. **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.)
23. **A Tale of Two Cities** by Charles Dickens. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . ." With these famous words, **Charles Dickens** plunges the reader into one of history's most explosive eras—the French Revolution. From the storming of the Bastille to the relentless drop of the guillotine, Dickens vividly captures the terror and upheaval of that tumultuous period. At the center is the novel's hero, Sydney Carton, a lazy, alcoholic attorney who, inspired by a woman, makes the supreme sacrifice on the bloodstained streets of Paris." (9.2 B.L.)
24. **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee. "Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during

the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus--three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though her story explores big themes, Harper Lee chooses to tell it through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up.” (7.4 B.L.)

25. **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.)
26. **The Wind in the Willows** by Kenneth Grahame. “When Kenneth Grahame first entertained his son with letters about a petulant character named Toad, he had no way of knowing that his creation—together with his friends Mole, Rat, and Badger—would delight children for nearly 100 years. Here they are once more, pursuing adventure in gypsy caravans, stolen sportscars, and prison, but always returning to their beloved Wildwood. And although Grahame’s characters are unmistakably animals, they remain endearingly human in their eccentricity, folly, and friendship.” (8.3 B.L.)
27. **Wuthering Heights** by Emily Bronte. “The novel is told in the form of an extended flashback. After a visit to his strange landlord, a newcomer to the area desires to know the history of the family--which he receives from Nelly Deans, a servant who introduces us to the Earnshaw family who once resided in the house known as Wuthering Heights. It was once a cheerful place, but Old Earnshaw adopted a "Gipsy" child who he named Heathcliff. And Catherine, daughter of the house, found in him the perfect companion: wild, rude, and as proud and cruel as she. But although Catherine loves him, even recognizes him as her soulmate, she cannot lower herself to marry so far below her social station. She instead marries another, and in so doing sets in motion an obsession that will destroy them all.” (9.9 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. Rinaldi, Ann, *In My Father's House* For two sisters growing up surrounded by the Civil War, there is conflict both outside and inside their house. (7.2 B.L.)
2. Hamilton, Virginia. *House of Dies Drear* This mystery concerns an African-American boy's move to Drear House, which had once played a part in the Underground Railroad. (6.0 B.L.)
3. Cushman, Karen. *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* In 1849, twelve-year-old Lucy is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a small California mining town. Lucy helps run a rough boarding house and looks for comfort in books while trying to find a way to get "home". (5.3 B.L.)
4. O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins* This book portrays the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind. (6.4 B.L.)
5. Patterson, Katherine. *Lyddie* Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840's. (5.9)
6. Avi. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious. (7.2 B.L.)
7. Collier, James Lincoln and Christopher Collier. *Jump Ship to Freedom* In this sequel to WAR COMES TO WILLY FREEMAN, Daniel Arabus must escape from a ship to avoid certain slavery in the West Indies. The coauthor is Christopher Collier. (5.4 B.L.)
8. Yates, Elizabeth. *Amos Fortune: Free Man* This true story details the life of an African prince who was captured by slave traders at age fifteen and brought to America. At age sixty, he bought his freedom, then married and started his own tannery business. (6.0 B.L.)
9. O'Dell, Scott. *Sarah Bishop* With the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Sarah, a young New Yorker, finds herself fugitive from the British Army, living outside the law. (6.2 B.L.)
10. Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain* In this book, the process and influences behind the writing of Esther Forbes's novel, JOHNNY TREMAIN, is discussed. She won a Newbery Award in 1943 for this book, just a year after winning the Pulitzer Prize for her first novel. (8.1 B.L.)
11. Myers, Walter Dean. *The Glory Field* This story follows a family's 250-year history from the capture of an African boy in the 1750s through the lives of his descendants. (6.3 B.L.)
12. Richter, Conrad. *The Light in the Forest* A four-year-old white boy is adopted into an Indian warrior tribe. (6.8 B.L.)
13. Speare, Elizabeth. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* Puritan neighbors regard Kit Tyler with suspicion, fear, and anger when she befriends an old woman accused of witchcraft. (6.3 B.L.)

14. Harragh, Madge. *My Brother, My Enemy* Determined to avenge the massacre of his family, Robert joins Nathaniel rebel army in hopes of wiping out the Susquehannock Indians of Virginia. (5.0 B.L.)
15. De Trevino, Elizabeth Borton. *I, Juan de Pareja* After the slave Juan de Pareja is willed to the great Spanish painter Velázquez, their relationship changes from master/slave to equal/friend. (7.9 B.L.)
16. Fox, Paula. *The Slave Dancer* In this spellbinding novel of suspense and survival, young Jessie, a musician, is hired to play for the slaves aboard a ship bound for America. (7.0 B.L.)
17. Paulsen, Gary. *The Rifle* A priceless, handcrafted rifle carried throughout the American Revolution is passed down through the years until it fires on a fateful Christmas Eve of 1994. (7.4 B.L.)
18. Fritz, Jean. *The Great Little Madison* Traces the life and contributions of the sickly child with the small voice who grew up to become the fourth president of the United States. (7.7 B.L.)
19. Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage* This is the story of Henry Fleming, a young, inexperienced soldier in the American Civil War who has romantic notions of the hero he will be when he enters his first battle. Amidst the brutal realities of warfare, however, his illusions are shattered. (7.6)
20. Hamilton, Leni. *Clara Barton* Follows the life of the nurse who served on the battlefields of the Civil War and later founded the American Red Cross. (8.8 B.L.)
21. Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible* This book is an introduction to Arthur Miller's play, THE CRUCIBLE, discussing the author's life, the impact of the play, its plot, cast of characters, literary criticism, and pertinence for today's audiences. (9.0 B.L.)
22. Sattler, Helen. *The Earliest Americans* The latest scientific information on the earliest human beings that occupied America for at least 15,000 years. (7.6 B.L.)
23. Petry, Ann. *Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad* Courageous Black woman leads slaves to Freedom. (6.0 B.L.)
24. Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* This is an autobiographical account by the runaway slave Frederick Douglass that chronicles his experiences with his owners and overseers, and discusses how slavery affected both slaves and slaveholders. (7.9 B.L.)
25. Aaseng, Nathan. *Navajo Code Talkers* The story of the Navajo Indians who served in World War II by using their ancient tribal language as a means of secret military communication. (8.7 B.L.)
26. Stein, R. Conrad. *The Nineteenth Amendment* A history of the movement to grant women the right to vote in the United States, which culminated in the 19th amendment to the Constitution in 1920 that permitted them to do so. (7.5 B.L.)
27. Stein, R. Conrad. *The Oregon Trail* Depicts life on the Oregon Trail in the 1800s, as people traveled west in pursuit of their dreams. (7.4 B.L.)
28. Keith, Harold. *Rifles for Watie* Sixteen-year-old Jeff cannot wait to join the Union army and fight against Stand Watie, leader of the Cherokee Indian rebels. (7.3 B.L.)
29. Huber, Peter, *Sandra Day O'Connor* Examines the life of the first woman Supreme Court justice, including her childhood, early career, and work as a judge. (8.3 B.L.)
30. Krass, Peter. *Sojourner Truth* The biography of the former slave who preached emancipation of the slaves and women's rights. (9.5 B.L.)
31. Walker, Sally. *Secrets of a Civil War Submarine Soldier* (8.2 B.L.)
32. Weisberg, Barbara. *Susan B. Anthony* A biography of an early leader in the campaign for women's rights, particularly in getting women the right to vote. (7.7 B.L.)
33. Olson, Victoria. *Emily Dickinson* Describes the life and work of the reclusive poet. (7.6 B.L.)
34. Washington, Booker T. *Up From Slavery* The son of a slave, Booker Taliaferro Washington worked his way out the salt furnaces and coal mines to develop the esteemed Tuskegee Institute. This autobiographical work demonstrates his forceful and potent voice in the fight for African-American equality in turn-of-the-century America. (9.2 B.L.)
35. Richmond, Merle. *Phyllis Wheatley* Traces the life of the black American poet who was born in Africa, brought over to New England as a slave, and published her first poem while still a teenager. (9.2)
36. Fritz, Jean. *Brady* Set in Pennsylvania in 1836, this story is from the point of view of station masters/conductors on the Underground Railroad. Brady, the young son of a conductor, has discovered that people in his town, and even some members of his family are helping freedom seekers. His father does not trust him with the secret and he must prove himself. (5.6 B.L.)

37. Rinaldi, Ann. *Mine Eyes Have Seen* In the summer of 1859, fifteen-year-old Annie travels to the Maryland farm where her father, John Brown, is secretly assembling his provisional army prior to their raid on the United States arsenal at nearby Harpers Ferry. (4.1 B.L.)
38. Rinaldi, Ann. *Numbering All the Bones* Thirteen-year-old Eulinda, a house slave on a Georgia plantation in 1864, turns to Clara Barton, the eventual founder of the American Red Cross, for help in finding her brother Neddy who ran away to join the Northern war effort and is rumored to be at Andersonville Prison. (4.2 B.L.)
- 39 Steele, William. *Perilous Road* This Newbery Honor book powerfully illustrates the sacrifices and waste of war and the true meaning of courage and tolerance. Chris, a Tennessee mountain boy, hates the Union army because Yankee riders have stolen his family's newly harvested crops and their only horse. In spite of this, Chris' brother joins the Union army, and his parents refuse to take either side. (4.7 B.L.)
40. Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever 1793* Philadelphia was the capital of the United States in 1793, the hub of the nation and the seat of President George Washington's government. Mattie, her mother, Lucinda, and Eliza, a member of the Free African Society run an inn in the city. Mattie's grandfather a veteran of the Revolutionary War also lives with them. When the yellow fever epidemic hits the wealthy flee the city and others are left to cope with the fear, ignorance and death the deadly disease brings. Mattie grows up quickly. The book is based on careful research with a fascinating and exciting story to tell. (4.4 B.L.)