

MORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST
GRADE 8 - 2017
Mustangs Who Read Succeed!

All Morton Middle School students are required to read two books over the summer from the approved list and take an Accelerated Reader (AR) test upon their return to school. Students may earn extra credit for language arts class for reading a third book from the list and passing an AR test. Our diverse summer reading list consists of books from a variety of genres and reading levels, as well as a middle grades interest level. Below, please find the list of approved books and the AR point value at the end of each title. Happy reading!

1. ***The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics*** (9 points) - Daniel James Brown. This nonfiction book details the inspirational background story of the eight-oar crew from the University of Washington who, unexpectedly, went on to capture gold at the 1936 Olympics.
2. ***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler*** (7 points) - Pedersen, Knud and the Churchill Club. This nonfiction book details a group of teens who established the Churchill Club. The book explores the numerous actions the young men took to sabotage the Nazis which led to them becoming war heroes.
3. ***Chinese Cinderella*** (8 points) - Mah, Adeline Yen. After the death of her mother, Adeline endures a life of abuse from her family. Read this memoir to learn about the challenges she faced growing up in China.
4. ***A Dog's Purpose*** (13 points) - Cameron, Bruce. The true bond between man and his best friend is explored in a beautifully written dog's point of view novel that captures the many lives of one dog.
5. ***Fast Break*** (9 points) - Lupica, Mike. This is another uplifting and sports action filled book by this author. The main character, Jayson, is left homeless after the death of his mom. He does his best to avoid the foster care system, but once he's caught stealing, his life changes forever when he's placed in a foster home with the Lawtons on the other side of town. There he has to cope with a new home, new basketball teammates, and a new school, all while trying to achieve his goal of playing college ball.
6. ***Four Miles to Pinecone*** (2 points) - Hassler, Jon. This realistic fiction book is a page turner! After witnessing his best friend steal from a store where Tom works, this short novel deals with the main character's inner conflict to do the right thing or to take the easy way out.

7. **Frankenstein (unabridged)** (17 points) - Shelley, Mary. A chilling classic book about Victor, a curious individual who comes up with the idea of recreating life after it has been destroyed. Victor regrets making his creation after the monster causes destruction to those around him.
8. **Izzy Willy Nilly** (12 points) - Voight, Cynthia. Izzy has it all: beauty, brains, friends, poise, and popularity, but when she makes the poor choice to get inside a vehicle driven by a boy who's been drinking, her life is changed forever. This is a book all about growing wise, making tough choices, and, though no longer having it all, being able to put it all together.
9. **Little Women (unabridged)** (15 points) - Alcott, Louisa May. This favorite classic novel gives the reader a glimpse into the life of a nineteenth-century family in New England during the Civil War. Four sisters share their lessons of poverty, dreams, pranks, and courtships.
10. **Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl** (1 point) - Bolden, Tonya. Based on an actual memoir, readers learn about the struggles of Maritcha, an African American child born free in New York City during the time period of slavery.
11. **Maze Runner Series** (AR points vary based on each book in the series.) - Dashner, James. Read any of the books in the *Maze Runner* science fiction trilogy or Prequel. When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers--boys whose memories are also gone--and in a place that is riddled with puzzle and peril. So begins this fast-paced trilogy that will keep readers turning pages as Thomas desperately seeks to find his way out of this nightmare. Suspense and mystery abound!
12. **The Mother-Daughter Book Club Series** (AR points vary based on each book in the series.) - Frederick, Heather Vogel. Read any of the seven books in this delightful series about a few mothers who force their daughters to join a book club to the dismay of their daughters who aren't even friends. The humorous twists and turns, pranks, and struggles in the lives of the book club daughters are highly entertaining! The club members mature from middle school to the end of high school throughout the series, and each book focuses on a different Classic novel as the topic of book club.
13. **The Prince and the Pauper (unabridged)** (12 points) - Twain, Mark. A classic tale about two boys who resemble each other in appearance, but one is born in poverty and the other is born in royalty. The plot becomes interesting as they trade places in life by exchanging identities.
14. **Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March** - (1 point) - Lowery, Lynda Blackmon. The author of this book was the youngest participant at the historic voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. This memoir recounts her story of this day in history.
15. **War Heroes: Voices from Iraq** (7 points) - Zullo, Allan. This nonfiction book details ten incredible tales from the Iraq War. Readers will learn about the American heroes who risked their lives serving their country.