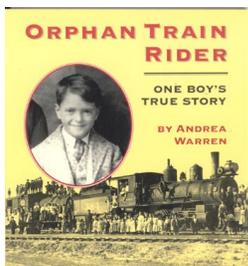


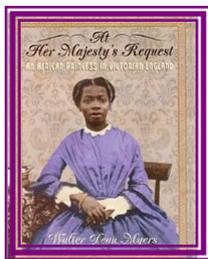
## Entering Grade 6 choose ONE title :

Pharaoh's Boat by David Weitzman  
The Frog Scientist by Pamela S. Turner  
Quest for the Tree Kangaroo by Sy Montgomery  
How Angel Peterson Got His Name: and Other Out-  
rageous Tales About Extreme Sports by Gary  
Paulsen  
Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges  
Duke Ellington: giant of Jazz by Wendie C. Old  
Changing Places: A Kid's View of Shelter Living  
by Chalofsky, Finland and Wallace  
Orphan Train Rider by Andrea Warren  
Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo  
by Zlanta Filipov  
Blizzard by Jim Murphy  
My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen



## Entering Grade 7 choose ONE title:

Truce: the Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting  
by Jim Murphy  
A Savage Thunder: Antietam and the Bloody Road to  
Freedom by Jim Murphy  
Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know  
About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser  
Snakes, Snakes, and More Snakes by Dr. Robert Mason  
At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in  
Victorian England by Walter  
Dean Myers

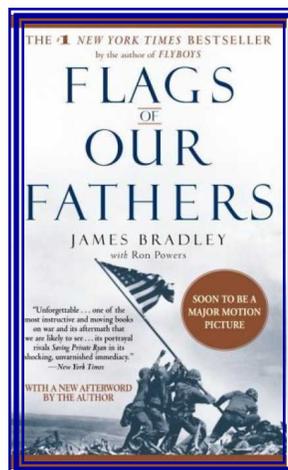


## Entering Grade 7 cont'd:

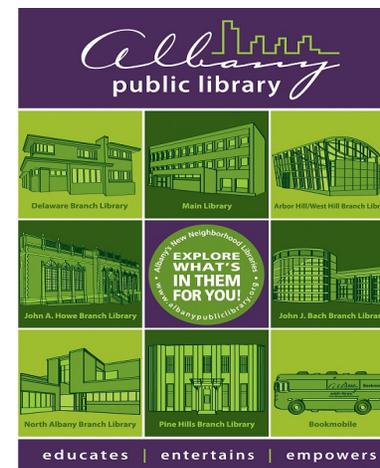
Commodore Perry in the Land of the Shogun  
by Rhonda Blumberg  
Castles by Philip Steele  
Knots in My Yo-Yo String by Jerry Spinelli  
Amos Fortune: Free Man by Elizabeth Yates  
The World of King Arthur and His Court  
by Kevin Crossley-Holland  
Queen Eleanor: Independent Spirit of the Medieval  
World by Polly Schoyer

## Entering Grade 8 choose ONE title:

Albert Einstein by Kathleen Krull  
Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima  
by James Bradley  
The Greatest: Muhammad Ali by Walter Dean Myers  
Childtime: A Three Generation Memoir  
by Eloise Greenfield  
The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk  
About the Civil War by Jim Murphy  
Behind Barbed Wire: by Daniel S. Davis  
Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the  
Holocaust by Milton Meltzer  
Black Hands, White Sails by Patricia C. McKissack  
To Be a Slave by Julius Lester  
A Great and Glorious Game: Baseball Writings  
by A. Bartlett Giamatti  
Immigrant Kids by Russell Freedman



**Albany Public Library**  
<http://www.albanypubliclibrary.org/locations/>



OTHER "FUN SUMMER PROJECTS" CAN  
BE LOCATED AT

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/>

### Book Stores

Book House: <http://www.bhny.com/>

### Barnes & Nobles:

<http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/store/2275>

### Borders:

[http://www.borders.com/online/store/StoreDetailView\\_471](http://www.borders.com/online/store/StoreDetailView_471)

### Amazon:

<http://amazon.com>



## Summer Writing Assignments for All students entering Grades 6-8:

Students entering grades 6-8 are asked to keep a writing journal while reading their selected non-fiction text. Graphic organizers are also excellent tools that will help students retain information about their summer reading. A variety of graphic organizers can be located on our district website

<http://albanschools.org/>

\*\*click on "academics" (top left)

\*\*click on summer reading (lower right)



*Students will be required to write a modified critical lens response essay in the fall .*

## Summer Reading Tips for Parents

### **Read aloud together with your child everyday.**

Make it fun by reading outdoors on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Let your child read to you.

### **Set a good example.**

Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the TV and have each person read his or her book, including mom and dad.

### **Read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.**

This is the way to develop habit of the mind and build capacity for thought and insight.

### **Buy books on tape.**

Listen to them in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together.

### **Take your children to the library regularly.**

Check the library calendar for special summer reading activities and events.

Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading.

### **Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines like Highlights for Children or National Geographic World.**

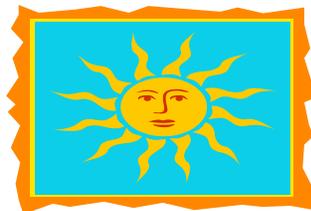
Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines, to keep up the reading habit over the summer. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.

### **Make trips a way to encourage reading by reading aloud traffic signs, billboards, notices.**

Show your children how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.

### **Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook.**

Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them aloud as you look at the book together.



# Albany City School District Middle School Summer Reading List 2011



## Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Summer is a wonderful time for children. It is a time of freedom, exploration and learning. Summer should also be a time for children to enjoy reading and continue to practice skills learned in the classroom. Just like swimming or throwing a baseball, reading is a skill that improves with practice.

This year, our required summer reading for students entering grades 6-8 will focus on non-fiction. Rather than ask students to read a specific non-fiction title, this year students will choose from a list of text the title they wish to read over the summer.

The books in this brochure are available at your public libraries and local bookstores. Although we are requesting students read non-fiction from our list, we recommend they read additional genres to keep them reading all summer.

Albany City Schools is working to ensure high standards and high achievement for every student in every classroom with literacy as a priority at all grade levels. We expect our students to work hard at reading and writing and to keep reading year-round. We need the support and encouragement of families to help us reach the goal of every student becoming a life-long reader.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

Secondary ELA Supervisor,  
Margaret E. DiGiulio