



**An AVID School**  
Panther POTENTIAL is Limitless

**EXTRA CREDIT**  
**Summer Reading Program 2023**  
**Watson B. Duncan Middle School**

Summer is a great time for your student to engage in reading for enjoyment. According to research, students who read over the summer experience less learning loss and return to school better prepared to continue their learning. Reading is one of the most effective ways to enrich vocabulary and expand cognitive skills.

Please see the attached documents explaining Watson B. Duncan's reading activity suggestions. For the extra credit assignment, students will choose one of the projects to complete and turn in to their ELA teacher on the first week of school. Extra credit earned will be part of the student's ELA grade for the first nine-week grading period.

We encourage students to read a book from our attached Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) list, however, students may also read a book of their own choice. The new SSYRA books are already available on the MackinVia tile in the student portal, along with other great titles. The public libraries also have the SSYRA titles and much more. Our main goal is that students set aside time to enjoy books that interest them.

In addition to the reading suggestions, our current upcoming 7th and 8th grade students can still access Reading Plus until July 31st. Students can also earn extra credit by working in Reading Plus over the summer. Information and directions are attached.

Thank you in advance for encouraging your student to read during the summer.

Yours in education,  
Mary Raiford, Assistant Principal  
Martha Griffith, ELA Chair  
Kathleen Boutte, Media Specialist

## Watson B. Duncan Middle School Extra Credit Summer Reading Program 2023

Welcome to the Watson B. Duncan Middle School Summer Reading Program. We are hoping all students will choose to participate - this includes incoming 6th graders, new, and returning students. Read a novel from our suggested list or one that you choose, and then complete **one** of the projects below. The project must have the title and author of the book clearly marked, as well as the student's name. During the first week of school, students will turn in projects to their English Language Arts teachers. This is a great opportunity to earn extra credit for the first nine week period.

**COLLAGE PROJECT:** Specifically comment on characterization, plot, and theme.

Step 1: Design a digital or paper poster and create a collage by finding pictures, whole words, or phrases (5 words or less) in magazines and newspapers. Each word, phrase, or picture should relate to the characters, setting, plot, and/or theme of your book. Neatly arrange these in a purposeful way to create your collage.

Step 2: Include an explanation of each image, word, or phrase and specifically explain the connection to characterization, plot or theme. Attach this page to the back of the collage and make sure your name is on it.

**WRITING PROJECT:** Please print a hard copy (preferably typed) to turn in the first week of school.

Step 1: Write an alternate ending or prologue to the novel you read. It must be a minimum of 300 words, preferably typed. Use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. You must include elements from the plot in your writing so that your alternate ending/prologue has a connection to the overall story.

Step 2: Write one to two paragraphs explaining whether or not you liked the novel and why. Use specific details from the story to support your answer. This can be added to the bottom of Step 1 or stapled to it.

### **POSTER PROJECT:**

Create a **poster** or a digital creation displaying the following information from the novel using text and images:

1. Book title and author's name
2. Characters: Include physical description, character traits and an important quote they said in the story.
3. Setting: Use complete sentences to describe where and when the story takes place.
4. Conflict: Use complete sentences and write at least one paragraph explaining the major conflict of the story.
5. Theme: Use complete sentences and write at least one paragraph explaining one of the major themes (life lessons) of the story. Cite textual evidence from the novel to support your explanation.
6. Review: Use complete sentences and write at least one paragraph explaining whether or not you liked the book and why. Would you recommend it to a friend?

### **ADDITIONAL EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY:**

In addition to the required reading project, students may also earn extra credit for completing SeeReaders in Reading Plus. Complete a total of at least 8 SeeReaders and fill in the attached reading log. The reading log must be turned in to your Language Arts teacher the first week of school for additional extra credit.

## Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2023-2024 List for Grades 6-8



### **96 Miles by J. L. Esplin**

Twenty-one days without power. Two brothers on a desperate trek. Seventy-Two hours before time runs out. The Lockwood brothers are supposed to be able to survive anything. Their dad, a hardcore believer in self-reliance has stockpiled enough food and water at their isolated Nevada home to last for months. But when they are robbed of their supplies during a massive blackout while their dad was out of town, John and Stew must walk 96 miles in the stark desert sun to get help. Along the way, they're forced to question their dad's insistence on self-reliance and ask just what it is that we owe to our neighbors, to our kin, and to ourselves.



### **Born Behind Bars by Padma Venkatraman**

Kabir has been in jail since the day he was born!. His mom is serving time for a crime she didn't commit. He's never met his dad so the only family he has are their cellmates. The only place he feels the least bit free is in the classroom where his kind teacher regales him with stories of the wonders of the outside world. He escapes from an uncle that plans to sell him and runs away as fast as his legs will carry him. This is not the world Kabir dreamed of but he's discovered that he's not the type to give up. Kabir is ready to show the world that he and his mother deserve a place in it.



### **A Duet for Home by Karina Yan Glaser**

It's June's first day at Huey House, and as if losing her home weren't enough, she also can't bring her cherished viola inside. Before the accident last year, her dad saved tip money for a year to buy her viola, and she's not about to give it up now. Tyrell has been at Huey House for three years and gives June a good glimpse of the good things about living there; friendship, hot meals, and a classical musician next door. Can he and June work together to oppose the government, or will families be forced out of Huey House before they are ready?



### **Escape by K. R. Alexander**

Westworld meets Charlie and the Chocolate Factory meets Jurassic Park as kids win a chance to enter the place of their dreams and finds that it quickly turns into a nightmare. It's all anyone talks about and it's all Cody dreams about. It's the biggest adventure park in the world, and it's more than mere rides and roller coasters. At ESCAPE, you can do anything you want, be anyone you want, and there are no adults to tell you no. Simulations turn deadly. His fantasy world glitches, and the games become races for survival!



### **Hush-A-Bye by Jody Lee Mott**

Like most kids with younger siblings, Lucy loves her sister Antonia, but is all too frequently annoyed with her as well. The two spend most of their time together since their mother works so hard. Without friends, Lucy can't help but feel lonely. She's always tried to ignore the bullying and teasing at school about her family being poor. When the girls find the old muddy doll head in the river, Antonio claims it as her newest treasure. At night Lucy hears her talking to Hush-a-Bye and does she hear the doll talking back? Find out what happens in this creepy but exciting mystery!



### **Invisible by Christina Diaz Gonzalez**

Can five overlooked kids make one big difference? There's George: the brain, Sara: the loner, Dayara: the tough kid, Nico: the rich kid and Miguel: the athlete. They're stuck together when they're forced to complete their school's community service hours. Although they're sure they have nothing in common with one another, some people see them as all the same, just five Spanish-speaking kids. Then they meet someone who truly needs their help, and they must decide whether they are each willing to expose their own secrets to help or if remaining invisible is the only way to survive middle school.



### **Linked by Gordon Korman**

Linked is set in Chokecherry, Colorado, a small town where everyone knows everyone and all the students have been together since Kindergarten. There are a few new kids, one of whom is Jewish, whose parents work as paleontologists digging for dinosaur fossils in town. The small town is thrown into an uproar when a swastika is painted in the school building. Dana, Michael and Caroline are dealing with the impact of the swastikas and working to create six million paper links to represent the Jews killed in the Holocaust. Read to find out who was responsible and why!



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### **Long Lost by Jacqueline West**

A mysterious book leads a girl into a century-old supernatural mystery. When Fiona's family moves across Massachusetts to Lost Lake, a small town that's far closer to her older sisters Arden's figure skating club, Fiona resents both being uprooted and the constant focus on her accomplished sibling. Find out what happens when another set of sisters from long ago are introduced to the equation.



### **The Monster Missions by Laura Martin**

Berkeley and her best friend, Garth, live on an old cruise ship, scavenging for supplies from drowned cities left behind on the ocean floor after the sea swallowed up all the land. They think they've seen every kind of aquatic creature, but they never expected to find sea monsters. After awakening a Hydra, Berkeley and Garth are sent to live on a submarine, where they study and hunt sea monsters. But the Hydra wants revenge on their home ship, and if it succeeds, their families will go down with it. They must find a way to save the ship! Will they succeed?



### **Scout is Not a Band Kid by Jade Armstrong**

When Scout learns that her favorite author is doing an exclusive autograph session at the end of the year, she's determined to be there! She officially needs a plan, and when she finds out that her school's band is heading to the same location for their annual trip, an idea takes shape. Being a band kid can't be that hard, right? As it turns out, learning how to play an instrument when you can't even read music is much, much, MUCH tougher than expected. Will she be able to master the trombone, and get to her favorite author's book signing? Find out by reading *Scout is Not a Band Kid*!



### **Skandar and the Unicorn Thief by A. F. Steadman**

Mainlanders believed unicorns were only a myth. But when the islanders revealed their secret, unicorns are real, mainlanders learned "unicorns don't belong in fairy tales; they belong in nightmares." Unicorns are dangerous, bloodthirsty and immortal. They become slightly less vicious when bonded with a rider so destined children are found and trained to channel the magical creature's magic. At 13, children take the Hatchery exam and those who pass may attempt "to open the Hatchery door on the Island" and find a unicorn egg. Skandar has watched years of rider/unicorn pairs competing in the Chaos Cup and dreams of joining their ranks. Will he be given the chance to make his dreams come true?



### **Treasure Tracks by S. A. Rodriguez**

Fernando "Fin" joins his grandfather on a secret quest to find a long-lost treasure swept to sea. But when their first mission takes a near-deadly turn, leaving his abuelo weak and unable to speak, Fin's left to navigate the hunt alone. With danger lurking at every turn, Fin dives into the mission in order to save abuelo's life. If he can't succeed, will he lose abuelo for good? Find out how this story ends in *Treasure Tracks*!



### **Valentina Salazar is NOT a Monster Hunter by Zoraida Cordova**

It takes a special person to end up in detention on the last day of school. It takes a really special person to accidentally burn down the school yard while chasing a fire-breathing chipmunk. But nothing about Valentina has ever been normal. The Salazars are protectors, tasked with rescuing the magical creatures who sometimes wander into our world, from grumpy unicorns to chupacabras to the occasional fire-breathing chipmunk. Read this book to find out what Valentina is up to next!



### **Wayward Creatures by Dayna Lorentz**

Twelve-year-old Gabe doesn't know where he belongs anymore. His family is caught up in their own lives and his friends barely have time for him now that they're stars on the soccer team. In a desperate plea for attention to impress his friends after school, Gabe sets off fireworks in the wood near his house and causes a small forest fire that destroys several acres of land. In the chaos of the destruction, a coyote named Rill, tired of her family and longing for adventure, finds herself far from home. Find out how Gabe and Rill cross paths to become friends and discover where you belong in the world.



### **Winnie Zeng Unleashes a Legend by Katie Zhao**

Winnie Zeng has two goals: survive her first year of middle school and outdo her stuck-up archnemesis, David Zuo. It won't be easy, since, according to her older sister, middle school is the pits. Luckily Winnie studied middle school survival tactics in comic books and anime. Nothing will stop her from being the very best student. But none of Winnie's research has prepared her to face the mother of all hurdles: evil spirits. When she makes mooncakes for a class bake sale, she awakens the stuff of legends from her grandmother's old cookbook, spilling otherworldly chaos into her sleepy town. Read this book to find out what Winnie has to do to keep her town and the world from falling into chaos.

