

Required Summer Reading List for Incoming Seventh Graders 2009

**Braintree Public Schools
Required Summer Reading
June 2009**

Students Entering Grade 7

Fiction

Crash by Jerry Spinelli Seventh-grade football sensation Crash Coogan torments his nerdy neighbor, Penn Webb, until he realizes that Penn is actually to be admired.

It's Not Easy Being Bad by Cynthia Voigt Now that they're in seventh grade, Mikey and Margalo decide it's time to be popular—or, at least, time to be less unpopular. Mikey's first attempt to crack seventh-grade society ends, predictably, in disaster, but undaunted, the friends persevere.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos Joey has ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) and is trying to get a grip on his behavior. His life is a roller coaster ride with mishaps at home and at school.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli The newest girl in school calls herself Stargirl, plays the ukulele, and attends the funerals of strangers. At first, everyone wants to be like her, but after a while the students just want her to be like everyone else.

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick A stunning young adult novel by Rodman Philbrick that tells the heartwrenching story of two special ed boys who pair up to form a unique and empowering friendship. Two boys a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force.

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colpher Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. With two trusty sidekicks in tow, he hatches a cunning plot to divest the fairyfolk of their pot of gold. (Amazon)

Nonfiction

Bull's Eye: A Photobiography of Annie Oakley by Susan Macy Annie Oakley used grace and grit to earn top billing in Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. Historical photographs and quotes bring this American icon to life.

Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane by Russell Freedman
Freedman tells the fascinating story of how two self-taught bicycle mechanics solve the problems that had baffled generations of scientists and engineers.

Fantasy/Science Fiction

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.

Note: If you like Joey Pigza, there is also Joey Pigza Loses Control. There are also other books in The Dark is Rising series. They include Over Sea, Under Stone, Greenwitch, The Grey King, and Silver on the Tree. Artemis Fowl is also the first in a series.