

Winthrop Middle School

Dear Future Eighth Graders:

You will soon be on summer break. Everyone at Winthrop Middle School hopes that you have a safe and happy vacation. We do, however, expect that you keep working on your skills and return in September ready to go to work.

SUMMER READING LIST

Every year each student is required to read **two** books over the summer.

As you read each book, be sure to do the required assignments. These will be two of the first marks you will receive in September toward your first report card grade. This is an enjoyable and easy way to start off the year with two A's. Fill in the attached book report form for the both books that you have selected and bring it with you on the first day in September.

STUDENT SUPPLY LIST---SEPTEMBER 2014

Students entering eighth grade should bring the following items to school when they report in September:

Pens and pencils	Scotch tape, glue sticks
A clear protractor	200 Index Cards (3"X 5")
A flash drive	Crayons or colored pencils
4 one-inch binders with lined paper	Markers (washable/NOT PERMANENT)
Hand sanitizer	Self-sticking reinforcements
An inch/centimeter ruler	Book covers
A small package of graph paper	4 highlighters (different colors)
10 plastic sheet protectors	1 ream of printer paper
Zipper style pencil pouch with 3 holes	1 Box of tissues
A Scientific calculator (TI-30X is preferred.)	

(over)

All students must choose two of the following to read and use to complete the attached book reports on separate lined paper to be collected during the first week of September.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Carl Hiaasen (Basket Case, etc.) plunges readers right into the middle of an ecological mystery, made up of endangered miniature owls, the Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House scheduled to be built over their burrows, and the owls' unlikely allies--three middle school kids determined to beat the screwed-up adult system

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Meg's father mysteriously disappears after experimenting with the fifth dimension of time travel. Determined to rescue him, Meg and her friends must outwit the forces of evil on a heart-stopping journey through space and time.

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who wanted to be left alone in quiet comfort. But the wizard Gandalf came along with a band of homeless dwarves. Soon Bilbo was drawn into their quest, facing evil orcs, savage wolves, giant spiders, and worse unknown dangers.

Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Don't leave earth without this story of the end of the world and the happy-go-lucky days that follow.

Slam! by Walter Dean Myers

For 16-year-old Sam, life is about to get extremely complicated. He and his girlfriend—make that ex-girlfriend—Alicia have gotten themselves into a bit of trouble. Sam is suddenly forced to grow up and struggle with the familiar fears and inclinations that haunt us all.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school...again. And that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect.

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman

Sixteen-year-old Brent Bishop is sent on an unusual journey of repentance--building wind toys across the land--after he inadvertently causes the death of a young woman.

Uglies by Scott Westerfield

Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

The Pox Party (The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing) by MT Anderson

It sounds like a fairy tale. He is a boy dressed in silks and white wigs and given the finest of classical educations. Raised by a group of rational philosophers known only by numbers, the boy and his mother — a princess in exile from a faraway land — are the only persons in their household assigned names. As the boy's regal mother, Cassiopeia, entertains the house scholars with her beauty and wit, young Octavian begins to question the purpose behind his guardians' fanatical studies. Only after he dares to open a forbidden door does he learn the hideous nature of their experiments — and his own chilling role in them.

Name _____ Date _____

Book Title _____ Author _____

Genre _____

STORY MAP – Grade 8

PROTAGONIST (MAIN CHARACTER)

Name the protagonist:

Identify two **physical** traits (age, appearance, size, etc.):

- 1.
- 2.

Three **personality** traits

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did the character change?

SETTING

Describe the place and time of the story.

THEME

Explain the theme, message, or main idea.

PLOT/SUMMARY

1. Describe the beginning events in the story. (rising action)
2. Explain the conflict. Is it internal (man vs. self) or external (man vs. man, nature, society)
3. List the major events including the climax of the story.
4. Explain how the main problem/conflict is solved. (resolution)

Choose one

1. Make a text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world connection to the story.
- or**
2. Describe your favorite part of the book.