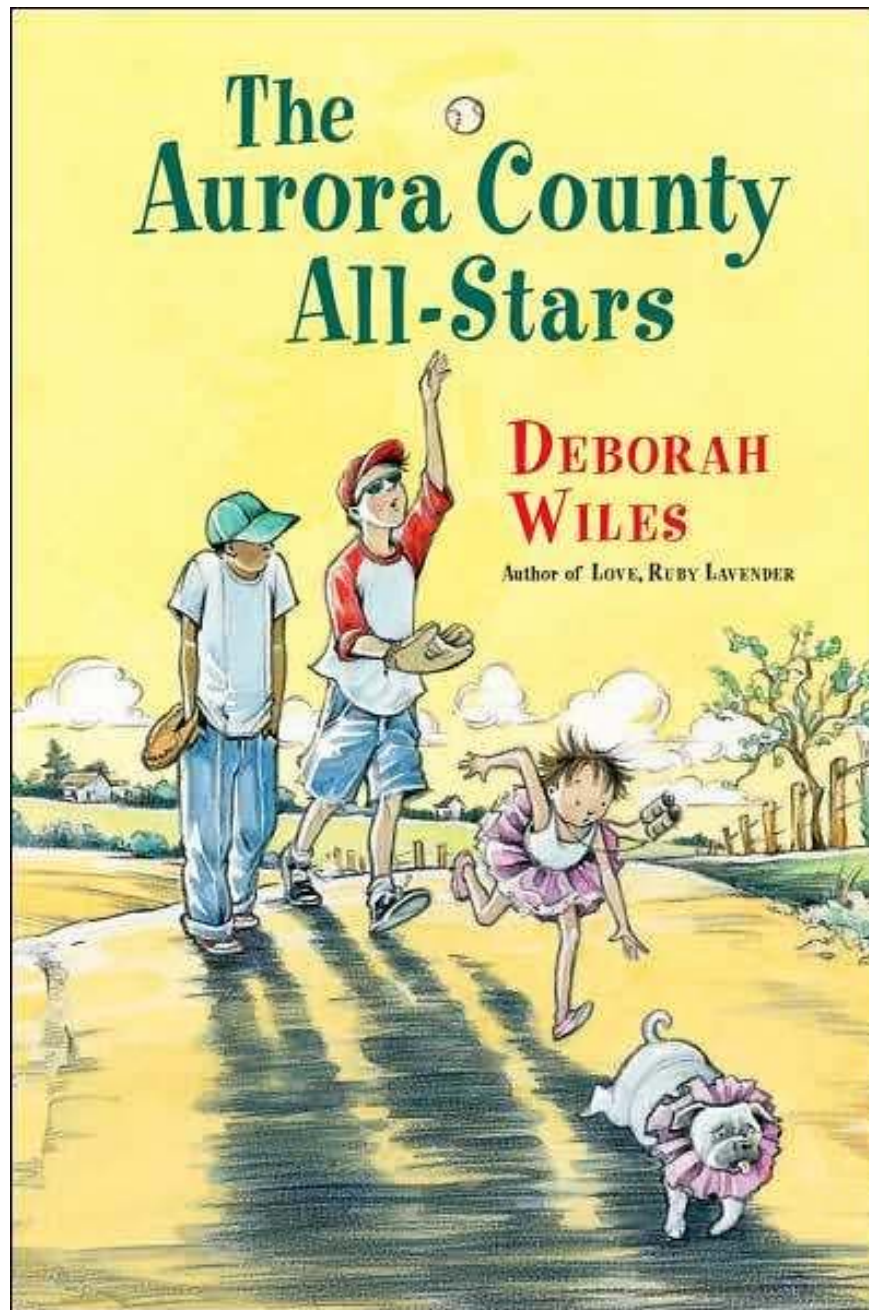


Natick Public Schools
Middle School Summer Reading 2009

Students Entering Grade 6

The Aurora County All-Stars

by
Deborah Wiles



Summer 2009

The Aurora County All-Stars

by
Deborah Wiles

Twelve-year-old House Jackson--star pitcher and team captain of the Aurora County All-Stars--has been sidelined for a whole sorry year with a broken elbow. He's finally ready to play, but wouldn't you know that the team's *only* game of the year has been scheduled for the exact same time as the town's 200th-anniversary pageant. Now House must face the pageant's director, full-of-herself Frances Shotz (his nemesis and perpetrator of the elbow break), and get his team out of this mess. There's also the matter of a mysterious old recluse who has died and left House a wheezy old dog named Eudora Welty--and a puzzling book of poetry by someone named Walt Whitman. Through the long, hot month of June, House makes surprising and valuable discoveries about family, friendship, poetry . . . and baseball.

Amazon.com

About the Author

DEBORAH WILES is the author of *Each Little Bird That Sings*, a National Book Award finalist and winner of the E. B. White Read Aloud Award for Older Readers, and *Love, Ruby Lavender*, an ALA Notable Children's Book, a Children's Book Sense 76 Pick, and a New York Public Library Book for Reading and Sharing. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia. www.deborahwiles.com

Amazon.com

As you read The Aurora County All-Stars, think about the following:



House discovers that just about everyone in Aurora County Mississippi has a secret. What secrets are they keeping? Why do you think they keep these secrets?



Deborah Wiles includes quotes from Walt Whitman's poetry, quips from professional baseball players and articles from the Aurora County News throughout the story. Why do you think she decided to write this way? Did this technique enhance your reading experience? Why or why not?



How did House react to the startling facts he discovered about the struggle for civil rights in baseball? How did you react?



TRY THIS!!! Deborah Wiles includes a map of House's neighborhood so the reader is able to visualize the setting of the story. Draw a map of YOUR neighborhood including places that are important to you.

All students entering *Grade 6* are required to read **The Aurora County All-Stars** by Deborah Wiles. In addition, incoming sixth graders are responsible for reading **at least two other titles**. These books may be selected from the suggestions offered here, or they may be books you've discovered with your family or friends.

Please bring this list with you on the first day of school and submit it to your homeroom teacher.

TITLE	AUTHOR	STUDENT SIGNATURE	PARENT SIGNATURE
The Aurora County All-Stars	Deborah Wiles		
1.			
2.			

List additional titles on a separate sheet as necessary.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME HERE

How to Use This Guide

When making decisions about your **two** additional summer reading selections, consider reading a variety of books. You will find suggestions for your summer reading listed accordingly:

<i>New and Notable</i>	-recently released titles
<i>Genre Lists</i>	-titles from your favorite genre or others
<i>Massachusetts Frameworks</i>	-titles and authors from The Massachusetts Frameworks are indicated with an *. The complete Frameworks list can be viewed at www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/ela/601.pdf

Entering Grade 6 Summer Reading

New and Notable

Battle of the Labrinth/Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan

The Penderwicks on Gardam Street by Jeanne Birdsall

Keeping Score by Linda Sue Park

You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! By Jonah Winter and Andre Carrilho

Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Free Baseball by Sue Corbett

Good Masters, Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz*

Under the Baseball Moon by John Ritter

Three Cups of Tea (Young Reader's Edition) by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things by Lenore Look

The Brooklyn Nine by Adam Gratz

The Prince of Fenway Park by Juliana Baggott

Scat by Carl Hiaasen

Brooklyn Bridge by Karen Hesse

Realistic Fiction

Swindle by Gordon Korman
A Bear Named Trouble by Marion Dane Bauer
Fairest by Gail Carson Levine
Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata
Room One by Andrew Clements
Darby by Jonathan Scott Fuqua
On the Wings of Heroes by Richard Peck
Alabama Moon by Watt Key
How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor
Rules by Cynthia Lord (Newbery Honor Book for 2007)
Small Steps by Louis Sachar
Flush by Carl Hiaasen
Ida B by Katherine Hannigan
Heat by Mike Lupica
The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall
Our Only May Amelia by Jennifer Holm
Each Little Bird That Sings by Deborah Wiles
The Pepins and Their Problems by Polly Horvath
Boston Jane-Wilderness Jane-The Claim, a trilogy by Jennifer Holm
Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath
Belle Prater's Boy by Ruth White
*Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
*Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech
Love, Ruby Lavender by Deborah Wiles
*The Fudge series by Judy Blume
Travel Team by Mike Lupica
Sahara Special by Esme Raji Codell
The Revealers by Doug Wilhelm
Listening for Lions by Gloria Whelan

Fantasy

Titan's Curse by Rick Riordan
Sea of Monsters by Rick Riordan
Secret of Platform 13 by Eva Ibbotson
Once Upon a Marigold by Jean Ferris
*The Book of Three series by Lloyd Alexander
*The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
*The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
The City of Ember by Jeanne Duprau
Ranger's Apprentice 1: The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan
The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

Goose Chase by Patricia Kindl

Eragon and Eldest by Christopher Paolini

*Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine

Mystery/Adventure

The Wright 3 by Blue Balliett

Peppermints in the Parlor by Barbara Brooks Wallace

*The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken

101 Dalmations by Dodie Smith

*My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

*Diamond in the Window (Hall Family Chronicle series) by Jane Langton

*The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park

Regarding the Sink by Kate Klise

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

Following Fake Man by Barbara Ware Holmes

Shakespeare's Secret by Elise Broach

Historical Fiction

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

*Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

The Teacher's Funeral by Richard Peck

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

Willow Run by Patricia Reilly Giff

Listening for Lions by Gloria Whelan

Worth by A. LaFaye

Code Talkers: A Novel About the Navaho Marines of WWII by Joseph Bruchac

Nonfiction and Biography

A Strong Right Arm by Michelle Green and Mamie Johnson

Sing a Song of Tuna Fish by Esme Raji Codell

*Leonardo's Horse by Jean Fritz

The Big Dig: Reshaping an American City by Peter Vandewarker

Tibet Through the Red Box by Peter Sis

*Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science by John Fleishman

How To Talk To Your Dog by Jean Craighead George

How To Talk To Your Cat by Jean Craighead George

Folklore

- *American Tall Tales by Mary Pope Osborne
- *The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales by Virginia Hamilton
- *Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling

Five Star Classics

- *Charlotte's Web by EB White
- *The Oz series by L. Frank Baum
- *Caddie Woodlawn by Carl Ryrie Brink
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
- *The Little House on the Prairie series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- The Shoe Books by Noel Streatfield
- Homer Price by Robert McCloskey
- *The Reluctant Dragon by Kenneth Grahame