

# Summer Reading 2011

Natick Public Schools  
Grade 5-8



# A message from Dr. Sanchioni



Dear Families,

Summer can be a season full of good times and fun memories, but did you know that kids may experience learning losses when they don't read during the summer? There's actually a name for it: the summer slide (and that isn't the one at the park).

So what can you do as a parent to help STOP the summer slide?

Here's one simple solution! Studies show that children who read four or more books over the summer do better on reading tests in the fall than those who read only one or no books over the summer.

I am excited by the books that Ms. Bishop (Kennedy) and Ms. Coleman (Wilson) have chosen as required titles to be read this summer. The storyline of each novel involves bullying at

# 4 Facts to Know About Summer Reading



For more, and to sign up for the Scholastic Summer Challenge, visit

## 1. *All It Takes Is Four*

Did you know? By reading four or more books over the summer, kids can avoid the "summer slide," or gap in academic skills, when they return to school in the fall.

## 2. *Let Them Choose*

Forget asking kids to read the latest Newbery tearjerker. According to a Scholastic survey, 91 percent of kids are more likely to finish books they choose themselves. We selected one title for students; they choose at least three more.

## 3. *Top of the Tests*

Kids who read a million words a year score in the top 2 percent on standardized tests. A million words may sound like a lot, but it's only about 25 average-length novels.

## 4. *Big Vocabularies*

Kids learn 4,000-12,000 new words every year reading. That means three months without books can make a huge difference in their vocabularies and test scores.

# Required Reading for Each Grade Level

Every student entering grades five through eight is required to read **four books** this summer.

**Three** of these books may be selected from

- Common Core State Curriculum  
[Suggested Reading Lists](#)
- Recommendations from a favorite book seller or librarian
- Recommendations from family and friends
- *The Natick Middle School New and Notable List*

**In addition, each student is required to read his/her grade level title.**



# Entering Grade 5

## Loser by Jerry Spinelli



There are winners everywhere .... The sidewalks. The backyards. The alleyways. The playgrounds ...

*Except for Zinkoff. Zinkoff never wins. But Zinkoff doesn't notice. Neither do the other pups.*

*Not yet.*

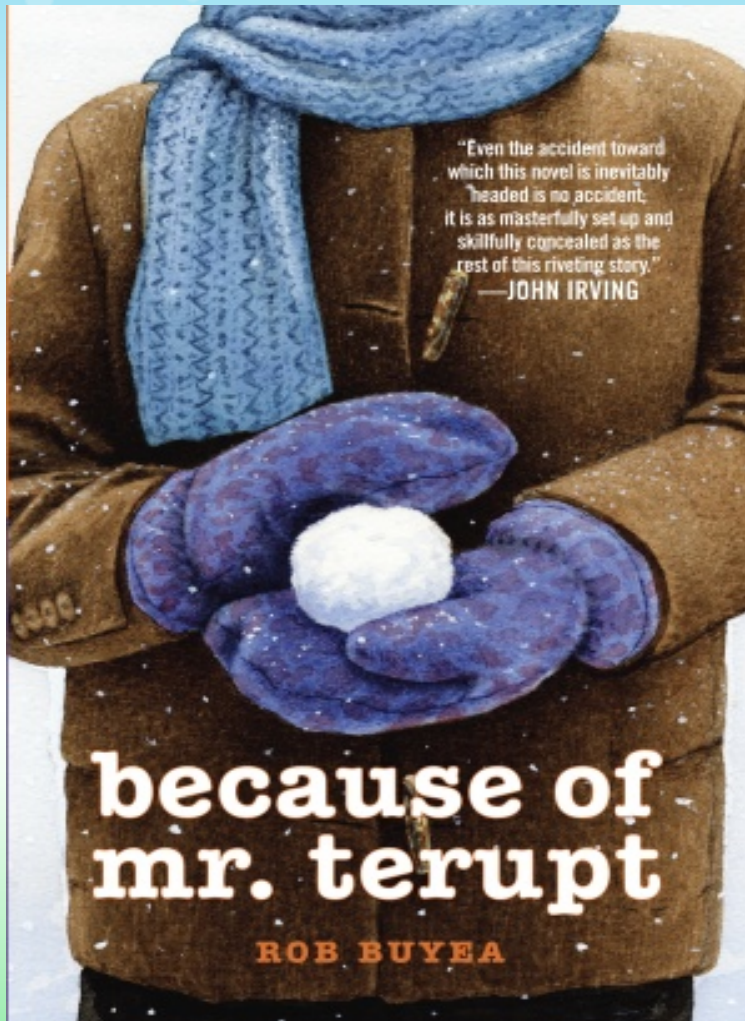
*Zinkoff is like all kids running, playing, riding his bike. Hoping for snow days, wanting to be his dad when he grows up.*

*Zinkoff is not like the other kids raising his hand with all the wrong answers, tripping over his own feet, falling down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." The kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it.*

*-Good Reads*

# Entering Grade 6

## Because of Mr. Terupt by Rick Buyea



It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's . . . **Jessica**, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; **Alexia**, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; **Peter**, class prankster and troublemaker; **Luke**, the brain; **Danielle**, who never stands up for herself; shy **Anna**, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and **Jeffrey**, who hates school.

Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn't let them get away with much . . . until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything—and everyone.

-Good Reads



# Entering Grade 8

## Egghead by Caroline Pignat



Will Reid is a gawky kid who wears fake turtlenecks, is obsessed by his ant farm project, and is lousy at gym. In other words, he's the perfect target for Shane, the Grade 9 bully. Katie has been Will's friend in elementary school, but defending him in the high school environment comes at an unforeseen cost - she dreads the rumours that link them in a boyfriend/girlfriend way she's never considered. Devan has been part of Shane's bullyboy team until now, when he comes to realize that it's not so smart to mindlessly back up each nasty attack of Shane's. Together the three young teens are struggling to find their way out of one of the classic dilemmas of life: how not to be a bystander to bullying, how to stand up for your friends, and how to deal with consuming rage.

-Good Reads

# Natick Middle School New & Notables

Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi

*2011 Prinz Award*

Mockingbird by Katherine Erskine

*2010 National Book Award*

The Dark Game by Paul Janeczko

*2011 YALSA Award Finalist*

The Storm in the Barn by Matt Phelan

*2010 Scott O'Dell Award*

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus

*2011 John Newbery Honor Book*

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes

*2011 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book*

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool

*2011 John Newbery Award*

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

*2011 Scott O'Dell Historical Fiction Award*

A Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger  
Science Made Easy series by Simon Basher  
Close to Famous by Joan Bauer  
The Penderwicks at Pointe Mouette by Jeanne Birdsall  
Missing on Superstition Mountain by Elise Broach  
The Lemonade Crime by Jacqueline Davies  
A Million Miles From Boston by Karen Day  
Wildfire Run by Dee Garretson  
The Genius Files by Dan Gutman  
Take Me to the River by Will Hobbs  
Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer Holm  
Crocodile Tears by Anthony Horowitz  
The Reinvention of Edison Thomas by Jacqueline Houtman  
Dirt Road Home by Watt Key

World Without Fish by Mark Kurlansky

Wild Wings by Gill Lewis

Touching Blue by Cynthia Lord

Faith, Hope, and Ivy June by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Word Nerd by Susin Nielsen

A Dog's Way Home by Bobbie Pyron

Turtle Soup and Tiramisu by A. E. Ramsay

Fever Crumb by Philip Reeve

One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street  
by Joanne Rocklin

Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys

As you read, think about the following questions:

- Identify the upstanders<sup>1</sup> and the bystanders<sup>2</sup> in the novel. Be prepared to explain your thinking.
- How did the conversations between characters reveal their personalities?
- What do you think motivated the bully in the novel?
- To which character do you most closely relate? Explain.
- Which character do you admire? Why?
- What did the author do to make this novel realistic?
- What did this author do especially well?

<sup>1</sup> a person who stands up for what he/she believes

<sup>2</sup> a person present but not involved



These questions are intended to encourage you to be a reflective reader. When you return to school in the Fall, your Language and Literacy teacher will discuss the questions in class. **While it is not required that you complete a written response**, you should be prepared to participate in a class discussion to share your thinking and learn about your classmates' ideas.

Record the titles of the books you read during the summer. Print this page and submit it to your Language and Literacy teacher when you return to school in the September.

Title	Author	Student Signature	Parent/Guardian Signature