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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Summer is a time for fun and relaxation...and a great opportunity to read! According to research, students who read during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills. However, students who do not read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skills.

We encourage students entering the **7th grade** to continue improving their reading skills by reading as much as possible over the summer months. All Millville seventh-grade students **are required to read one book** from the attached list. Many of these books are available from the Millville Public Library or may be purchased online or at a bookstore. Each student will be **evaluated** on the book he/she chooses for summer reading by completing one of the following assignments **and** giving an oral presentation of that assignment to his/her language arts class:

- *A Power Point Presentation* – Must include at least 6 slides reflecting the elements of a story. (characterization, setting, plot, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution)
- *Poem with a hand-drawn illustration* – Must include at least 3 stanzas (verses) that include rhythm and rhyme.
- *Student-composed song* – Must include original lyrics with accompanying music of your choice.
- *Game Board* – Must reflect the elements of a story. (characterization, setting, plot, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution)

Assignments must be submitted to the language arts teacher no later than **Friday, September 11, 2009**. The **assignment and oral presentation** will be scored (see attached rubric) and will count as the **first two (2) language arts test grades** for the first marking period. Please be aware that test grades count as 20% of their grade.

It is through practice that both the skills and love of reading will grow. At Millville Public Schools, readers are leaders!

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margarita A. Colina".

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Millville Public Schools



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Estimados Padres/Encargados y Alumnos,

¡El verano es un tiempo de diversion y relajarse...y una gran oportunidad para leer! De acuerdo a investigaciones hechas, los alumnos que leen durante los meses de verano aumentan o mantienen sus destrezas de lectura. Sin embargo, los alumnos que no leen durante los meses de verano pueden retrasarse tanto como un nivel en sus notas de sus destrezas

Nosotros exhortamos a los alumnos entrando al **7mo. grado** que continuen mejorando sus destrezas de lectura leyendo lo más posible en los meses de verano. Se les **requiere leer un libro** a todos los alumnos del octavo grado de Millville de la lista adjunta. Muchos de estos libros estan disponibles para cogerse prestados de la Biblioteca Pública de Millville o se pueden comprar a través del internet o en una tienda de libros. Los alumnos serán **evaluados** en el libro de su selección para su lectura de verano hacienda uno de las siguientes tareas y dando una presentación oral de esa tarea a su clase de artes de lenguaje:

- *Una Presentación Powerpoint* – Deber incluir por los menos 6 diapositivas que reflejen los elementos de una historia. (caracterización, escenario, trama, acción elevada, climax, acción no elevada y resolución)
- *Poema con una ilustración hecha con las manos* – Debe incluir por los menos 3 versos que incluyan ritmo y rima.
- *Canción compuesta por alumno* – Debe incluir letras originales acompañados por la música de su selección.
- *Juego de Mesa* – Debe reflejar los elementos de una historia. (caracterización, escenario, trama, acción elevada, climax, acción no elevada y resolución)

Las tareas deben ser entregadas a la maestra de artes de lenguaje no más tarde del viernes, **11 de septiembre de 2009**. La tarea y la presentación oral serán corregidos (vea rubrica adjunta) por la maestra de artes de lenguaje y les contará cómo las **primeras dos (2) notas de exámenes** en artes del lenguaje para el primer periodos de notas. Favor de estar conciente que las notas de los examens cuentan como 20% de su nota.

Es a través de la práctica que las destrezas y el amor por la lectura aumentan. ¡En las Escuelas Públicas de Millville, los lectores son líderes!

Gracias por su cooperación y su apoyo.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margarita A. Colina".

Supervisora de Artes del Lenguaje de K-12
Escuelas Públicas de Millville

Summer Reading List for Students Entering Seventh Grade

FICTION

Gilda Joyce: Psychic Investigator – Jennifer Allison

During the summer before ninth grade, Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his thirteen-year-old daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower. (Sequel: *Gilda Joyce: The Ladies of the Lake.*)

Peter and the Starcatchers – Dave Barry

The young orphan Peter and his mates are dispatched to an island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. They set sail aboard the *Never Land*, a ship carrying a precious and mysterious truck in its cargo hold. Their journey quickly becomes fraught with excitement and danger. (Sequel: *Peter and the Shadow Thieves.*)

The Shakespeare Stealer – Gary Blackwood

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty. (Sequels: *Shakespeare's Scribe* and *Shakespeare's Spy.*)

Fire, Bed and Bone – Henrietta Branford

In 1381 England, a hunting dog recounts what happens to his beloved master Rufus and his family when they are arrested on suspicion of being part of the peasant's rebellion.

Stealing Freedom – Elisa Carbone

A novel based on the events of the life a young slave girl from Maryland who endures all kinds of mistreatment and cruelty, including being separated from her family, but who eventually escapes to freedom in Canada.

The Supernaturalist – Eoin Colfer

In futuristic Satellite City, fourteen-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from his abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures, and together they determine the nature and purpose of the swarming blue Parasites that are invisible to most humans.

Once Upon a Marigold – Jean Ferris

Chris, a child of six, who is both strong-willed and clever, runs away from home. He's determined to live on his own in the forest, but Eldric, the troll, gives him shelter, and Chris grows up inventing things and watching a princess from afar, never dreaming that one day he might meet her, or that his inventions could save the entire kingdom.

Flying Solo – Ralph Fletcher

Rachel, having chosen to be mute following the sudden death of a classmate, shares responsibility with the other sixth-graders who decide not to report that the substitute teacher failed to show up.

Inkheart – Cornelia Funke

Twelve-year-old Meggie lives a quiet life with her father until the mysterious stranger, Dustfinger, disturbs the peace. Gradually Meggie uncovers the truth about her father. He is not just an ordinary bookbinder. He can read characters to life. When Meggie was three, he released several characters from the book *Inkheart* into the world while, at the same time, he lost his wife in the world of the novel. Now, danger abounds from these characters and Meggie must help find a way to put things right. (Sequel: *Inkspell*)

Unbroken – Jessie Haas

Following her mother's death in the early 1900's, thirteen-year-old Harry lives on Aunt Sarah's farm where an accident with her spirited colt leaves her a changed young woman.

The Gentleman Outlaw and Me – *Eli*, Mary Downing Hahn

In 1887 twelve-year-old Eliza, disguised as a boy and traveling towards Colorado in search of her missing father, falls in with a Gentleman Outlaw and joins him in his illegal schemes.

Ghost Canoe – Will Hobbs

Nathan, fishing with the Makah in the Pacific Northwest, finds himself holding a vital clue when a mysterious stranger comes to town looking for a Spanish treasure.

Ghost in the Tokaido Inn – Dorothy Hoobler

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikeia merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan.

Heaven – Angela Johnson

Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents.

Bird – Angela Johnson

Devastated by the loss of a second father, thirteen-year-old Bird follows her stepfather from Cleveland to Alabama in hopes of convincing him to come home, and along the way, helps two boys.

The Two Princesses of Bamarre – Gail Carson Levine

Meryl is the adventurous sister and Addie is the timid one. When Meryl falls ill, it is Addie who braves specters, griffins, and dragons to try to save her sister.

Gossamer – Lois Lowry

While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteeds.

Here Today – Ann Martin

In 1963, when her flamboyant mother abandons the family to pursue her dream of becoming an actress, eleven-year-old Ellie Dingman takes charge of her younger siblings, while also trying to deal with her outcast status in school and frightening acts of prejudice toward the “misfits” that live on her street.

Kensuke's Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo

When Michael is swept off his family's yacht, he washes up on a deserted island, where he struggles to survive, until he finds he is not alone.

Silverwing – Kenneth Oppel

When a newborn bat named Shade, but sometimes called “Runt,” becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys. (Sequels: *Sunwing* and *Firewing*)

The Same Stuff as Stars – Katherine Peterson

When Angel's self-absorbed mother leaves her and her younger brother with their poor great-grandmother, the eleven-year-old girl worries about her mother and brother, her imprisoned father, the frail old woman, and a mysterious man who begins sharing the wonder of the stars with her.

Soldier's Heart – Gary Paulsen

Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

Crooked River – Shelley Pearsall

When twelve-year-old Rebecca Carter's father brings a Native American accused of murder into their 1812 Ohio settlement town, Rebecca witnesses the town's reaction to the Indian and struggles with the idea that an innocent man may be convicted and sentenced to death.

Wee Free Men – Terry Prachett

In Diskworld (where the world is a flat disk, rather than a sphere), nine-year-old Tiffany sets off to Fairyland to rescue her brother armed with only a frying pan. (Sequels: *Hat Full of Sky* and *Wintersmith*)

The Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson thinks he's just an ordinary boy until monsters from mythology attack. He arrives in Camp Half-Blood just in time, and there learns the startling truth about his heritage and the quest he must embark upon. (First in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. Sequel: *The Sea of Monsters*)

Flipped – Wendelin Van Draanen

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

So B. It – Sarah Weeks

After spending her life with her mentally challenged mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

Counting on Grace – Elizabeth Winthrop

It's 1910 in Pownal, Vermont. At 12, Grace and her best friend, Arthur, must leave school to work in the mill. They write a secret letter to the Child Labor Board about children working in the mill. A few weeks later, Lewis Hine, a famous reformer, arrives to gather evidence. Grace meets him and appears in some of his photographs, changing her life forever.

NON-FICTION

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World – Jennifer Armstrong

This is the harrowing survival story of English explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and his ill-fated ship, *Endurance*. As Shackleton and 27 sailors attempted to cross the frozen Antarctic continent from one side to the other, they were trapped in an ice pack and lost their ship to the icy depths.

Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence – Russell Freedman

This is about the creation of one of the nation's most important historical documents. The first five chapters vividly bring to life the events that led to Colonial uprising and revolt. The next three chapters describe the Second Continental Congress, formation of the Continental Army, Battle of Bunker Hill, and drafting of the Declaration by Thomas Jefferson. The final chapter discusses the impact of the famous document at the time it was written and its continuing importance, and offers practical information about its preservation, storage, and display.

The Great Fire – Jim Murphy

This is Jim Murphy's primary source-based account of the October 1871 fire that virtually wiped Chicago from the map. Firefighters, journalists, and ordinary citizens' accounts of their personal physical and emotional traumas unfold across the 24 hours of the fire.

NAME _____

PERIOD _____

DATE _____

Summer Reading Project

TITLE OF BOOK _____

ASSIGNMENT _____

Performance Ratings

1 = Needs improvement

3 = Competent

N/A = Not Applicable

2 = Acceptable

4 = Exemplary

Oral Presentation (16 pts. total)

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----|
| • Presents ideas, events, or reasoned arguments in a clear and logical order | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Projects a sense of confidence and comfort with the subject, audience, and situation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Maintains appropriate posture and demeanor | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Establishes rapport with the audience | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |

Elements of a Story (28 pts. total)

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| • Characterization | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Setting | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Plot | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Rising Action | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Climax | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Falling Action | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Resolution | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |

Graphic Presentation/Multimedia (16 pts. total)

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| • Is appropriate and appealing to the intended audience, including neatness | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Demonstrates creativity and originality | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Illustrates complex ideas in a graphic form | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| • Makes use of a variety of materials and artistic media | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |

Followed Directions (20 pts. total) _____

On Time (20 pts. total) _____

OVERALL SCORE _____

Notes and Comments: