



Margarita Sanchez-Colina
K-12 Supervisor
Language Arts Literacy
110 North Third Street
PO Box 5010

Millville, New Jersey 08332

Phone: (856) 825-5269

Fax: (856) 825-4459

Email: margarita.colina@millville.org

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 **8th grade** to continue improving their reading skills by reading as much as possible over the summer months. All Millville eighth-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 (see attached detailed description of assignments) **and** giving an oral presentation of that assignment to his/her language arts class:

- *Book Review*
- *Soundtrack*
- *Comic Strip*
- *Conduct an Interview*
- *Change the ending*
- *PowerPoint*

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) by the language arts teacher and will count as the **first two (2) language arts test grades** for the first marking period.

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".

K-12 Language Arts Supervisor
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 **8vo. 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** según el libro que él/ella escoga para la lectura en el verano completando uno de las siguientes asignaturas(vea la descripción completa de las asignaturas) y dando una presentación oral de su tarea a la clase de artes del lenguaje de él/ella:

- *Repaso de Libro*
- *Disco de Sónido*
- *Cómicas*
- *Conducir una entrevista*
- *Cambiar el final*
- *PowerPoint*

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 periods de notas.

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 Sanchez-Colina".

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

Summer Reading List for Students Entering Eighth Grade

AUTHORS

J.K. Rowling
Lemony Snickett
Sharon Draper (**except *Tears of a Tiger*)
Lois Duncan
Paul Fleishman
Jerry Spinelli
Jane Yolen
Stephanie Meyer (i.e. *Twilight*)
Maya Angelou (**except *Caged Bird*)
Mitch Albom (i.e. *Five People You Meet in Heaven*)
Christopher Paolini (i.e. *Eragon*)
C.S. Lewis (i.e. *The Chronicles of Narnia* **except *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*)
Phillip Pullman (i.e. *The Golden Compass*)
Richard Beck (i.e. *A Year Down Yonder*)
Margaret Haddix (**except *Among the Hidden*)
Ray Bradbury (**except *Dandelion Wine & Fahrenheit 451*)
Walter Dean Myers
Meg Cabot (i.e. *Princess Diaries*)
Ann Brashears (i.e. *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*)
Karen Cushman (i.e. *The Midwife's Apprentice*)
Judy Blume (i.e. *Are You There God It's Me, Margaret and Tiger Eyes*)
James Herriott (i.e. *All Things Bright and Beautiful*)
Franklin Dixon (i.e. Hardy Boys series)
Caroline Keene (i.e. Nancy Drew series)
Neil Gaiman (i.e. *Anansi Boys*)
Anne Schraff (i.e. Bluford High series)

BOOKS

***A Girl from Yamhill* – Beverly Cleary**

This book follows the popular children's author from her childhood years in Oregon through high school and into young adulthood. It highlights her family life and her growing interest in writing.

***An Acquaintance with Darkness* – Ann Rinaldi**

Chaos reigns in Washington, D.C. after President Lincoln's assassination, but for fourteen-year-old Emily Pigbush, the Union's turmoil is nothing compared to her own struggle. Sent to live with Uncle Valentine after her mother's untimely death, Emily realizes that her best friend's mother was one of John Wilkes Booth's accomplices. Even worse, she suspects that her uncle is breaking the law.

Artemis Fowl – Eoin Colfer

In order to free his father from the Russian Mafiya, Artemis must join forces with the fairy police and his familiar nemesis, Captain Holly Short.

Chains – Laurie Halse Anderson

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. She and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

Daughter of Venice – D. Napoli

In 1592, Donata is a noble girl living in a palazzo on the Grand Canal. Donata, like all younger daughters, will be sent to a convent. Donata longs to be tutored like her brothers and to see the Venice she has glimpsed only on the map. She dresses as a boy and escapes the palazzo on the Grand Canal to see the world before she is shut away, and to try to find a way to escape her fate.

Fever 1793 – Laurie Halse Anderson

In August 1793 fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook is ambitious, adventurous, and sick to death of listening to her mother. Mattie has plans of her own. She wants to turn the Cook Coffeehouse into the finest business in Philadelphia, the capital of the new United States, but the waterfront is abuzz with reports of disease. "Fever" spreads from the docks and creeps toward Mattie's home, threatening everything she holds dear.

Getting Near To Baby – A. Couloumbis

After their baby sister dies, Willa Jo and Little Sister's family falls apart. Their mother sinks deep into an unshakable depression, so the two older girls are sent to live with their strict Aunt Patty and her husband. Since Little Sister refuses to talk, Willa Jo has to try and make things right in their new home, but she can't stop missing her mother or the life the four of them had before Baby died.

Homeless Bird – G. Whelan

Married and promptly widowed at 13, Koly finds herself in the grim position of being cast out by a society that has no place for girls like her. With a seemingly hopeless future in India, this courageous and spirited young woman sets out to forge her own destiny.

Hope Was Here – J. Bauer

Leaving the excitement of New York City to run a diner in rural Wisconsin, Hope doesn't expect to feel at home there, just as she doesn't expect to get caught up in town politics. What follows is Hope meets politics, corruption, and her past head on in this funny laugh-out-loud story about honor, trust and serving up your very best.

My Own Two Feet – Beverly Cleary

This book, a sequel to *A Girl From Yamhill*, chronicles the life of Beverly Cleary from her college years to the publication of her first book

Nory Ryan's Song – Patricia

Nory Ryan's family has lived on Maidin Bay on the west coast of Ireland for generations, raising a pig and a few chickens, planting potatoes, getting by. Times are never easy on Maidin Bay, and this year a terrible blight attacks the potatoes. No crop means starvation. Twelve-year-old Nory must summon the courage and ingenuity to find food, to find hope, to find a way to help her family survive.

Old Yeller – Fred Gibson

Set in the rough wilderness of early frontier Texas, "Old Yeller" is the timeless tale of a boy left in charge of his family's farm, and the big yellow dog who helps him with his many responsibilities.

Phoenix Rising – K. Hess

The accident at Cookshire changed Nyle's life, but not in the way she expected...Nyle and her grandmother live peacefully on their farm - until the night of the accident at the Cookshire nuclear power plant.

Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind – S. Staples

Set in Pakistan, Shabanu and her sister are to marry brothers as soon as they all come of age. But she will eventually lose her betrothed and be promised to a wealthy landowner to settle a feud. The richness and tragedy of a whole culture are reflected in the fate of this girl's family.

Skellig – D. Almond

Moving to a new fixer-upper home, Michael finds Skellig. Is the creature dying in Michael's garage a man, a bird, an angel, or all three? And what is his connection to Michael's baby sister, who's in the hospital with a heart problem?

The Body of Christopher Creed – Carol Plum-Ucci

The Body of Christopher Creed relates the story of the mysterious disappearance of high school outcast. Christopher Creed is the boy no one likes, the boy the popular kids bully and tease, the boy that never seems to fit in with any of the high school cliques. When Christopher Creed disappears, however, he captures the attention of the entire town, and he upsets the lives of those who tormented him. Creed's disappearance has a profound effect on Torey Adams, Steepleton high school's popular football star. Torey makes a mission out of trying to discover what happened to his classmate, and in the process discovers important truths about the impact his actions have on others.

The Seeing Stone – Crossley Holland

It is 1199 and young Arthur de Caldicot is waiting impatiently to grow up and become a knight. One day his father's friend Merlin gives him a shining piece of obsidian and his life becomes entwined with that of his namesake, the Arthur whose story he sees unfold in the stone.

The Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan

What if the Gods of Olympus were alive in the 21st Century? What if they still fell in love with mortals and had children who might become great heroes — like Theseus, Jason and Hercules? Such is the discovery that launches twelve-year-old Percy Jackson on the most dangerous quest of his life. With the help of a satyr and a daughter of Athena, Percy must journey across the United States to catch a thief who has stolen the original weapon of mass destruction – Zeus' master bolt.

The Wish – G. Levine

When granted her wish to be the most popular girl in school, Wilma, an eighth grader, forgets that she will graduate in three weeks and her popularity will vanish.

Water for Elephants – Sara Gruen

As a young man, Jacob was tossed by fate onto a rickety train that was home to the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. It was the early part of the great Depression, and for Jacob, now ninety, the circus world he remembers was both his salvation and agony.

Summer Reading Assignments

- *Book Review*: Write an article for the school newspaper critiquing your book. Your article should include a summary of the book, your opinion of the book and reasons why you liked or disliked the book. Your opinion must be supported by quotes and other specific details from the book.
- *Soundtrack*: If your book were turned into a movie, what would the soundtrack be? Make a tape or CD containing at least EIGHT songs. Then, write an explanation, telling where in the story each song would fit and why you chose that song.
- *Comic Strip* – Choose a dramatic or important scene from your book and turn it into a comic strip. Your comic strip must include at least EIGHT panels, each of which contains both artwork and dialogue. The comic strip must be in color on blank (not lined) paper. ****DO NOT CHOOSE THIS PROJECT IF ART IS NOT YOUR STRONG POINT.**
- *Conduct an Interview* – Conduct an “interview” with a major character from your book. Write at least twenty questions and answers pertaining to what happened in the book and why the character behaved as he/she did. If you are not familiar with interviews, watch a TV program such as *60 Minutes* or *20/20* to get an idea of what kind of questions interviewers ask.
- *Change the ending*: How else could your book have ended? Summarize the plot (especially conflict) of your book, including the ending. Then rewrite an alternative ending of at least FIVE PARAGRAPHS. Be sure to resolve the conflict in a different way and to show how the change in resolution changes the outcome of the story. **BE SURE TO WRITE THIS IN STORY FORM INCLUDING DIALOGUE, DESCRIPTION, ETC.**
- *PowerPoint*: Create a presentation of no less than 12 slides that includes a title slide, author biography, setting, main character descriptions, plot summary, themes, and your opinion/reflections on the book. Be sure to include specific details from the book to support your opinion. Be creative---include any pictures and/or sounds that are relevant to the presentation.

Tareas de lectura para el verano

- *Repaso de libro:* Escriba un artículo para el periodico de la escuela criticando su libro. Su artículo debe incluir un resumen del libro, su opinion del libro y las razones por las cuales le gusto o no le gusto el libro. Su opinion debe tener palabras textuales y otros detalles especificos del libro.
- *Disco de Sonido:* Si su libro se convirtiera en una pelicula, cuál sería el disco de sonido? Haga una cinta o un CD que contenga por lo menos OCHO canciones. Luego, escriba una explicación, diciendo donde cada canción iría y porque usted escogió esa canción.
- *Cómica* – Escoja una escena dramatica o importante de su libro y conviertala en una cómica. Su cómica debe incluir por lo menos OCHO paneles, cada uno que contenga trabajo de arte y diálogo. La cómica debe ser en colores en papel blanco (sin líneas. ****NO ESCOJA ESTE PROYECTO SI EL ARTE NO ES SU PUNTO FUERTE.**
- *Haga una Entrevista* – Haga una “entrevista” con una personaje principal de su libro. Escriba al menos veinte preguntas y contestaciones pertenecientes a lo que sucedió en el libro y porqué el personaje se portó de la manera que él/ella se portaron. Si usted no está familiarizado con entrevistas, vea un programa de television como *60 Minutes* o *20/20* para que tenga una idea de que clase de preguntas hacen los entrevistadores.
- *Cambia el final:* ¿De que otra manera podia terminar su libro? Hagan un resumen de la trama (especialmente conflicto) de su libro, incluyendo el final. Luego escriba una nueva version un final alterno de por lo menos CINCO PARRAFOS. Asegurese de resolver el conflicto de una manera diferente y enseñar como el cambio de resolución cambia el resultado de la historia. **ASEGURESE DE ESCRIBIR ESTO EN FORMA DE HISTORIA INCLUYENDO DIALOGO, DESCRIPCION, ETC.**
- *PowerPoint:* Crear una presentación de no menos de 12 diapositivas que incluya un titulo, biografia del autor, lugar, descripción del personaje principal, resumen de la trama, temas y su opinion/reflecciones sobre el libro. Asegurese de incluir detalles especificos del libro para apoyar su opinion.

Summer Reading Presentation Rubric

Name: _____ Period: _____

Date: _____ Assessment: _____

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

I. Oral Presentation (50 points)

A. Introduces book and author (5 points) _____

B. Audible – speaks clearly and distinctly (5 points) _____

C. Makes eye contact with audience (5 points) _____

D. Professional attitude (5 points) _____

E. Well organized (10 points) _____

F. Knowledge of material

- Can discuss without reading project (5 points) _____

- Can answer questions (5 points) _____

G. Sufficient details and information (10 points) _____

II. Project (50 points)

A. Follows directions (5 points) _____

B. Neat and nicely presented (5 points) _____

C. Complete (5 points) _____

D. Shows knowledge of book (10 points) _____

E. Well organized (10 points) _____

F. Ideas and opinions supported by details (15 points) _____

Total _____

Comments: