

STONEHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL SUGGESTED SUMMER READING - 2016 GRADE 7

Reading is a wonderful way to meet new books and authors, make new discoveries, and be entertained.

Our *suggested* list of books will encourage you to think about the Driving Question (DQ) “*How do we deal with adversity?*” Reading one or a few of these books will help you answer that question. There will be no quiz. You do not have to take notes. Instead, you will participate in a discussion and write an in-class journal as you consider the DQ. If you do not read any of these books, you may reference other books, blogs or articles you have read this summer or other years, or refer to historical, personal or current events. Keep in mind how the author or characters might answer the DQ.

You may order books from our favorite, local bookstore, *The Book Oasis* on Main Street, or check them out from the Stoneham Public Library - sometimes there is a waiting list. Use the * indicators to help you find an appropriate level.

How do we deal with adversity?

***Easy **Medium ***Challenging**

****The One and Only Ivan*** by Katherine Applegate. Inspired by a true story, Ivan, a silverback gorilla has been confined to a small “domain” of concrete, metal, and glass for 27 years. Joining Ivan at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade are Stella, an aging elephant, and Bob, a feisty stray dog. Could they ever escape? Fiction. Newbury Medal.

****How it Went Down*** by Gary D. Schmidt. Doug struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam. Historical fiction.

****Waiting for Normal*** by Leslie Connor. Addie's life isn't normal; her mom already lost custody of Addie's two little sisters when she left them all home alone a few years ago. Now Addie and her mom live in a trailer in the city on a corner lot. Addie has to transfer schools, but she is an optimistic kid who finds good people to help her. Fiction.

****Al Capone Shines My Shoes*** by Gennifer Choldenko. What do you do when your neighbors are a bunch of hit men, con men, and mad dog murderers? Well, if you're Moose Flanagan, you ask the most notorious convict of them all, Al Capone, for help. But when that convict comes through for you and then asks you for a favor in return - suddenly it's a whole different ball game. Picking up where the Newbery Honor winning *Al Capone Does My Shirts* left off, this lively second romp featuring Moose, his friends, and some of Alcatraz's "finest" is just as satisfying as the first. Fiction.

*****Mr. Terupt Falls Again*** by Rob Buyea. Fifth-grade was full of unforgettable events for Mr. Terupt and his class at Snow Hill School. Seven students were particularly affected by Mr. Terupt. Now those seven students are back, and they've been granted the rare opportunity to spend one more year with their beloved teacher before they graduate from elementary school. It's a roller coaster of a year as Mr. Terupt helps his students be the best they can be—and enlists their help to pull off an extra-special project. But will there be a happy ending for all? Fiction.

*****The False Prince*** by Jennifer Nielsen. An adventure filled with action and danger. To unify the divided people in a discontented kingdom, a nobleman of the court devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. Sage knows that Conner's motives are more than questionable, yet his life balances on a sword's point -- he must be chosen to play the prince or he will certainly be killed. But Sage's rivals have their own agendas as well. This is a trilogy – buy all three! Adventure.

*****The Crossover*** by Kwame Alexander. *With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . .The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering,* announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the basketball court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood; he's got mad beats that tell his family's story in verse, of brotherhood and fighting, and of his mom's strict parenting and his father's health battles. Fiction in verse

*****After Ever After*** by Jordan Sonnenblick. Jeff is in eighth grade, getting his first girlfriend, wondering why his best friend and fellow cancer survivor is acting so weird, and coping with some post-cancer disabilities. Jeffrey learns to depend on himself and live life to the fullest. Funny. Fiction. Series.

*****Counting by 7s*** by Holly Goldberg Sloane. Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but when they both die in a car crash, Willow's world changes drastically. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. Fiction.

*****The Only Game*** by Mike Lupica. Jack is the star of his baseball team and sixth grade is supposed to be his year. Undefeated season. Records shattered. Little League World Series.. That is, until he up and quits. Jack's best friend Gus can't understand how Jack could leave a game that means more to them than anything else. But Jack is done. It's a year of change. Jack's brother has passed away, and though his family and friends and the whole town of Walton thinks baseball is just the thing he needs to move on, Jack feels it's anything but. Sports.

******Little Blog on the Prairie*** by Cathleen Davitt Bell. Camp Frontier promises families the "thrill" of living like 1890s pioneers. Gen will be thrilled if she survives the summer stuck in a cabin with her family and no modern amenities. But ever the savvy teen, Gen sneaks in a phone and starts texting about camp life. Turns out, there are some good points-like the cute boy who lives in the next clearing. But when her texts go viral as a blog and a TV crew arrives, Gen realizes she may have just ruined the best vacation she's ever had. Fiction.

******Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*** by Steve Sheinkin. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, spying and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb. Non-fiction. Newbery Honor Book.

******Taking Flight*** by Michaela DePrince. In this engaging memoir, Michaela shares her dramatic journey from an orphan in West Africa to becoming one of ballet's most exciting rising stars. Michaela was tormented as a "devil child" for a skin condition that makes her skin appear spotted. But it was at the orphanage that Michaela would find a picture of a beautiful ballerina en pointe that would help change the course of her life. Some violent scenes at the beginning of the book – this may not be a good book for a highly-sensitive reader. Memoir.