

## Summer Reading

Students entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are required to read TWO novels.

For the first required novel students are allowed to choose ONE from the three selections listed below, all by the same author. (Certainly interested students could read more than one of the following novels, but only one of the following is required to fulfill the Science and Science and Technology requirement.)

**Hoot by Carl Hiaasen.** This novel is about a boy named Roy Eberhardt who moves around often, and finds himself in Coconut Grove, Florida. There he again has difficulty adjusting to his new school and classmates. Eventually, Roy meets the, "tough, bully-beating Beatrice." From this new friendship Roy discovers the burrowing owls living in the lot on the corner of East Oriole Avenue, which eventually provide adventure and enlightenment.

**Flush by Carl Hiaasen**

"You know it's going to be a rough summer when you spend Father's Day visiting your dad in the local lockup.

Noah's dad is sure that the owner of the *Coral Queen* casino boat is flushing raw sewage into the harbor—which has made taking a dip at the local beach like swimming in a toilet. He can't prove it though, and so he decides that sinking the boat will make an effective statement. Right. The boat is pumped out and back in business within days and Noah's dad is stuck in the clink. Now Noah is determined to succeed where his dad failed. He *will* prove that the Coral Queen is dumping illegally . . . somehow. His allies may not add up to much—his sister Abbey, an unreformed childhood biter; Lice Peeking, a greedy sot with poor hygiene; Shelly, a bartender and a woman scorned; and a mysterious pirate—but Noah's got a plan to flush this crook out into the open. A plan that should sink the crooked little casino, once and for all."

Or

**Scat by Carl Hiassen**

"Mrs. Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, was last seen during a field trip to Black Vine Swamp. The school's headmaster and the police seem to have accepted the sketchy, unsigned note explaining that her absence is due to a "family emergency." There's no real evidence of foul play. But still, Nick and Marta don't buy it. Something weird is definitely going on."

**Choosing one of the aforementioned novels is required and coincides with the curriculum in both Science and Science and Technology. THERE WILL BE AN ASSIGNMENT THAT WILL BE HANDED OUT AND EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED UPON RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN THE FALL.**

**For the SECOND required novel students must pick ONE of the following novels from the list of four. (certainly interested students could read more than one of the following novels, but only one of the following is required to fulfill the Humanities requirement)**

**Sword of the Rightful King by Jane Yolen.**

In this novel Yolen takes the traditional legend of King Arthur and the sword in the stone and creates a new story which portrays a young King Arthur as hesitant and uneasy. This novel has adventure, mystery and intrigue.

**The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman**

"On a frosty morning sometime early in the fourteenth century, in a village somewhere in England, a girl known only as Brat was sleeping in a dung heap." This begins the novel in which brat is visited by an "important - looking woman" named Jane. Brat soon discovers that Jane is a Midwife, and in need of a helper. "Thus begins the funny, wise, compassionate story of the homeless waif who became the midwife's apprentice - a person with a name and a place in the world."

**Alchemy and Meggy Swann by Karen Cushman**

Fans of Karen Cushman's witty, satisfying novels will welcome Meggy Swann, newly come to London with her only friend, a goose named Louise. Meggy's mother was glad to be rid of her; her father, who sent for her, doesn't want her after all. Meggy is appalled by London, dirty and noisy, full of rogues and thieves, and difficult to get around in - not that getting around is ever easy for someone who walks with the help of two sticks. Just as her alchemist father pursues his Great Work of transforming base metal into gold, Meggy finds herself pursuing her own transformation. Earthy and colorful, Elizabethan London has its dark side, but it also has gifts in store for Meggy Swann.

**Pagan's Crusade by Catherine Jinks**

Sixteen -year-old Pagan Kidrouk arrives in Jerusalem in 1187 and finds, "a city of holy places on the one hand and a city of beggars, thieves, corruption and poverty on the other." Pagan tells the tale of the harsh times of the crusades using his humor, sarcasm and disdain for others to shed light on this time in history. Through Pagan's tale it is discovered that, "infidels and Christians were very much alike."