

### Desert Heights Preparatory Academy Summer Reading Program

Dear 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents and Guardians,

The Desert Heights Summer Reading Program allows our students the opportunity to reinforce vital standards in reading and writing over the summer months, while encouraging our students to read! The philosophy underlying our summer reading program supports best practices in literacy instruction in that allowing such autonomy provides for better buy-in while also maintaining their individual reading levels. Students are able to choose novels that they are interested in and are rewarded for reading over the summer months. After every novel they read over summer, students will fill out the Book Bingo worksheet and have their parent or guardian initial in order to gain valuable behavior points for next school year.

The Book Bingo worksheet can be found on the links provided in the Coyote Connection Newsletter as well as email communication to all returning students. Attached below is a list of popular novels with which students are able to choose from, however we also encourage students to visit their local library to discover new titles as well.

We highly encourage parents and guardians to be actively involved in the summer reading program, which encourages your child to fall in love with reading. Additionally, students and parents are encouraged to reach out to their English teacher or Middle School Dean for support or to answer questions over the summer months. Also, please make sure to check your email and Coyote Connection for updates and further information regarding the summer reading program.

If you have any questions regarding the summer reading program,  
please email the corresponding member of the DHPA Junior High English Department:

Mrs. Davis - [Darna.Davis@dhschools.org](mailto:Darna.Davis@dhschools.org)

## 7th and 8th Grade Summer Reading List

### Fantasy

#### ***Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo**

Set in the same world as the Grisha trilogy, a group of six outcasts take a chance on a deadly heist that will make them rich – if they survive. First book in the series.

Other Books in the Series: Crooked Kingdom

#### ***DC Icons Wonder Woman: Warbringer* by Leigh Bardugo**

Diana, Princess of the Amazons, journeys to the World of Man in this coming-of age story.

Other Books in the series: Batman: Nightwalker by Marie Lu

#### ***Renegades* by Marissa Meyer**

The Renegades are a syndicate of prodigies – humans with extraordinary abilities – who emerged from the ruins of a crumbled society and established peace and order where chaos reigned.

#### ***Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard**

Seventeen year old Mare Barrow's life is determined by blood color. Red serve the Silver, a genetically gifted group of people with supernatural abilities. After a chance encounter with a prince, she discovers she is Red and Silver, and could be just the spark to start a rebellion against the oppression.

Other Books in the Series: The Glass Sword, King's Cage, War Storm Miles

#### ***Morales: Spider-Man (A Marvel Novel)* by Jason Reynolds**

Brooklyn Visions Academy student Miles Morales may not always want to be a super hero, but he must come to terms with his identity – and deal with a villainous teacher – as the new Spider Man.

### Historical Fiction

#### ***The Breadwinner: A Graphic Novel* by Deborah Ellis**

This beautiful graphic novel adaptation of The Breadwinner tell the story of eleven-year-old Parvana who must disguise herself as a boy to support her family during the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan. Graphic novel.

#### ***Alex & Eliza: A Love Story* by Melissa De La Cruz**

When Alex and Eliza meet one fateful night, so brings an epic love story that would forever change the course of American History.

#### ***Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk**

In a small Pennsylvania town during WWII, Anabelle confronts a bully but finds that a troubled WWI veteran is the new target.

### ***The Inquisitor's Tale, or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* by Adam Gidwitz**

In 1242, travelers cross paths at an Inn and begin to tell stories of three children who are said to be able to perform miracles of saints. William, Jacob and Jeanne chase through France trying to save precious holy texts from being burned. They're taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king and save the land from a farting dragon, accompanied by Jeanne's greyhound, recently brought back from the dead.

### ***Finding the Worm* by Mark Goldblatt**

In this follow-up to *Twerp*, it's 1969 and Julian and his friends are 7th graders. After being falsely accused of harming a valued school painting, Julian is assigned a 200 word essay about honor by the principal which he just can't seem to write.

## **Horror**

### ***Lockwood & Co. Book One: The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud**

The plucky and talented Lucy Carlyle teams up with Anthony Lockwood, the charismatic leader of Lockwood & Co, a small agency that runs independent of any adult supervision.

Other Books in the Series: *The Whispering Skull*, *The Hollow Boy*, *The Dagger in the Desk*, *The Creeping Shadow*, *The Empty Grave*

### ***The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle* by Janet Fox**

During WWII, to escape the London Blitz, Katherine and her siblings are sent to a crumbling Scottish estate that's been turned into a boarding house where mysterious things are happening.

### ***Guys Read: Terrifying Tales* by Jon Scieszka**

Ten stories by a variety of well known scary story writers.

## **Mystery**

### ***Need* by Joelle Charbonneau**

Sixteen year old Kaylee and the students at her high school start joining a new social networking site, NEED, where in exchange for completing a task they are rewarded with their desired need. The tasks become more and more malicious.

### ***A Study in Charlotte: A Charlotte Holmes Novel* by Brittany Cavallaro**

The great-great-great grandchildren of Holmes and Watson attend the same private boarding school in New England and are framed for murder of another student.

Other Books in the Series: *The Last of August*

### ***Take the Key and Lock Her Up (Embassy Row Book Three)* by Ally Carter**

For the past three years, Grace Blakely has been desperate to find out the truth about her mother's murder. She thought it would bring her peace. She thought it would lead her to answers. She thought she could put the past to rest. But the truth has only made her a target. Final book in the series.

Other Books in the Series: *All Fall Down*, *See How They Run*

### ***Beastly Bones: A Jackaby Novel* by William Ritter**

The second book in the series. In 1892, Abigail Rook and supernatural investigator Jackaby are called to investigate the murder of a woman in a distant rural town. More bodies turn up, puncture wounds are found, dinosaur bones are stolen, and a monster is on the loose.

Other Books in the Series: Jackaby, Ghostly Echoes, The Dire King

### **Realistic Fiction**

#### ***Ghost (Track Book 1)* by Jason Reynolds**

Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down. First book in a new series.

Other Books in the Series: Patina, Sunny

#### ***All's Faire in Middle School* by Victoria Jamieson**

Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted. Graphic novel.

#### ***Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stead**

Long ago, best friends Bridge, Emily, and Tab made a pact: no fighting. But it's the start of seventh grade, and everything is changing. Emily is attracting attention and Tab is suddenly a member of the Human Rights Club. And then there's Bridge. She's started wearing cat ears and is the only one who's still tempted to draw funny cartoons on her homework.

#### ***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander**

Told in verse. Twins and star basketball players, Josh and Jordan, must deal with basketball season, girls and the failing health of their father, a former ball player.

#### ***Booked* by Kwame Alexander**

Soccer player Nick's parents are separating and an injury puts him on the sidelines. Written in verse.

#### ***Falling Over Sideways* by Jordan Sonnenblick**

Eighth grade Claire is dealing with normal girl things – dance, band, mean girls, changing friendships, a perfect older brother – when her funny, amazing father has a stroke.

### **Science Fiction**

#### ***Warcross* by Marie Lu**

When teenage coder Emika Chen hacks her way into the opening tournament of the Warcross Championships, she glitches herself into the game as well as a sinister plot with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire.

***The Lunar Chronicles Book Four: Winter* by Marissa Meyer**

Final book in the Lunar Chronicles series. Can Cinder, Scarlet, Cress, and Winter defeat Levana and find their happily ever afters?

Other Books in the Series: Scarlet, Cress, Fairest, Stars Above

***The Diabolic* by S.J. Kinciad**

Red Queen meets The Hunger Games . What happens when the galaxy's most deadly weapon masquerades as a senator's daughter and a hostage of the galactic court? A Diabolic is ruthless. A Diabolic is powerful. A Diabolic is powerful. A Diabolic has a single task – kill in order to protect the person you have been created for.

**Informational Texts**

***Super Woman: Six Scientists Who Changed the World* by Laurie Lawlor**

A brief biography of six women who have changed the world.

***Death on the River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Amazon Adventure* by Samantha Seiple**

In October 1913, Theodore Roosevelt arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on tour of South America. The thrill-seeking adventurer had no idea that he would soon receive an offer he couldn't refuse: the chance to lead an expedition deep into the Amazon jungle to chart an unmapped river with his son Kermit and renowned Brazilian explorer Candido Mariano da Silva Rondon.

***Survivor's Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz* by Michael Bornstein**

The incredible true story of Michael Bornstein – who at age four was one of the youngest children to be liberated from Auschwitz – and of his family.

***Two Truths and a Lie: It's Alive* by Ammi-Joan Paquette**

Presents some of the crazy-but-true stories about the living world as well as a handful of stories that are too crazy to be true—and asks readers to separate facts from the fakes.