

Desert Heights Preparatory Academy Summer Reading Program

Dear 5th and 6th 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 students' individual reading levels. Students are able to choose novels in which they are interested and are rewarded for reading over the summer months. After every novel they read over summer, students will fill out the Reading Log and Mini Review worksheet and have their parent or guardian initial in order to gain valuable behavior points for next school year.

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

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 ELA teacher or the Middle School Assistant Principal 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 Middle School English Department:

Mrs. Davis - Darna.Davis@dhschools.org

5th and 6th Grade Summer Reading List

Granted by John David Anderson

In a magical land called Haven where wishes are heard, lives a young fairy named Ophelia. It is Ophelia's job to go to the human world to grant wishes. When Ophelia ventures out to grant her first wish, she learns that it will take more than fairy dust to give people what they really want. Lexile: 800L

Coraline by Neil Gaiman

When Coraline and her family move to a new flat, Coraline spends her time exploring the fourteen doors. When Coraline manages to unlock the fourteenth door, at first it seems like a magical place. Coraline soon learns that what she thought was a magical place is actually full of terror. There are other children trapped in the flat and it's up to Coraline to find and rescue them. | Lexile: 740L

When Friendship Followed me Home by Paul Griffin

When Ben, who has never been one for making friends, meets a dog he calls Flip, his life starts to change. Flip leads Ben to befriend a fellow book lover named Halley. But when Ben's life starts to unravel, he's forced to learn what true friendship means. | Lexile: 590L

Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin

Rose is obsessed with homonyms, so she was sure to give her dog Rain a name with two of them! Rose has lots of obsessions, rules, and other things that make her different, which most people don't understand. When Rain goes missing during a storm, Rose will have to break some of her rules to find her dog. | Lexile: 720L

Paint the Wind by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Maya lives like a captive at her Grandmother's house in California where everything is forbidden: friends, fun, even memories. Her life is built on lies Maya's Grandmother tells about her deceased mother. Eventually, Maya moves to the Wyoming wilderness to live with her mother's family, and is challenged to confront the truth about who she is. Lexile: 780L

Max: Best Friend. Hero. Marine by Jennifer Shotz

When Justin loses his older brother Kyle in Afghanistan, Justin feels alone until Max arrives. Max was Kyle's service dog and Max seems just as lost as Justin. Slowly, the two start to trust each other as Justin begins to unravel the mystery of what really happened to Kyle. | Lexile: NC740L

***No Vacancy* by Tziporah Cohen**

Miriam Brockman and her family bought and moved into the Jewel Motor Inn in upstate New York. Miriam quickly befriends Kate, who's grandmother owns the diner next door, and Maria, the motel's housekeeper. When it looks like the Jewel Motor Inn might go into bankruptcy, Miriam and Kate devise a plan to save it.

***Dress Coded* by Carrie Firestone**

Molly Frost is fed up. Girls in her class are also getting fed up with what they think is an unfair dress code. Molly starts a podcast where the girls can tell their stories.

***Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park**

Hann is a half Asian and half White girl who has just moved with her White father to a small town in America's heartland in 1880. Hanna dreams of getting her education and becoming a dressmaker, but she has to adjust to her new surroundings and the townspeople's prejudice against Asians. | Lexile: 730L

***Becoming Muhammad Ali* by James Patterson & Kwame Alexander**

Before Cassius Clay became a household name known as Muhammad Ali, he was a twelve year old boy struggling like any other young boy. Readers follow Cassius Clay from age twelve to seventeen as he navigates friends, family, racism, and begins his training as a boxer. Lexile: 1010L

***Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson**

ZJ's dad is a community hero and talented pro football star! Lately, ZJ's dad has been struggling to remember things and has been angrier than ZJ has ever seen him. ZJ starts to realize that things will never return to normal.

Nonfiction

***This is Your Time* by Ruby Bridges**

Written as a letter from civil rights activist Ruby Bridges, readers will learn of Ruby's experience as a child being escorted to school by federal marshals as one of the first African American students to integrate the New Orleans, Louisiana all-white public school system. | Lexile: 940L

***All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat**

On June 23, 2018, twelve young boys from the Wild Boars soccer team were trapped in the Tham Luang Nang cave in northern Thailand. The boys and their coaches were trapped for seventeen days while the world sat vigil. | Lexile: 1010L - 1200L

Graphic Novels

***Class Act!* by Jerry Craft**

Drew is no stranger to the saying, you have to work twice as hard to be just as good. But what if he works ten times as hard and doesn't get the same opportunities that his privileged classmates take for granted? When Drew begins to feel as if his friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids, their mutual friend doesn't know how to keep the group together.

***When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson**

Having spent most of their life in a refugee camp in Kenya, Omar and his little brother Hassan have always watched out for each other. When Omar has a chance to go to school, he knows he can make a better life for them both, but who will care for Hassan? | Lexile: GN530L

Classics and Popular Titles

***Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery**

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. | Lexile: 550L

***Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes**

In New Orleans' Ninth ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother, have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. | Lexile: HL470L

***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California. They must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers during the Great Depression. Lexile: 750L

***Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson**

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. | Lexile: 810L