



Rolling Hills Prep School Middle School Summer Reading 2009

Reading during the summer is, we hope, a pleasure. At RHP it's also a requirement! Nothing is a better predictor of future academic success than the quality and amount of reading you do, and there's no time better than the summer. In this document you will find details of the required reading for each grade as well as extensive suggestions for further summer reading. At the end of the document, 8th graders will find some specific instructions relating to *April Morning*.

Note on "All-School" Books

This summer's "all-school" reading books focus on the lives of two big names of the 19th Century whose 200th anniversaries occurred this year. In writer Adam Gopnik's words, "On a memorable day in human history, February 12, 1809, two babies were born an ocean apart: Abraham Lincoln in a one-room Kentucky log cabin, Charles Darwin on an English country estate."

Parents are encouraged to read the all-school books and discuss with students.

6th Grade

6th Grade "all-school" books (read both books):

Tanya Lee Stone, *Abraham Lincoln*, DK publishing, inc., ISBN 978-0-7566-0834-7, \$4.99, and . . .

David C. King, *Charles Darwin*, DK publishing, inc., ISBN 978-0-7566-2554-2, \$5.99

Be prepared to complete a teacher-directed activity on these books in the first week of school. Bring your books with you!

6th Grade English Department books:

Please read *one* book from this list (in addition to your assigned biographies of Lincoln and Darwin) and be prepared to complete a teacher-directed activity on it during the first week of school. These book choices are based on a list of books for grades 6-8 compiled by the staff of the Boston Public Library. We encourage you to read more than one, but you will only be required to complete an activity on one from the list (as well as the two all-school books).

Contemporary Fiction

Avi, *Nothing But the Truth*
Bloor, *Tangerine*
Buss, *Journey of the Sparrows*
Chambers, *Marisol and Magdalena: The Sound of Our Sisterhood*
Columbis, *Getting Near to Baby*
Cormier, *Frenchtown Summer*
Fleischman, *Whirligig*
Fox, *The Eagle Kite*
Fox, *Monkey Island*
Gantos, *Jack's New Power*
Gantos, *Joey Pigza Loses Control*
Grimes, *Jazmin's Notebook*
Hamilton, *Second Cousins*
Henkes, *Olive's Ocean*
Ho, *Clay Marble*
Konigsburg, *Silent to the Bone*
Lowry, *Messenger*
Myers, *Handbook for Boys*
Myers, *It Ain't All for Nothin'*
Na, *A Step from Heaven*
Naylor, *Walker's Crossing*
Oates, *Big Mouth and Ugly Girl*
Perkins, *All Alone in the Universe*
Sachar, *Holes*
Spinelli, *Stargirl*
Wolff, *True Believer*
Woodson, *Miracle's Boys*
Yee, *Millicent Min, Girl Genius*
Yep, *The Amah*

Fantasy/Science Fiction

Carmon, *The Land of Elyon (Series)*
Chabon, *Summerland*
Collins, *The Underland Chronicles (Series)*

Cooper, *The Dark is Rising*
Dale, *Whispering to Witches*
Datlow, *The Green Man: Tales from the Mythic Forest*

Foon, *The Dirt Eaters*
Funke, *Dragon Rider*
Funke, *Inkheart*
Funke, *The Thief Lord*
Levine, *Ella Enchanted*
McKinley, *Rose Daughter*
Philbrick, *The Last Book in the Universe*
Thesman, *The Other Ones*
Wrede, *Sorcery and Cecilia*

Mystery

Almond, *Skellig*
Avi, *The Man Who Was Poe*
Cormier, *In the Middle of the Night*
Haddix, *House on the Gulf*
Haddix, *Running Out of Time*
Hiaasen, *Flush*
Hiaasen, *Hoot*
Hoobler, *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*
Ibbotson, *The Star of Kazan*
Naylor, *Jade Green*
Nixon, *The Name of the Game was Murder*
Pullman, *The Ruby in the Smoke*
Raskin, *The Westing Game*
Roberts, *The View from the Cherry Tree*
Sneve, *High Elk's Treasure*
Van Draanen, *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*
Wande Valde, *Never Trust a Dead Man*
Voight, *The Vandemark Mummy*
Yep, *The Case of the Goblin Pearls*

Historical Fiction

Alvarez, *Before We Were Free*
Anderson, *Fever 1793*
Avi, *Crispin: Cross of Lead*
Avi, *Don't You Know There's a War On?*
Choi, *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*
Crew, *Children of the River*
Curtis, *Bud, Not Buddy*
Cushman, *Catherine Called Birdy*
DeFelice, *The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker*

Dorris, *Guests*
Fleischman, *Bull Run*
Giff, *Lily's Crossing*
Lynch, *Gold Dust*
Meyer, *Mary, Bloody Mary*
Myers, *Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam*
Napoli, *Stones in the Water*
Park, *When My Name Was Keoko*
Paterson, *Jip: His Story*
Paterson, *Lyddie*
Paulsen, *Alida's Song*
Rees, *Witch Child*
Stolz, *Shadows of Ghadames*
Woods, *Red Rose Box*

7th and 8th Grade

7th and 8th Grade "all-school" books (read two books)

Tanya Lee Stone, *Abraham Lincoln*, DK publishing, inc., ISBN 978-0-7566-0834-7, \$4.99, and . . .

David C. King, *Charles Darwin*, DK publishing, inc., ISBN 978-0-7566-2554-2, \$5.99

OR, for more advanced readers, Janet Browne, *Darwin's Origin of Species*, Grover Press, ISBN 978-0-8021-4346-4, \$13.00

Be prepared to complete a teacher-directed activity on these books in the first week of school. Bring your books with you!

7th and 8th Grade English Department Books

In addition to the books on Darwin and Lincoln, all 7th and 8th grade students must read one book for their English classes as follows. They should expect tests, essays, and activities on the book during the first week of class. Bring your books with you!

7th grade: Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (25th Anniversary edition).

8th grade: Howard Fast, *April Morning*. *NOTE: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON EACH CHAPTER MUST BE ANSWERED IN WRITING AND TURNED IN AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR FIRST ENGLISH CLASS. SEE THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR THESE QUESTIONS.*

Further 7th and 8th Grade Reading (Optional but Encouraged)

The books on this list represent a wide variety of interests and are generally accepted to be works of literary merit worthy of serious analysis; indeed, many of them are prize-winners with well-established reputations of excellence. Some books are more challenging than others and should therefore be appropriate for more advanced readers, but there is definitely something for everyone.

General Fiction/Classics

Alcott	<i>Little Women; Little Men; Eight Cousins; A Long, Fatal Love Chase</i>
Armstrong	<i>Souder</i>
Austen	<i>Pride and Prejudice; Emma; Persuasion</i>
Avi	<i>Nothing but the Truth</i>
Brashares	<i>The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants; The Second Summer of the Sisterhood</i>
Bronte, Charlotte	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Bronte, Emily	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>
Buck	<i>The Good Earth</i>
Bunting	<i>Jumping the Nail</i>
Cole	<i>The Goats</i>
Coonis	<i>The Summer of the Swans (7th only)</i>
Cormier	<i>The Chocolate War</i>
Courtney	<i>The Power of One</i>
Cushman	<i>The Midwife's Apprentice</i>
Dickens	<i>Oliver Twist; David Copperfield; Great Expectations</i>
George	<i>My Side of the Mountain</i>
Gibbons	<i>Ellen Foster</i>
Gipson	<i>Old Yeller</i>
Gordon, Sheila	<i>Waiting for the Rain</i>
Gordon, Amy	<i>When JFK Was My Father The Gorillas of Gill Park (7th only)</i>
Green	<i>The Summer of My German Soldier (7th only)</i>
Hamilton	<i>A White Romance</i>
Hemingway	<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>

Hilton	<i>Good-bye Mr. Chips</i>
Hoffman	<i>At Risk; Green Angel</i>
Hurston	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
Johnson	<i>Toning the Sweep</i>
Kidd	<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>
Kinsella	<i>Shoeless Joe</i>
Knowles	<i>A Separate Peace; Peace Breaks Out (sequel)</i>
Levenkron	<i>The Best Little Girl in the World</i>
Lipsyte	<i>The Contender; One Fat Summer (7th only)</i>
London	<i>The Call of the Wild</i>
Lowry	<i>The Silent Boy</i>
Marshall, C.	<i>Christy</i>
Marshall, J.V.	<i>Walkabout</i>
Mazer	<i>After the Rain</i>
McCammon	<i>Boy's Life</i>
McCullers	<i>The Heart is a Lonely Hunter</i>
Mishima	<i>The Sound of Waves</i>
Myers	<i>Hoops; Monster</i>
Nolan	<i>Dancing on the Edge</i>
Oates	<i>Big Mouth & Ugly Girl</i>
Paterson	<i>Jacob Have I Loved</i>
Peck	<i>The Day No Pigs Would Die; A Year Down Yonder</i>
Potok	<i>The Chosen; My Name is Asher Lev; Davita's Harp</i>
Rawlings	<i>The Yearling</i>
Rawls	<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>
Reiss	<i>The Upstairs Room</i>
Richter	<i>The Light in the Forest</i>
Saroyan	<i>My Name is Aram</i>
Schaefer	<i>Shane</i>
Sebestyen	<i>Words by Heart</i>
Shusterman	<i>The Eyes of Kid Midas; Dissidents</i>
Smith	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>
Spark	<i>The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</i>
Spinelli	<i>Stargirl</i>
Steinbeck	<i>The Pearl; The Red Pony</i>
Taylor, M.	<i>Let the Circle Be Unbroken</i>
Taylor, T.	<i>The Cay; The Bomb</i>
Twain	<i>Pudd'nhead Wilson; Tom Sawyer</i>
Villareal	<i>Poncho</i>
Walter	<i>The Girl on the Outside</i>

White, Robb *Deathwatch*
White, Ruth *Belle Prater's Boy (7th only)*
Yep *The Star Fisher (7th only)*

Historical Fiction

Auel *The Clan of the Cave Bear*
Avi *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle (7th only)*
Clapp *Witches' Children*
(may be out of print; check the library)
Collier *My Brother Sam is Dead*
Crane *The Red Badge of Courage*
Forbes *Johnny Tremain*
Gaines *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*
Hunt *Across Five Aprils*
Lasky *Beyond the Burning Time*
Mitchell *Gone With the Wind*
Moskin *I Am Rosemarie*
Myers *Fallen Angels; The Glory Field*
O'Dell *Sing Down the Moon*
Petry *Tituba of Salem Village*
Pressler *Shylock's Daughter*
Rees *Witch Child*
Remarque *All Quiet on the Western Front*
Richter *Friedrich (7th only)*
Rinaldi *A Break With Charity; The Fifth of March*
Roberts *Northwest Passage*
Scott *Ivanhoe*
Shaara *The Killer Angels; Rise to Rebellion*
Speare *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*
Uchida *Journey to Topaz*
Walker *Jubilee*

Fantasy/Science Fiction

Adams, D. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*
Adams, R. *Watership Down*
Asimov *Foundation Trilogy;*
Babbitt *Tuck Everlasting*

Bradbury	<i>Something Wicked This Way Comes; Dandelion Wine; Fahrenheit 451</i>
Card	<i>Pastwatch: The Redemption of Christopher Columbus</i>
Clarke	<i>Childhood's End; 2001: A Space Odyssey; 2010: Odyssey Two</i>
Crichton	<i>The Andromeda Strain (this title only)</i>
Goldman	<i>The Princess Bride</i>
Heinlein	<i>Stranger in a Strange Land</i>
Herbert	<i>Dune Trilogy</i>
Hilton	<i>Lost Horizon</i>
Huxley	<i>Brave New World</i>
Jackson	<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i>
Jacques	<i>Redwall</i>
Jones	<i>Dogsbody</i>
Keyes	<i>Flowers for Algernon (8th only)</i>
Le Guin	<i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i>
L'Engle	<i>A Wrinkle in Time; A Swiftly Tilting Planet; A Wind in the Door</i>
Lowry	<i>Gathering Blue</i>
McKinley	<i>The Hero and the Crown; The Blue Sword</i>
O'Brien	<i>Z for Zachariah</i>
Orwell	<i>Animal Farm; 1984</i>
Paolini	<i>Eragon + Sequels</i>
Pope	<i>The Perilous Gard</i>
St. Exupéry	<i>The Little Prince</i>
Stevenson	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>
Stoker	<i>Dracula</i>
Swift	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
Tolkien	<i>The Lord of the Rings Trilogy</i>
Verne	<i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea; Around the World in Eighty Days; Journey to the Center of the Earth</i>
Wells	<i>The Time Machine; The Invisible Man; The War of the Worlds</i>
Wrede and Stevermer	<i>Sorcery and Cecelia, or The Enchanted Chocolate Pot</i>
	<i>Action/Mystery/Suspense</i>
Borland	<i>When the Legends Die</i>
Defoe	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>

Christie	Death on the Nile; The Murder of Roger Ackroyd; Nemesis (not <i>And Then There Were None</i>)
Conan Doyle	<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> (not <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>)
Cormier	<i>After the First Death</i>
Dumas	<i>The Three Musketeers; The Count of Monte Cristo</i>
DuMaurier	<i>Rebecca; Jamaica Inn</i>
Hugo	<i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>
Junger	<i>The Perfect Storm</i>
King	<i>The Beekeeper's Apprentice</i>
Krakauer	<i>Into Thin Air</i>
Nordhoff	<i>Mutiny on the Bounty</i>
Paulsen	<i>Hatchet; The Haymeadow</i>
Poe	<i>Great Tales of Terror</i>
Preston	<i>The Hot Zone</i>
Read	<i>Alive</i>
Smith	<i>The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency + Sequels</i>
Stevenson	<i>Treasure Island; Kidnapped</i>
White	<i>The Sword in the Stone</i>
Wyss	<i>The Swiss Family Robinson</i>

Biography/Autobiography

Angelou	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>
Anonymous	<i>Go Ask Alice</i>
Armstrong	<i>It's Not About the Bike</i>
Beals	<i>Warriors Don't Cry</i>
Blackwell	<i>First Woman Doctor</i>
Conroy	<i>The Water is Wide</i>
Curie	<i>Madame Curie</i>
Crowe	<i>Getting Away with Murder: the True Story of the Emmett Till Case (8th only)</i>
Dahl	<i>Boy</i>
Frank	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i>
Goodwin	<i>Wait Till Next Year</i>
Gunther	<i>Death Be Not Proud</i>
Haley	<i>Roots</i>
Hautzig	<i>The Endless Steppe</i>
Herriot	<i>All Creatures Great and Small</i>

Keller	<i>The Story of My Life</i>
Lovell & Kluger	<i>Apollo 13 (formerly Lost Moon)</i>
Mathabane	<i>Kaffir Boy</i>
Pearce	<i>Amelia Earhart</i>
Petry	<i>Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railway</i>
Sandburg	<i>Abraham Lincoln</i>
Simon	<i>Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball</i>
Steinbeck	<i>Travels with Charley</i>
Wiesel	<i>Night</i>

*For further information about most titles, including plot summaries and book reviews by professional critics and by ordinary readers your age, visit **www.amazon.com** on the internet.*

(8th graders see below for April Morning instructions and questions)

April Morning Instructions Eighth Grade

Dear Incoming Eighth Graders,

Your summer reading assignment for English will consist of Howard Fast's classic novel of the American Revolution *April Morning*, as well as the Darwin and Lincoln biographies being read as "all-school" books. Narrated in the first-person by a 15 year-old boy whose "secure and sun-warmed existence" is violently disrupted by historical events that unfold on one particular day in history, *April Morning* examines both Adam Cooper's coming of age and our country's birth as a free nation.

For the *April Morning* assignment, you will answer one question from each chapter (attached). Please follow the directions for this assignment. It is due on the first day of classes in September. Because we will continue the study of this novel in class, I would recommend reading it and answering the questions in August so that its details will be fresh in your mind.

Have a wonderful summer reading under a tree somewhere, as I'm looking forward to doing, and feel free to read more than is required!

Sincerely,

Ms. Todd

Answer each question concisely and accurately in a **short** to **medium** length paragraph (4-5 sentences for most of them, but some answers might be a *bit* longer). Please type, labeling each answer by number. Also, please use a clear **14** font and double-space your answers. It is not necessary to rewrite the questions, but you must attach this sheet to your answers. In some cases, direct quotations will help support your answers. If you use them, please punctuate them correctly and cite them correctly by the page number. *Example: "They shouted at me, but the fact of it was that I didn't feel like a boy any more" (71).*

1. "The Afternoon": Describe Adam's relationships with the members of his family, including his father, his mother, his grandmother, and his brother. Try to characterize each relationship specifically, giving examples from the book.
2. "The Evening": Much of this chapter focuses on Committee activities. What exactly is the Committee? Briefly relate their main business. How would you characterize Moses Cooper's position on the Committee?
3. "The Night": Adam makes an extremely important decision in this chapter. How does his mother respond to this decision? How does his father learn of Adam's decision, and how does he (Moses) respond?
4. "The Morning": On pp. 100 and 101, the book reaches its climax as the confrontation with the British turns into a bloodbath. What happens? Describe Adam's reaction to the scene around him.
5. "The Forenoon": At the beginning of this chapter, Adam is in a state of shock over the turn of events on the Common. Whom does he meet, and how does this person help him come to terms with what has transpired?
6. "The Midday": Cousin Simmons tries to explain to Adam why they must risk their lives to fight the British. Summarize the philosophy that drives the men to continue the fight.
7. "The Afternoon": When Adam is shooting at the British from under the windfall, what happens to him? What do you think the author is trying to show by this?
8. "The Evening": In addition to being an historical novel, *April Morning* is a classic coming-of-age story. What evidence exists in this chapter that Adam has changed from a boy into a man?

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BOOK TO SCHOOL!

April Morning

by Howard Fast

Setting: Lexington, Massachusetts,

April 18-19, 1775, on the eve of the
American Revolution

Main Characters:

The Coopers: A hard-working Massachusetts farm family

- Adam, 15, is a sensitive teenager who struggles for the love and respect of his strict father.
- Levi, 11, is Adam's pesky little brother. They fight, as siblings do, but they share a deep affection.
- Moses Cooper, Adam's father, is a proud, demanding, and fiercely principled man. He loves Adam but accuses him of immaturity and a poor work ethic. He wants him to grow up and accept more adult responsibilities.
- Sarah Cooper, Adam's mother, is a loving and caring woman. She tries to persuade her husband to be kinder to his son.
- Granny Cooper, Adam's grandmother, is a wise, no-nonsense, opinionated, affectionate friend to Adam. Adam turns to her for understanding and affirmation.

The Simmonses: The Coopers' distant cousins, friends, and neighbors

- Joseph Simmons, Ruth's father, is Adam's quiet, thoughtful, sincere neighbor. He is instrumental in helping Adam cope with the shocking events as the day unfolds.
- Mrs. Simmons, Joseph's wife and Ruth's mother, appears briefly as a dedicated, religious woman. She has a widowed sister who lives with the family.
- Ruth Simmons is Adam's girlfriend. Though they are very young, Ruth and Adam share conversations about the future which discuss Adam's role in the impending battle and their prospective life together.

The Reverend Clarke (a real historical figure) is the town's temperate, wise, and honored spiritual leader who helps Adam come to terms with the reality of their changing life in Lexington. A pacifist, as all the men are, he is involved in both the Committee and the militia.

Jonas Parker (a real historical figure whose first name, John, has been changed by Fast to Jonas) is the Captain of the Militia. He conducts the Committee meetings and commands the militia. The graphic on this page depicts the statue that stands in his honor on Lexington Green.

Solomon Chandler is an old veteran soldier of the French and Indian Wars who helps Adam overcome his panic after the battle on the common. Though he is kind and understanding to Adam, Adam quickly discovers that his philosophy of war directly conflicts with the Lexington men's.