

Summer Reading Program

For Students Entering
Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades



Division of Academic Services

Department of Humanities



Paterson Public Schools
Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

(Students entering Sixth, Seventh, or Eighth Grade)

Dear Parents/Students,

All K-12 students attending the Paterson Public Schools during the 2017-2018 school year will have the opportunity to select books that they are interested in and motivated to read during the summer. Our aim is to keep students connected to reading habits and comprehension skills that were introduced during the school year, with the ultimate goal of building a love for reading within your child.

For our incoming sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, your child should be reading at a “just right” reading level. This level is where your son/daughter can read comfortably with fluency and understanding. In order to maintain the reading growth your child has achieved this school year, we are suggesting that your child read books independently throughout the entire summer. A list of book suggestions for each grade level is attached and can also be found by visiting the parents/students tab on the district website.

While reading we are asking that your child keep a reading log of the books he/she read. Further, we ask that your child choose **at least two** books at their reading level and complete the attached project based on one of the chosen books. Both the reading log and project should be sent to school with your son/daughter on their first day of school in September.

This summer we have partnered with the Paterson Public Library to ensure that all students have books available at their reading level. We encourage you to visit one of the branches of the Paterson Public Library for assistance in selecting books that will interest your child.

For more detailed information, please review the packet to best prepare your child for success in their reading journey or visit our district website www.paterson.k12.nj.us.

Wishing you a wonderful summer filled with reading!



Summer Reading List

Incoming 6th grade students:

Smile by Raina Telgemeier (fiction- graphic novel) Lexile: GN410

Raina trips and severely injures her two front teeth. She copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself.

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea (fiction) Lexile: 560

Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by “rookie teacher” Mr. Terupt

Almost Home by Joan Bauer (fiction) Lexile: 590

Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness.

Mockingbird by Katherine Erskine(fiction) Lexile: 630

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger’s Syndrome struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson (fiction) Lexile: 640

When a newcomer is shunned by the popular girls, their teacher shows them how small acts of kindness can change the world. It is too late to undo the harm they have caused, but these students will take this anti-bullying message to heart.

Sarah’s Ground by Ann Rinaldi (historical fiction) Lexile: 690

In 1861, eighteen-year-old Sarah Tracy, from New York state, comes to work at Mount Vernon, the historic Virginia home of George Washington. While there she tries to protect the safety and neutrality of the site during the Civil War.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper (fiction) Lexile: 700

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

The Great Unexpected by Sharon Creech (fiction) Lexile: 720

The story of pairs, young Naomi and Lizzie both orphans in present day Blackbird Tree, USA and of Sybil and Nula, grown-up sisters from faraway Rook’s Orchard, Ireland, who have become estranged.

Ungifted by Gordon Korman (fiction) Lexile: 730

After pulling a major prank in school and due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction

Brothers At Bat: The True Story of An Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team by Audrey Vernick (non-fiction) Lexile: 780

The Accerra family had 16 children, including 12 baseball-playing brothers. In the 1930s, the boys formed their own semiprofessional team and became the longest playing all-brother baseball team in history.

Chomp by Carl Hiassen (fiction) Lexile: 800

When filming an episode of the reality television show “Expedition Survival” in the Florida Everglades, the difficult star disappears. Wahoo and classmate, Tuna Gordon, set out to solve the mystery.

Doll Bones by Holly Black (fiction) Lexile: 840

Zach, Poppy and Alice have been friends forever. They love playing with their action figure toys, imagining a magical world of adventure and heroism. Just when it looks like the three might be growing up and leaving the game behind, Poppy reveals she is being haunted. Reality and make-believe begin to blend and the three head out on an adventure they will never forget.

About Average by Andrew Clements (fiction) Lexile: 860

As the end of sixth grade nears, Jordan Johnson, unhappy that she is only average in appearance, intelligence and athletic ability, reveals her special skills when disaster strikes her central Illinois elementary school.

Amelia Lost by Candace Fleming (non-fiction) Lexile: 930

This book tells the story of Amelia Earhart’s life- as a child, a woman, and a pilot – and describes the search for her missing plane.

Lincoln’s Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinken (non-fiction) Lexile: 930

A group of counterfeiters scheme to steal Lincoln’s body from his tomb and ransom his remains for money to free a master counterfeiter from jail. Secret Service agents learn of the plot, recruit an undercover agent to infiltrate the gang, and try to catch the criminals before they can rob Lincoln’s grave.

Steve Jobs: Thinking Differently by Patricia Lakin (non-fiction) Lexile: 1020

Everyone knows that Steve Jobs was an entrepreneur and visionary. This book discusses Jobs’ triumphs, but it also lets us see his human side.

Titanic: Voices from Disaster by Deborah Hopkinson (non-fiction) Lexile: 1040

Photographs, telegrams, letters, and first-person accounts from passengers, witnesses, and crew members provide multiple perspectives on the sinking of the Titanic.

Freedom Walkers by Russell Freedman (non-fiction) Lexile: 1110

The author breathes life into the key personalities and events that contributed to the yealong civil rights struggle, known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Incoming 7th grade students:

The Swap by Megan Shull (fiction- high interest) Lexile: HL570

After a magical moment in the school's clinic, Jack and Ellie switched bodies and begin living each other's life. Both experience what it's like to live life as the opposite gender, and soon they both just want to "swap" back.

The Compound by S.A. Bodeen (fiction) Lexile: 570

Fifteen-year-old Eli has spent the last six years with his family in a massive underground shelter his father built. Nuclear war has destroyed the world he knows, including his grandmother and twin brother, who couldn't reach the compound in time. With nine years to go before the air outside will be safe to breathe, Eli is starting to have doubts about his father's motives, explanations and sanity.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (fiction) Lexile: 590

Sixteen-year-old Leo tells the story of Stargirl Caraway, the free spirit who enrolls at Mica High School.

See You At Harry's by Johanna Knowles (fiction-high interest) Lexile: HL600

Fern feels invisible in her family. Her grumpy older sister is stuck working at the family restaurant; her older brother Holden, is struggling with school bullies and his own identity; and adorable 3-year-old Charlie is always the center of attention. Unexpected tragedy strikes, and the fragile bond holding the family together is stretched almost to the breaking point.

The Raft by Stephanie Bodeen (fiction- high interest) Lexile: HL660

Fifteen-year-old Robie is flying home to a small atoll in Hawaii after visiting her aunt in Honolulu. The plane crashes into the Pacific, and now she must survive in a raft with an unconscious co-pilot, circling sharks, and a bag of Skittles.

The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake (fiction) Lexile: 670

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, an excellent student who is choosing the wrong friends, meets a new teacher, who helps her discover who she is and what she believes.

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements (fiction) Lexile: 690

Bobby wakes up invisible. His parents and his new blind friend, Alicia, try to reverse his condition. Also, Things hoped for and things that are.

Revolution of Evelyn Serrano by Sonia Manzano (fiction) Lexile: 720

Evelyn Serrano has two secrets- her true feelings about growing up in Spanish Harlem, and her attitude about Abuela, her sassy grandmother. Events erupt, such as the Young Lords setting street fires and protesting. Abuela steps in to take charge, tempers flare, loyalties are tested, and through it all Evelyn learns important truths about her Latino heritage.

Hero by Mike Lupica (fiction) Lexile: 730

In this fast-paced adventure story, 14-year-old Zach Harriman races to uncover the mystery behind his dad's death, while also learning to control his new super-hero powers. Will he discover the truth and learn to trust himself in time to face his father's fiercest enemies, or will he be too late?

The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (fiction) Lexile: 760

In jail awaiting his execution, a German teenager recalls Hitler's rise to power and the courage he found to stand up against the Nazi regime.

Never Say Die by Will Hobbs (fiction) Lexile: 770

Fifteen-year-old Inuit hunter Nick Thrasher, fresh off a terrifying encounter with a strange bear that seemed half polar half grizzly, receives a letter from the half-brother he never met.

The Walk On by John Feinstein (fiction) Lexile: 780

Newcomer Alex really wants the quarterback position on his new high school's football team; however, that position is currently filled by the coach's son.

Wonder by R. J. Palacio (fiction) Lexile: 790

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan. There he endures the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings (fiction) Lexile: 800

Brady knows that his friends are responsible for a mean prank that results in an accidental tragedy. Plagued by this guilty secret, Brady struggles with the truth and its consequences.

After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick (fiction) Lexile: 820

Jeffrey Alper, an eighth grade cancer survivor, has learned a lot about life, but there's a lot that's brand-new, such as how to fight for himself and for the people he loves. This is a hopeful and sometimes funny story about what happens when you stop surviving and start living again.

Iron Trial by Holly Black and Cassandra Clave (fiction) Lexile: 830

Callum Hunt has been warned his whole life to stay away from magic. When Call is called to attend the entrance exams for The Magisterium, a school of magic, he promises his father he will deliberately fail the test. Unfortunately, magic is in Call's blood, and he is selected to study with the greatest magician of all time, Master Rufus. Call and his new friends discover that mysteries lie deep in the Magisterium caverns, and they learn that sometimes it is hard to tell the good from the bad.

Trash by Andy Mulligan (fiction) Lexile: 850

Three boys live with hundreds of other families besides a city's mountainous garbage dump site. Their days are spent picking through the trash for something to use, sell or eat. One day their lives change forever after one of them finds a bag that contains a wallet, a key, and a map.

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson (non-fiction) Lexile: 900

The early 1900s Negro Baseball League consisted of players who made great sacrifices and showed tremendous courage in the face of adversity, all for the sake of the game they loved.

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming (non-fiction) Lexile: 930

A biography alternating between the story of Amelia Earhart's life and the days surrounding her disappearance. Through photos, sidebars, maps and letter, the author gives readers a compelling glimpse at the life of a legend.

Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall (fiction) Lexile: 990

When her mom is diagnosed with cancer, Lupita struggles to maintain her life as a Mexican-American high school student and budding actress, while also caring for her younger siblings. Written in verse, this is an unforgettable story about family bonds, the healing power of words, and the strength it takes to face overwhelming loss.

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...On Schindler's List by Leon Leyson (non-fiction) Lexile: 1000

This is a remarkable Memoir of a family's survival of the Holocaust, thanks to Oskar Schindler's repeated interventions. It is told in the voice of Leon Leyson, the youngest member of Schindler's List, who offers his first-hand account of day-to-day existence in the factory, helping readers understand the Holocaust through the eyes of a young person who lived it.

Phineas Gage by John Fleischman (non-fiction) Lexile: 1030

This is the gruesome, true account of an accident that happened to a railroad foreman in Vermont 1848. A 13-pound iron rod shot through his brain. He survived but became a textbook case in brain science.

Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement by Ann Bausum (non-fiction) Lexile: 1090

The 1960s saw courageous young people risking great personal danger as they participated in the freedom rides during the Civil Rights Movement.

Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom and Science by Marc Aronson (non-fiction) Lexile: 1130

This book explores the history and impact of sugar on our world, from slavery to revolution to human rights.

Incoming 8th grade students:

Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin (fiction- high interest) Lexile: HL640

Jason, an autistic teenager with a talent for creative writing, struggles to find acceptance in his middle school community.

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen (fiction- high interest) Lexile: HL 650

Track star Jessica loses a leg in a terrible car accident. Her road to recovery is a long one, but she can't give up her dream of running again.

Confetti Girl by Diana Lopez (fiction) Lexile: 660

Lina Flores loves sports and science, has an obsession with socks, and might have a crush on classmate Luis. With the help of her friend Vanessa, Lina is trying to survive the drama of middle school, as well as help her father cope with the recent loss of her mother.

Hidden by Helen Frost (fiction- high interest) Lexile: HL670

An accidental kidnapping in their childhood has left both Wren and Darra with deep scars. When the girls end up at the same summer camp as teenagers, they instantly recognize each other, although they have never met. The girls spend their summer searching for answers from each other and within themselves.

Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs (fiction) Lexile: 670

Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores travels north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico.

Echo by Pam Munoz-Ryan (fiction) Lexile: 680

Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. All ultimately, suspenseful solo stories come together.

The Limit by Kristen Landon (fiction) Lexile: 690

Matt's family has just spent their monthly debt limit. In the society where they live, when you hit the limit, the government wants the family to surrender a child to work off that debt. Can Matt do it?

Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna by Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton (non-fiction) Lexile: 720

This memoir of a young Maasai boy tells the story of Lekuton, a member of a family of nomadic cow-herders in Kenya. The story sheds light on the Massai culture and life on the savanna. Because Kenyan law required each family to send one child to school, Lekuton was chosen and school opened up his world. The story illustrates the tensions of belonging to two separate worlds. Lukuton works to preserve his Maasai heritage while taking advantage of the opportunities that education brings his way.

The Apothecary by Maile Meloy (fiction) Lexile: 740

Janie Scott's family has just moved from Los Angeles to London, where she meets Benjamin Burrows the son of a mysterious apothecary. When Ben's father is kidnapped, Janie and Ben must use the apothecary's magical book, *The Pharmacopoeia*, to find him and save the world.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan (fiction) Lexile: 740

After being kicked out of his sixth boarding school, 12-year-old Percy Jackson travels to Camp Half Blood, where his real adventures finally begin. He discovers his true identity as the son of a Greek god and embarks on a quest in search of Zeus' most prized possession.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia (fiction) Lexile: 750

It is 1968, Delphine and her two sisters have been put on a plane from Brooklyn to California to spend a month with their mother, a poet, who had abandoned the family years ago. During this crazy summer, the girls not only learn about their mother and the politics of this time period, but they each grow individually and come to better understand each other.

Catch a Falling Star by Kim Culbertson (fiction) Lexile: 750

Movie star Adam Jakes moves to a small town in California to film a movie and clean up his image. One way to do that is to pay Carter Moon, the least likely girl in town to fall for him, to be his "fake" girlfriend for the duration of the filming. Will they keep up the act or is something real?

Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix (fiction) Lexile: 750

Thirteen years after a plane mysteriously lands in an airport with 36 baby passengers and no adults on board, the children from the flight begin to receive strange, unexplained letters. Jonah and Chip must work quickly to uncover the secrets of their past.

Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery by John Feinstein (fiction) Lexile: 760

Stevie and Susan Carol win a sports writing contest and have a chance to cover the NCAA Final Four games. When these teenage journalists discover a scheme to fix the games, they go undercover to stop the plot. This is the first in Feinstein's sports mystery series.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner (fiction- high interest) Lexile: HL770

Fighting against a mysterious group named WICKED, Thomas and the other boys in the Glade must crack the secret code and find a way out of the moving maze before it's too late.

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer (fiction) Lexile: 770

When a meteor hits the moon and knocks it off its axis, life on Earth is altered forever. High school student Miranda keeps a diary about how her family copes with food and gas shortages and extreme weather changes, and without electricity.

Powerless by Matthew Cody (fiction) Lexile: 800

Moving to a new town, Daniel knows he'll find super friends- but he never imagines he'll have friends with super powers! Being a kid around kids who can fly and become invisible, Daniel feels powerless- until one day, when he learns that his friends mysteriously lose their powers when they turn 13.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (fiction) Lexile: 820

After losing his family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard, where he will be raised by the groundskeeper and the ghosts that dwell there. As he grows up, he learns that his family's killer is still out there looking for him.

Ties That Bind, Ties That Break by Lensey Namioka (fiction) Lexile: 830

In China in 1911, Ailin resists tradition and pressure from her family by refusing to have her feet bound to make her more attractive for her future husband. Her act of defiance alters her life forever.

The Underneath by Kathi Appelt (fiction) Lexile: 830

Set in the bayou, the Underneath is the place below the front porch where Gar-Face chains up Ranger, a hound dog who befriends a cat and her kittens. The cat family is safe in the Underneath, but when one kitten ventures out, all their fates are altered.

Code Orange by Caroline Cooney (fiction) Lexile: 850

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs. He fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.

Travel Team by Mike Lupica (fiction) Lexile: 930

After he is cut from his travel basketball team- the very same team his father one led to national prominence- Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs who might have a shot at victory.

The Golden Compass by Phillip Pullman (fiction) Lexile: 930

This fantasy relates Lyra's adventures while preventing her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming victims of experiments in the Far North.

Heat by Mike Lupica (fiction) Lexile: 940

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only 12 years old, and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (non-fiction) Lexile: 990

In this autobiographical novel, author Jacqueline Woodson writes about growing up in North Carolina and New York City during the 1960s and 1970s. She tells how she discovered her love of writing and storytelling.

Watsons Go To Birmingham by Christopher Curtis (fiction) Lexile: 1000

The Watsons live in Flint, Michigan. They fix up the “Brown Bomber” and drive to visit Grandmother in Alabama to leave their brother Byron to live with her.

Adventure in Space: The Flight to Fix the Hubble by Elaine Scott (non-fiction) Lexile: 1020

This is the story of the mission to fix the Hubble telescope. The author relates the activity aboard the space shuttle Endeavor from what the astronauts ate, to their training and five daring spacewalks.

Funny Papers: Behind the Scenes of the Comics by Elaine Scott (non-fiction) Lexile: 1110

This book gives a fascinating overview of the illustrated comics, which are a uniquely American art form. Interwoven with the history of different types of comics is information about how they are written, drawn, syndicated and published.

The Good Fight: How World War II Was Won by Stephen Ambrose (non-fiction) Lexile: 1110

Ambrose presents a concise, readable chronicle of World War II through amazing photographs and research.

The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe by Loree Griffin Burns (non-fiction)
Lexile: NC1120

In 2006, nearly 40 percent of the honey bee population in the United States simply vanished. Bee scientists and beekeepers across the country have been working to understand “colony collapse disorder.” Photographs and scientific journals help tell the story.

Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting by Jim Murphy (non-fiction) Lexile: NC1160

This is a close-up view of the Great War, World War I, and the extraordinary story of the December 25, 1914, truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man’s Land to celebrate Christmas.

Dogs on Duty by Dorothy Henshaw Patent (non-fiction) Lexile: 1190

The invaluable contributions of Military Working Dogs are well documented in this book. Patent discusses their special attributes such as the night vision and sense of smell that help these dogs keep their human partners safe. The roles they have played in World Wars I and II, in Vietnam, and in Iraq and Afghanistan are highlighted. Brief histories of individual dogs such as Stubby from World War I and Eli in Afghanistan are told.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Summer Reading Project

This year's summer reading assignment is to read **at least two books** and to record notes for one of those books. This year the two-column chart notes must be completed on a book of fiction because they will be used in a narrative writing unit first period.

Directions for a Two-Column Chart(Double Entry Journal)

Use one of the summer reading fiction texts to complete the attached two-column chart. As you read, think about the central theme of the text. For the left-hand column, list no fewer than 6 and no more than 8 quoted passages that you found significant to the book's central idea or author's message. These passages may include descriptions of specific character, persons, events, images or places; citations may be dialogue or regular prose. Citations must include page number references. Please include at least one citation from the beginning, middle, and end of the text.

In the right-hand column, record reactions to those citations. In this column, in your own words, explain the importance of each citation as it relates to a theme or main idea of the book. Try to show a thoughtful response by explaining your thoughts about the importance of the citation, your connections to the citation, or your questions about the quote (what does the quote make you wonder about?). Make sure you do not offer a summary of the citation or paraphrase the citation.

To complete this assignment, you may wish to use Post-its or record notes on a separate piece of paper while reading. Ultimately, you will complete and submit your two-column chart to your language arts teacher in September. The two-column chart will be graded and will serve as a piece of prewriting for an assignment in the first marking period.

Example of a quote and reaction from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by Frank Baum.

Citation	Significance
<p>"But I do not want people to call me a fool, and if my head stays stuffed with straw instead of with brains, as is yours, how am I ever to know anything?" (Baum, 26)</p> <p>Please note that the citation is in quotes. It should appear exactly as it appears in the text. Furthermore, the citation is followed by a parenthetical citation that includes the author's last name and page number.</p>	<p>When Dorothy, the main character, meets Scarecrow, she helps him down from his perch. In the text, Scarecrow explains that he doesn't mind having a body stuffed with straw because he cannot get hurt. However, he fears living with a head of straw because he feels he will never know anything. Scarecrow joins Dorothy's on her journey to the Emerald City because Scarecrow desires the ability of having knowledge. It seems like all of the characters are on a search for something that they feel they need to be better. When I think about the Scarecrow's mission, it makes me wonder if sometimes I take my ability to think and learn for granted. This passages relates to the central idea that all of these characters are on a search for something better.</p>

Name: _____ Grade in September _____

Title of Text: _____ Author: _____

Citation	Significance

Paterson Public Library



Locations and Hours:

Danforth (Main) Library

250 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07501

(973)321-1223

Hours: Monday through Thursday 9-8, Friday and Saturday 9-5

Southside Branch Library

930 Main Street, Paterson, NJ 07503

(973)357-3020

Hours: Monday noon-8, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 9-5

Totowa Branch Library

405 Union Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07502

(973)942-7198

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 9-5, Tuesday noon-8

Northside Branch Library

Christopher Hope Center 60 Temple Street, Paterson, NJ 07522

(973)321-1309

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9-5, Wednesday noon-8