SUMMER READING LIST
RISING 7TH GRADERS
Mary G. Porter Traditional School

Grades 6 – 8 PWCS Summer Reading Program

The purpose of the PWCS Summer Reading Program is to encourage students to enjoy quality literature and to continue developing their independent reading skills. Student participation in the program is voluntary. Students who choose to participate in the program are required to complete a minimum number of readings over the summer.

Students participating in the program in Grades 6 - 8 will complete a list of books read. The documentation is to include the name of the author, the title of the book, an explanation of the topic or plot of the book, and a parent or guardian statement that the student has completed the reading.

Students in Grades 6 - 8 who participate in Prince William County Public Library's Summer Reading Program, the Public Library documentation will apply. Students will receive an extra “A” (100) for each book completed, for a maximum total of two. The summer reading documentation will be submitted by the student by the end of the second week of school.
We recommend reading from this list below or the Virginia Readers Choice List 2016-17 nominees.

**FICTION**

**Read any book by the following authors, such as:**

**Abdel-Fattah, Randa**  **Does My Head Look Big in This?**  **Scholastic/Orchard Books, 2007**
Outspoken and funny sixteen-year-old Amal, lover of shopping and television, decides to wear the hijab full time and perseveres despite resistance from classmates, townspeople, and even relatives.

**Corbett, Sue**  **Free baseball**  **Dutton Children's Books, 2006.**
As the son of a Cuban superstar, 11-year-old Felix Piloto has baseball in his blood. He would give anything to be like his father, or know more about him, but his mother won't reveal anything beyond the fact that he risked his life and career to get his wife and baby to America. An engaging story with special appeal to sports fans.

**Davis, Tanita S.**  **Mare’s War**  **Alfred A. Knopf, 2009**
Teens Octavia and Tali learn about strength, independence, and courage when they are forced to take a car trip with their grandmother, who tells about growing up black in the 1940s Alabama and serving in Europe during World War II as a member of the Women’s Army Corps. (Coretta Scott King Award, 2010)

**Johnson, Varian**  **The Great Greene Heist**  **Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, 2014**
Jackson Greene vowed never to get involved in another middle-school con, but he is put to the test when the girl of his dreams runs for class president.

**Levine, Gail Carson**  **Fairest**  **HarperCollins, 2007**
In a world in which elegance, beauty, and singing ability are revered, Aza is bulky, awkward, and homely. Her saving grace is that she can sing more beautifully and powerfully than most. This talent gets her involved in royal intrigue at the palace where she finds fairy-tale romance, remarkable characters, and wild, magical adventures await. Readers will enjoy the fairy-tale setting while identifying with the real-life problems of living in an appearance-obsessed society.

**Levine, Kristin**  **The Lions of Little Rock**  **Putnam, 2012**
In 1958, in Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration.

**Lu, Marie**  **Legend**  **Putnam, 2011**
For those who like the *Hunger Games*, meet slum-born Day and elite-born June as they fight to save their lives and their world. (First in a trilogy.)

Siblings Josh and Sophie discover that the owner of a bookstore is none other than the famous Nicholas Flamel. (First in a series.)

**Shafer, Audrey**  **The Mailbox**  **Delacorte Press, 2006**
When twelve-year-old Gabe's uncle Vernon (a Vietnam veteran and Gabe's sole guardian) dies, the boy keeps Vernon's death a secret and tries to manage on his own. He is assisted by a mysterious, unseen well-wisher who communicates by notes.
Shulman, Polly  
**The Grimm Legacy**  
Putnam, 2010
When Elizabeth begins working in the New York Circulating Material Repository, she learns that some of the objects (and people) aren’t as normal as they seem.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg  
**Counting by 7s**  
Dial, 2013
Tragedy changes Willow’s quirky but comfortable life, and as she adapts, she changes the lives of those around her.

Stroud, Jonathan  
**The Screaming Staircase**  
Disney-Hyperion, 2013
In a London overrun by ghosts, Lucy works with the ghost-hunting agency Lockwood & Co. to combat hauntings. (First in a series)

Telgemeier, Raina  
**Drama**  
Graphix, 2012
Drama abounds on and off the stage in this hilarious graphic novel about school theater productions.

Winthrop, Elizabeth  
**Counting on Grace**  
Wendy Lamb Books, 2006
History and fiction are woven seamlessly together in this beautifully written novel. Readers won’t soon forget Grace a twelve-year-old torn from her one-room schoolhouse and forced to work long hours in the textile mill, alongside her mother, in the spinning room. The book explores the perils of mill work for children and adults alike. Readers will cheer when Grace uses her smarts to triumph over difficulties!

**NONFICTION**

Read any American History book such as:

Keenan, Sheila  
**Dogs of War**  
Graphix, 2013
This graphic novel tells the unforgettable true stories of three war heroes from three different eras—World War I, World War II, and Vietnam—and they all happened to have four legs.

Sheinkin, Steve  
**Bomb: The Race to Build-and Steal-the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon**  
(Roaring Brook Press/Flash Point, 2012)
A gripping account of the development of nuclear weapons and the global fight for control and power.

Swanson, James L.  
**Bloody Times: The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln and the Manhunt for Jefferson Davis**  
(HarperCollins, 2010)
"On the morning of April 2, 1865, Jefferson Davis received a telegram from General Robert E. Lee. There is no more time—the Yankees are coming, it warned. That night Davis fled Richmond, setting off an intense manhunt for the Confederate president. Two weeks later, President Lincoln was assassinated, and the nation was convinced that Davis was involved in the conspiracy that led to the crime.

Any Biography such as:

Beals, Melba  
**Warriors don’t cry: the searing memoir of the battle to integrate Little Rock’s Central High School**  
(Simon Pulse, 2007)
In 1957, well before Martin Luther King’s "I Have a Dream" speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock’s Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob’s rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.

Heiligman, Deborah  
**Charles and Emma: The Darwin’s Leap of Faith**  
Henry Holt, 2009
Challenges about teaching the theory of evolution in schools occur annually all over the country. This same debate raged within Darwin himself, and played an important part in his marriage: his wife, Emma, was quite religious, and her faith gave Charles a lot to think about as he worked on a theory that continues to spark intense debates.
Sullivan, George  

**Tom Thumb: The Remarkable True Story of a Man in Miniature**  
Clarion Books, 2011

When Charles S. Stratton was born in 1838, he was a large baby, perfect in every way. But then he stopped growing. At age four, though a happy and mischievous child, he was just over two feet tall and weighed only fifteen pounds—the exact same size he had been as a seven-month-old baby. It was then that the notorious showman P.T. Barnum dubbed him Tom Thumb and put him on display, touring him around the world as a curiosity.

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**Any book of Poetry or book in Verse, such as:**

Block, Francesca Lia  

**How to (Un) Cage a Girl**  
HarperTeen, 2008

A celebration of girls and women in a three part poetry collection that is powerful, hopeful, authentic, and universal.

Bryant, Jennifer Fisher  

**Ringside, 1925: Views from the Scopes Trial**  
Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2008

The year is 1925, and the students of Dayton, Tennessee, are ready for a summer of fishing, swimming, some working, and drinking root beer floats at Robinson’s Drugstore. But when their science teacher, J. T. Scopes, is arrested for having taught Darwin’s theory of evolution in class, it seems it won’t be just any ordinary summer in Dayton. As Scopes’ trial proceeds, the small town is faced with astonishing, nationwide publicity: reporters, lawyers, scientists, religious leaders, and tourists. But amidst the circus-like atmosphere is a threatening sense of tension—not only in the courtroom, but among even the strongest of friends.

Engle, Margarita  

**The Freedom Tree: Poems of Cuba’s Struggle for Freedom**  
Henry Holt, 2008

It is 1896. Cuba has fought three wars for independence and still is not free. People have been rounded up in reconcentration camps with too little food and too much illness. Rosa is a nurse, but she dares not go to the camps. So she turns hidden caves into hospitals for those who know how to find her. Black, white, Cuban, Spanish—Rosa does her best for everyone. Yet who can heal a country so torn apart by war?

Richards, Jame  

**Three Rivers Rising**  
Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010

Sixteen-Year-Old Celstia spends every summer with her family at the elite resort at Lake Conemaugh, a shimmering Allegheny Mountain reservoir held in place by an earthen dam. Tired of the society crowd, Celestia prefers to swim and fish with Peter, the hotel’s hired boy. It’s a friendship she must keep secret, and when companionship turns to romance, it’s a love that could get Celestia disowned. These affairs of the heart become all the more wrenching on a single, tragic day in May, 1889. After days of heavy rain, the dam fails, unleashing 20 million tons of water onto Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in the valley below. The town where Peter lives with his father. The town where Celestia has just arrived to join him. This searing novel in poems explores a cross-class romance—and a tragic event in U. S. history.

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**Book summaries are from Goodreads.com or ALA’s Summer Reading List**