

WARDLAW + HARTRIDGE

Middle School Summer Reading

Entering Grade Eight Reading Assignment

“Books break the shackles of time – proof that humans can work magic.” – Carl Sagan

Summer Reading is a valued part of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School experience. Students are exercising their minds and preparing for the year ahead.

This list of required reading for each grade has been created by the teachers in grades 6-8 and is designed both to challenge and engage. The books will be used in the first weeks of classes.

It is important to remember that these required books represent a minimum reading commitment. We encourage our students to go beyond the minimum and read additional books that will broaden their perspectives, their knowledge, and their ability to share in the life experiences of others.

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With this Summer Reading, as well as through their reading and work throughout the upcoming school year, students entering Grade Eight are to consider the essential question, ***“When should an individual take a stand to confront a problem?”***

All students read two of the titles from the following list:

I am Malala by Christiana Lamb and Malala Yousafzai

A memoir by the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Malala Yousafzai writes, "I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday." When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town by Warren St. John

The extraordinary tale of a refugee youth soccer team and the transformation of a small American town. Clarkston, Georgia, became the first American home for scores of families in flight from the world's war zones—from Liberia and Sudan to Iraq and Afghanistan. The town is also home to a youth soccer team which unified Clarkston's refugee children.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

A true story of an enterprising African teenager who constructed a windmill from scraps to create electricity for his entire community. William Kamkwamba shares the remarkable story of his youth in Malawi, Africa—a nation crippled by intense poverty, famine, and the AIDS plague—and how, with tenacity and imagination, he built a better life for himself, his family, and his village.

In Their Shoes by Deborah Reber

An engaging and inspiring collection of true stories of women engaged in myriad careers, from astrophysicists and fashion designers to animators and zoologists, these profiles provide sage advice for young women as they consider leadership and future career paths.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Firemen once put out fires; now they start them. Books have become illegal to own or read and it is the job of firemen to burn any books they find. Guy Montag, a fireman, is devoted to the belief that books are dangerous and he is committed to doing his part to protect society from the radical ideas books can ignite. A chance encounter with a young woman, however, causes Montag to reconsider everything he thought he knew and everything he thought he believed. Before long, Montag is hiding the books he used to burn and soon thereafter, he must run for his life from those he used to call his brothers.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.