

## 2010-2011 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List and Assignment

Directions for the summer reading assignment: Students are to choose **ONE** book from the list below and create an alternative book report using two of the following four choices:

1. Create a newspaper article for the novel you read. Summarize the main events in your article. (at least 3 paragraphs and should include a description of the main characters).
2. Choose an important event or situation from the novel and explain it from another character's point of view. (at least 3 paragraphs)
3. Write a poem about either the theme or characters of the novel. (at least 10 lines long)
4. Think of the main character in another book you have read or movie you have seen and compare/contrast to the main character in the summer reading book. Which two characters would you want to meet and why? What would their meeting be like?  
Paragraph 1: Describe their similarities.  
Paragraph 2: Describe their differences.  
Paragraph 3: Describe why you would have them meet and what it would be like if they met.

\*\*\*Creativity is encouraged. You may include illustrations, pictures, unique formatting, etc.\*\*\*

**The Pact** by [Sampson Davis](#) (Author), [George Jenkins](#) (Author), [Rameck Hunt](#) (Author), [Lisa Frazier Page](#) (Author) 7-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level

**Summary:** Growing up in broken homes in a crime-ridden area of Newark, N.J., these three authors could easily have followed their childhood friends into lives of drug-dealing, gangs and prison. They tell harrowing stories of being arrested for assault and mugging drug dealers, and of the lack of options they saw as black teenagers. But when their high school was visited by a recruiter from a college aimed at preparing minority students for medical school, the three friends decided to make something of their lives. Through the rigors of medical and dental school, and a brief detour into performing rap music at local clubs, they supported each other. Today, Davis and Hunt are doctors, and Jenkins is a dentist; the men's Three Doctors Foundation funds scholarships to give other poor black kids the same opportunities. The authors aren't professional readers, and it shows. They're clearly reading aloud, not speaking spontaneously. But the authenticity of their urban accents and the earnestness and sincerity in their voices give their inspiring tale an immediacy that would be lost with a professional narrator. Based on the Riverhead hardcover.

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**She Said Yes** by Misty Bernall 7-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level

**Summary: From Publishers Weekly**

One of the most gripping stories to come out of the shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., is that of Cassie Bernall: when asked by the gunmen whether she believed in God, she answered yes and then was shot point-blank. Hours after the story emerged,

Cassie was hailed a martyr by news media and Christian groups around the world. Her mother's smoothly written account of that day, and of the years that preceded it, provides a fuller picture of a girl who was once very troubled and, ironically, had been for a time as much of a Goth-loving outsider as her killers. Bernall relates how she and her husband intervened after finding letters in Cassie's room that described occult spells and ways to murder one's parents. In describing her daughter's turnaround, spurred by adjustments at school and a Christian youth group, Bernall also details her own emotional difficulties before and after the shooting. Her remarkable candor about her relationship with her daughter makes this an intense and fascinating memoir. Comments from Cassie's father and schoolmates add depth and, by her own admission, allow even Bernall to learn more about Cassie than she had known before the shooting. Through the Bernall family's example, the book shows how a troubled teenager can be helped, though Bernall doesn't hold back when describing the emotional toll the process can take. Although she doesn't see her daughter as a martyr, Bernall concludes that Cassie's death was, indeed, a triumph of honesty and courage. This powerful memoir honors that courage and reveals Misty Bernall's own. 10 b&w photos. (Sept.)

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**Swimming to Antarctica:** Lynne Cox 7-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level

**Summary:** Cox, one of the world's leading long-distance swimmers, has been a risk-taker ever since she was nine and chose the freezing water of a New Hampshire pool in a storm over getting out and doing calisthenics. After her family moved to California so she and her siblings could train as speed swimmers, she discovered long-distance ocean swimming. Her first open-water event, a team race across the Catalina Channel, convinced her to train for the English Channel. At 15, she broke the Channel record, and decided she needed a new goal. Up to this point, Cox's story reads like a fairy tale of hard work, careful planning and good support, crowned with success. It isn't until she competes in the Nile River swim that the tale turns ugly-she's swimming in raw sewage and chemical waste, fending off the dead rats and broken glass, so sick with dysentery she lands in the hospital. Undeterred, she plans more ambitious swims-around the shark-infested Cape of Good Hope, across Alaska's Glacier Bay-to prepare for her big dream, a swim from Alaska to the Soviet Union across the Bering Strait. While offering herself to researchers studying the effects of cold on the human body, her political goals are even larger: to bring countries and peoples together, using swimming "to establish bridges between borders." Cox ends her story with her swim to Antarctica, where she finishes the first Antarctic mile in 32-degree water in 25 minutes. Even though readers know she survived to tell the tale, it's a thrilling, awesome and well-written story.

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**Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board** by [Bethany Hamilton](#) (Author), [Rick Bundschuh](#) (Author), [Sheryl Berk](#) (Contributor)

**Summary:** Gr. 6-9 Reading Level. Readers may not recall the name Bethany Hamilton, but after a glance at the cover photo, they'll recognize her as the girl who lost her arm to a

shark while surfing. Hamilton tells her own story, though in many places the narrative sounds more like it's from an adult's perspective--perhaps from an adult coauthor. It begins with the moment a giant white shark chomps off her arm. She then goes back to discuss the events leading up to the attack and to describe what her life was like before the tragedy--home-schooling in a strong Christian household and lots of competitive surfing. Hamilton's account is suffused with her feelings for God and His impact in her life. Perhaps because of this relationship, she never seems depressed about her situation; in fact, she is surfing again. The inset of color photos offers further insight into Hamilton's life. Although this may quickly date, it has automatic appeal for a wide range of readers. *Ilene Cooper*  
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