

Books for Relaxing Reading



Grades 6 - 8



**Pittsburgh
Public Schools**

**EXCELLENCE[★]
FOR ALL**

The Pathway to the Promise.



Pittsburgh Public Schools

Linda S. Lane, Ed.D, Deputy Superintendent
Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability

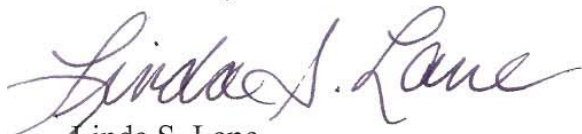
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May 2009

Dear Pittsburgh Public Schools Students:

I know you are looking forward to the summer break and I hope that many of you plan to continue learning through our summer programs for reading and math. Another way to keep on learning is through your summer reading list for reading on your own. This list is to help you find books to read so you can continue to work hard and dream big all summer long. You do not have to only read books on the list, but do keep track of what you read by writing your summary in the reading log. Your principal is going to do this too, so check to find out how many books they read this summer when you come back to school! Bring your log with you to school in August. The Carnegie Libraries have the list and can help you find the books you want to read. Stay safe and read this summer!

All the best,



Linda S. Lane



The Pathway to the Promise.

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district



Branches of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh operates 19 neighborhood locations including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Each neighborhood library is staffed with exceptional employees who are dedicated to assisting their customers. Check your local neighborhood location to find daily hours of operation.

Main Library

4400 Forbes Ave.
412.622.3114

Allegheny

(opening Summer, 2009)
1210 Federal St.
412.237.1890

Beechview

1910 Broadway Ave.
412.563.2900

Brookline

708 Brookline Blvd.
412.561.1003

Carrick

1811 Brownsville Rd.
412.882.3897

Downtown & Business

612 Smithfield St.
412.281.7141

East Liberty (closing for renovations, summer, 2009)
130 S. Whitfield St.
412.363.8232

Hazelwood

4901 Second Ave.
412.421.2517

Hill District

2177 Centre Ave. at Kirkpatrick St.
412.281.3753

Homewood

7101 Hamilton Ave.
412.731.3080

Knoxville

400 Brownsville Rd.
412.381.6543

Lawrenceville

279 Fisk St.
412.682.3668

Mt. Washington

315 Grandview Ave.
412.381.3380

Sheraden

720 Sherwood Ave.
412.331.1135

South Side

2205 East Carson St.
412.431.0505

Squirrel Hill

5801 Forbes Ave.
412.422.9650

West End

47 Wabash Ave.
412.921.1717

Woods Run

1201 Woods Run Ave.
412.761.3730

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Leonard C. Staisey Bldg.
4724 Baum Blvd.
412.687.2440 800.242.0586



Reading Reveals...

Books for Relaxing Reading

– Grades 6-8 –

- Anderson, Laurie Halse** **Fever 1793**
In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.
- Avi** **Nothing But the Truth**
A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.
- Balliett, Blue** **Chasing Vermeer (and other titles in series)**
When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.
- Brashares, Ann** **Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants**
During their first summer apart, four teenage girls, best friends since earliest childhood, stay in touch through a shared pair of secondhand jeans that magically adapts to each of their figures and affects their attitudes to their different summer experiences. (First of four books in this very popular series)
- Choldenko, Gennifer** **Al Capone Does My Shirts**
A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.
- Codell, Esme Raji** **Sahara Special**
Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul** **Elijah of Buxton**
Elijah, is the first child born into freedom in a settlement of runaway slaves in Canada. When a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, Elijah embarks on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of the thief.
- DiCamillo, Kate** **Because of Winn-Dixie**
Ten-year-old India Opal describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big, lovable dog Winn-Dixie.
- Diterlizzi, Tony** **The Spiderwick Chronicles**
Adventures of the Grace children who have some unusual experiences after they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures.
- Eager, Edward** **Half Magic**
Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.
- Farmer, Nancy** **A Girl Named Disaster**
While journeying to Zimbabwe, eleven-year-old Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits. (Other titles by this author are also recommended. Ask your librarian for recommendations.)

Once you've finished the books on this list, don't forget to ask your teacher-librarian or Carnegie librarian for more suggestions.



Reading Reveals...

Books for Relaxing Reading

– Grades 6-8 –

Farmer, Nancy

House of the Scorpion

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. (Other titles by Nancy Farmer are also enjoyable. Ask your librarian for additional recommendations.)

Farmer, Nancy

The Ear, the Eye and the Arm

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. (Other titles by Nancy Farmer are also enjoyable. Ask your librarian for recommendations.)

Flake, Sharon

The Skin I'm In

Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. & nbsp; When a new teacher, whose face is blotched with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same? (Ask your librarian to help you find more great books by Sharon Flake.)

Flinn, Alex

Beastly

A modern retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" from the point of view of the Beast, a vain Manhattan private school student who is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form.

Funke, Cornelia

Inkheart (trilogy)

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

Golenbock, Peter

Teammates

Describes the racial prejudice experienced by Jackie Robinson when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first black player in Major League baseball and depicts the acceptance and support he received from his white teammate Pee Wee Reese. (non-fiction)

Havill, Juanita

Grow: A Novel in Verse

Two misfit children and other members of a Minneapolis, Minnesota, neighborhood are brought together by a woman creating a community garden.

Hiaasen, Carl

Flush

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. (Other titles by this author are also recommended. Ask your librarian for suggestions.)

Kinney, Jeff

Diary of a Wimpy Kid (& other titles in the series)

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship

Klise, Kate

Regarding the Fountain

When the principal asks a fifth-grader to write a letter regarding the purchase of a new drinking fountain for their school, he finds that all sorts of chaos results.

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Reading Reveals...

Books for Relaxing Reading

– Grades 6-8 –

Konigsburg, E.L.

View from Saturday

Four students, each with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. Other titles by this author are also recommended. Ask your librarian for suggestions.

Korman, Gordan

Swindle

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the SmartPick fruit picker.

Larson, Kirby

Hattie Big Sky

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

Myers, Walter Dean

Dream Bearer

During a summer in Harlem, David relies on his mother and a close friend and on an old man he meets in the park to help him come to terms with his father's outbursts and unstable behavior. (Ask your librarian to help you find more great books by Walter Dean Myers.)

**Naylor, Phyllis
Reynolds**

Shiloh

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Riordan, Rick

The Lightning Thief

After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

Rowling, J. K.

Harry Potter series

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Sonnenblick, Jordan

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

Spinelli, Jerry

Maniac Magee

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary as he accomplishes athletic and other feats that awe his peers. (Ask your librarian to suggest more titles by Jerry Spinelli.)

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Reading Reveals...

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– Grades 6-8 –

Tolkein, JRR

The Hobbit

Whisked away from his comfortable, unambitious life in his hobbit-hole by a wizard and a company of dwarves, Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of a large and very dangerous dragon.

Van Draanen, Wendelin

Flipped

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Weeks, Sarah

Regular Guy (and other “Guy” books)

Because he is so different from his eccentric parents, twelve-year-old Guy is convinced he has been switched at birth with a classmate whose parents seem more normal. (Ask your librarian about other books by Sarah Weeks.)

Weeks, Sarah

So B. It

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is. (Ask your librarian about other books by Sarah Weeks.)

Woodson, Jacqueline

Miracles' Boys

Miracle's Boys is the story of three brothers, Ty'ree, Charlie, and Lafayette and their struggle to stay together as a family after the death of their mother. This is an eloquent story of the power of love to sustain a family, against tough odds. Winner of the 2001 Coretta Scott King Award!

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Books for Relaxing Reading (Student Log, Grades 6-12)

Photocopy this sheet or go to <http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/portal>
to download additional copies of the student log.

Student's name _____

Book # _____ Date finished: _____

Author (last name, first name) _____

Title _____

City of Publication _____ Publisher _____ Year of Publication _____

On the lines below, write a very short summary of the book, or why you'd recommend
(or not recommend) the book to a friend. _____

Book # _____ Date finished: _____

Author (last name, first name) _____

Title _____

City of Publication _____ Publisher _____ Year of Publication _____

On the lines below, write a very short summary of the book, or why you'd recommend
(or not recommend) the book to a friend. _____

Book # _____ Date finished: _____

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Title _____

City of Publication _____ Publisher _____ Year of Publication _____

On the lines below, write a very short summary of the book, or why you'd recommend
(or not recommend) the book to a friend. _____
