



# Cobb Middle School

## 2013 Summer Reading



Please be sure to read the directions carefully as expectations for summer reading vary by grade level.

All rising sixth and seventh grade students are expected to read ONE of the two books listed below for their 2013-2014 grade level.

All rising eighth grade students are expected to read BOTH books listed below for their 2013-2014 grade level.

In language arts classes, on the first Friday of the school year, students will take an exam to assess their knowledge of the summer reading book(s) that were read. All rising eighth grade students will take an exam on BOTH books.

A Lexile measure is a valuable piece of information about the difficulty of a text, like a book or magazine article. A Lexile text measure is based on two strong predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: word frequency and sentence length. Many other factors affect the relationship between a reader and a book, including its content, the age and interests of the reader, and the design of the actual book. The Lexile band for middle school is 665L-1100L. The Lexile band is not the only factor in determining the appropriateness of a book for middle school students.

### 6<sup>th</sup> grade novel choices:

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli:** From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted — at first. (Lexile: 590)

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen:** Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present. (Lexile: 1020)

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade novel choices:

***Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card:** In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program, but didn't make the cut. (Lexile: 780)

***Divergent (Book 1)* by Veronica Roth:** In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. (Lexile: 700)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/15/books/review/young-adult-books-divergent-by-veronica-roth.html?\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/15/books/review/young-adult-books-divergent-by-veronica-roth.html?_r=1&)

### Both books to be read by all 8<sup>th</sup> graders:

***The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens: The Ultimate Teenage Success Guide* by Sean Covey:** In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more. (Lexile: 870)

***The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman:** Somewhere in contemporary Britain, "the man Jack" uses his razor-sharp knife to murder a family, but the youngest, a toddler, slips away. The boy ends up in a graveyard, where the ghostly inhabitants adopt him to keep him safe. (Lexile: 820)

