

# North Gwinnett Middle School 2010 Summer Reading List

Read TWO books from this list and complete the reading response documentation for each book.

## Georgia Book Award Nominees 2010-2011

**Hummingbird** by Kimberly Angie – Twelve-year-old March Anne's perfect life is disrupted when Grenna, her grandmother, suffers a debilitating heart attack. March Anne comes to realize that she will eventually lose Grenna, and she finally faces the hole in her life left by her mother's death, when March Anne was very young.

**The GollyWhopper Games** by Jody Feldman – Gil Goodson's future depends on winning the Golly Toy & Game Company's ultimate competition. If Gill wins, his dad has promised that the family can move away from all the gossip, false friends, and bad press that have plagued them since The Incident. Gil's every step and mistake will be broadcast on national television?

**The Year the Swallows Came Early** by Kathryn Fitzmaurice – Eleven-year-old Groovy Robinson's father has been taken to jail, and Groovy's mom turned him in! Apparently, Groovy's father gambled away \$25,000 of Groovy's savings account. Groovy is disappointed and hurt. She even changes her name to "Eleanor" and heeds advice of an old homeless sailor.

**Diamond Willow** by Helen Frost – When Willow's beloved dog, Roxy, is blinded in an accident, and her parents want to put the dog down, Willow tries to take Roxy to Grandma and Grandpa, her traditional Indian grandparents. The two are caught in a raging blizzard and Willow encounters spirits of her ancestors, who live on in the wild animals around her.

**A Tugging String** by David Greenberg – When David Duvy Greenberg was 12 years old, his father was a lawyer for Martin Luther King Jr. and the protestors who King led in the 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to Montgomery. Duvy worries about his ball game and is terrified that his dad's life is in danger from the Klan.

**Chase** by Jessie Haas – In this post-Civil War adventure, an orphan witnesses a murder and runs for his life. For stable boy, Phin Chase, being in the wrong place at the wrong time makes him a suspect. Someone is tracking Phin on a stallion, but the boy's survival skills work to his advantage as he turns the tables on his pursuers.

**All the Lovely Bad Ones** by Mary Downing Hahn – Twelve-year old Travis and sister, Corey, are spending the summer with their grandmother at her Vermont bed and breakfast. The siblings hear that the inn is rumored to be haunted and decide to manufacture some ghostly effects for the guests. Unfortunately, they arouse the real ghosts: young boys who died in the early 1800's.

**Bird Lake Moon** by Kevin Henkes – Mitch Sinclair, 12, is at Bird Moon Lake because his parents are divorcing. Spencer Stone and his family live in the cottage next door. Spencer and his sister love the lake, but it's also the place where their barely remembered brother, Matty, drowned at age four. Mitch tricks Spencer into thinking Matty is haunting them; then he does something worse.

**Go Big or Go Home** by Will Hobbs – When a meteorite crashes through the roof of Brady's home in the Black Hills of South Dakota, the young astrophile is excited beyond belief. Brady and his friend deem this space rock "extremely insane" before setting out for a headlong series of bicycling, fishing, and caving adventures. When Brady starts to surpass his normal physical limitations, it becomes apparent that the meteorite might have brought along some hidden visitors from outer space.

**Seekers: The Quest Begins** by Erin Hunter – Meet three bear cubs: Kallik, a polar bear; Lusa, a black bear; and Toklo, a brown bear. Kallik loses her mother in a killer-whale attack and is separated from her brother. Lusa hears stories about life in the wild that eventually cause her to leave the safety of the zoo. Toklo is abandoned by his mother. All three cubs are learning to survive in the woods with minimal knowledge and ability and with no adult allies.

**We Can't All be Rattlesnakes** by Patrick Jennings – Briefly mistaken for a rattlesnake, the venomless Crusher is caught by Gunnar, an oily, filthy, fleshy human child who displays an outsize insensitivity to his collection of creatures. Advised by Gunnar's other captive reptiles, Crusher decides that her best chance at freedom lies in pretending to be fully domesticated; the trouble is, she begins to feel sorry for Gunnar.

**House of Dance** by Beth Kephart – Fifteen-year-old Rosie faces a lonely summer. Her best friend is out of town, and Rosie has been charged with daily visits to her grandfather, who is dying of cancer. While sorting through her grandfather's possessions, Rosie concocts a secret plan that she hopes will "give him back the life he loved." As part of the scheme, Rosie begins dance instruction, and her growing confidence on the dance floor strengthens her sense of self.

**The Last Girls of Pompeii** by Kathryn Lasky – In Pompeii, in the summer of A.D. 79, Julia and Sura appear to lead opposite lives. Julia is the daughter of a wealthy ship-builder; Sura is an orphan. Julia bears the Curse of Venus--a withered arm; Sura's beauty turns heads. Julia is free; Sura is her slave. But when Mt. Vesuvius erupts, Julia's and Sura's fates are forever altered, forcing them both to face the true meaning of freedom.

**Savvy** by Ingrid Law – For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a "savvy" – a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, her older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity . . . and now it's the eve of Mibs's big day.

**Storyteller** by Edward Myers – An eventful tale of 16-year-old storyteller Jack, who leaves his village to seek his fortune, as lads in stories do. Along the way, he befriends a talkative crow, provokes a notorious outlaw, finds employment as the king's storyteller, and falls in love. Dealing with bad luck and good, Jack makes his share of mistakes but tries to learn from them and from the people he meets along the way.

**Bringing the Boy Home** by N.A. Nelson - A boy with a malformed foot is cast off by his remote Amazonian tribe. Sara, an American anthropologist, rescues 6-year-old Tirio, adopts him, and brings him home to Miami. As Tirio approaches his thirteenth birthday, he begins to hear inner voices, a phenomenon that he knows is common among Takunami boys as they prepare for the *soche sente tente*, a grueling coming-of-age test in which young men are guided through a dangerous jungle by spiritual communication with their fathers.

**Child of Dandelions** by Shenaaz Nanji - Sabine is 15 years old in the summer of 1972, when Ugandan president Idi Amin issues his proclamation that all "foreign Indians" must leave the country within 90 days. Unlike many of the Indians in their Kampala community, Sabine was born in Uganda, and although she is of Indian ancestry, she feels as much a Ugandan as her best friend, Zena, an "ethnic African." As the countdown continues, though, the terrifying street violence reaches into Sabine's home, and she realizes that despite her family's Ugandan citizenship, they aren't immune from the president's decree.

**Darkwing** by Kenneth Oppel - In this fantasy, the clock is turned back 65 million years to imagine the world of the bats' earliest ancestors, which the author calls "chiropters." These tree-dwelling creatures are flightless, using their wings (which they call "sails") to glide through the air, from tree to tree. Only Dusk, youngest son of the colony's leader, has made an evolutionary leap; not only can he fly, he can also see at night, using echo vision. Predictably, the others regard him as a mutant to be shunned—all but his father, who wisely considers his son's differences as gifts. Dusk's real nemesis, however, is a beast (a "felid") called Carnassial.

**The Magic Thief** by Sarah Prineas - Young Conn picks the pocket of the wizard Nevery, who is startled that the nicked magical stone did not kill the boy. Nevery takes on Conn as a servant, but the boy's inquisitiveness and talents move him to apprentice status. Nevery has recently returned to Willmet to save the city-state, which is faltering as its magic seeps away.

**Dragon Egg** by Sarah Thomson - It is a rare talent, and only she can care for the Inn's herd. She feeds them, gathers their eggs, and tends to their injuries. But Mella dreams about the dragons of legend, even though hardly anyone believes they still exist. Dragons are small farm animals, not huge fire-breathing monsters. Everyone knows that. Until one day changes everything.

**\*Evernight** by Claudia Gray \*(alternate nominee YA)- Sixteen-year-old Bianca is dreading her first day at Evernight Academy. Then she meets handsome Lucas, for whom she falls with quick intensity. Everyone at Evernight has secrets, even Bianca, and as her romance deepens, she risks revealing the otherworld identity of Evernight's glamorous population, even as she wonders if Lucas, too, is hiding something.

## SUMMER READING DOCUMENTATION

### Documentation directions:

On the front and back of a 5 x 8 note card, students should respond to these questions for both of their summer reading books. (one note card per book)

### When are responses due?

During the first week of school in August, students will bring their note cards (with notes completed) to their language arts class.

### How will the notes be used?

These notes will be used to assist students in completing an "in class" written assessment about their summer reading.

### (FRONT OF NOTECARD)

**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AUTHOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARACTERS:** Provide a short description of each of the *main* characters in the story.

**CONNECTIONS:** What *connections* are there between the book and your own life? (Consider the characters' feelings, reactions, decisions, goals, and actions.)

### (BACK OF NOTECARD)

**THE ENDING:** Describe how the main character *changes* from the beginning of the book to the end.

**CONFLICTS:** What *obstacles/problems* do the main characters(s) encounter in seeking their goal(s)?

**QUESTIONS:** Create 3 - 4 questions that you would ask the characters about themselves or actions.

A copy of this list and documentation information is also available on the NGMS website under "Academics."