

**The Country School
341 Opening Hill Road
Madison, CT**

**Required Reading List and Middle School Assignments
Summer 2017**

Children entering **PreSchool:**

I Went Walking
by Sue Williams

Children entering **PreK:**

The Little Red Hen
by Jerry Pinkney

Children entering **Kindergarten:**

A Stick is an Excellent Thing: Poems Celebrating Outdoor Play
by Marilyn Singer

Children entering **First Grade:**

Mr. Putter and Tabby Pour the Tea
By Cynthia Rylant

Children entering **Second Grade:**

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
Suggested Additional Read: Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

Children entering **Third Grade:**

Thank you Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
and at least one other free choice book.

Children entering **Fourth Grade:**

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies (Option: read independently or as a shared reading with an adult) and read at least one other free choice book.

Children entering **Fifth Grade:**

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park (Read independently or as a shared reading with an adult; involves civil war in Sudan)
From the Mixed Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg
One other free choice book.

Children entering **Sixth Grade:**

1. *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
2. Intermediate or Teen Nutmeg of their choice
3. Biography of a current or historical leader of their choice

Children entering **Seventh Grade:**

1. *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
2. Teen 2018 Nutmeg Nominee of their choice
3. Newbery of their choice

Children entering **Eighth Grade:**

1. *Flying Lessons and Other Stories*, edited by Ellen Oh
2. Teen 2018 Nutmeg Nominee of their choice
3. *March, Book I*, by John Lewis

Details beyond the books for incoming 6-8:

Incoming grade 6

- **Read the required novel *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli.** (Do not do any of the following projects on *Stargirl*, however; just be ready for discussion and deep thinking when you get back to school!)
- **Read an Intermediate or Teen Nutmeg book from the list of 2018 nominees.**
- **Read a biography of a current or historical leader** (remember, “leader” is a broad term).
- **Write two letter-essays (one will respond to your Nutmeg and the other to your biography choice) based on the following prompts:**
 - How does the main character change throughout the novel? Give examples of growth throughout the book.
 - Why do you think the author chose this title? What connections do you see with the title throughout the work?
 - Each entry must be AT LEAST ONE PAGE in length, typed, double spaced.
 - Remember that a letter-essay combines solid analysis of your reading with

personal reflection in a casual, conversational tone.

- You can choose one prompt per essay or try to tackle both prompts in separate paragraphs in responding to each book - your choice.
- **Complete the book poster assignment (listed below) for either of your CHOICE books (not *Stargirl*).**
- **All work is due on the first day of school.**

Incoming grade 7

- **Read the required novel *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton.** (Do not do any of the following projects on *The Outsiders*, however; just be ready for discussion and deep thinking when you get back to school!)
- **Read a Teen 2018 Nutmeg Nominee.**
- **Read a Newbery Winner (any year).**
- **Write two letter-essays (one will respond to your Nutmeg and the other to your Newbery) based on the following prompts:**
 - How does the main character change throughout the novel? Give examples of growth throughout the book.
 - Why do you think the author chose this title? What connections do you see with the title throughout the work?
 - Each entry must be AT LEAST ONE PAGE in length, typed, double spaced.
 - Remember that a letter-essay combines solid analysis of your reading with personal reflection in a casual, conversational tone.
 - You can choose one prompt per essay or try to tackle both prompts in separate paragraphs in responding to each book - your choice.
- **Complete the book poster assignment (listed below) for either of your CHOICE books (not *The Outsiders*).**
- **All work is due on the first day of school.**

Incoming grade 8

- **Read the required short story collection, *Flying Lessons and Other Stories*.**
(READ ALL OF THE STORIES! Do not do any of the following projects on *Flying Lessons and Other Stories*, however; just be ready for discussion and deep thinking when you get back to school!)
- **Read a Teen 2018 Nutmeg Nominee.**
- **Read *March, Book One* by John Lewis.**
- **Write two letter-essays (one will respond to your Nutmeg and the other to *March*) based on the following prompts:**
 - How does the main character change throughout the novel? Give examples of growth throughout the book.
 - Why do you think the author chose this title for the novel? What connections do you see with the title throughout the work?
 - Each entry must be AT LEAST ONE PAGE in length, typed, double spaced.
 - Remember that a letter-essay combines solid analysis of your reading with personal reflection in a casual, conversational tone.
 - You can choose one prompt per essay or try to tackle both prompts in separate paragraphs in responding to each book - your choice.
- **Complete the book poster assignment (listed below) for either of your CHOICE books (not *Flying Lessons and Other Stories*).**
- **All work is due on the first day of school.**

Book Poster

Sales are down in the young adult literature section of your local bookstore. You have been hired to help boost revenue by promoting the best book you read this summer. The manager of the bookstore has even promised to display your persuasive poster in the front window!

Be sure to do the following when creating your poster:

- “Hook” your audience with a quote or two from the novel.
- Make your poster eye-catching and colorful - earn that spot in the window!
- Use vivid language to sell the story.
- Prominently include the title, author, and genre.
- Target your audience - who would want to read the book and why?

Be creative but remember that the substance of your poster is the novel itself. Don't get so caught up in your artistry that you forget the purpose of the assignment - to help boost sales at the bookstore!

Rubric

____/20	“Hook” your audience with a quote or two from the novel.
____/30 window!	Make your poster eye-catching and colorful - earn that spot in the
____/20	Use vivid language to sell the story.
____/10	Prominently include the title, author, and genre (and of course, your name)
____/20	Target your audience - who would want to read the book and why?
____/100	TOTAL

2018 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees



Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

"Book Scavenger" is an online game which has gone viral. Solving puzzle clues to find books hidden all over the world is the name of the game. When Emily moves to San Francisco, she discovers that the game's creator has been attacked and his new game is missing! Can she and her new friend James figure out what happened before the attackers find them?

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaaly Hunt

Ally was a class joker to hide the fact that she had trouble reading. When Ally's teacher goes on maternity leave, the substitute sees through her act and is determined to help her learn differently. As her reading skills improve and Ally's confidence grows, can the class clown become the class president?

Gabriel Finley and the Raven's Riddle by George Hagen

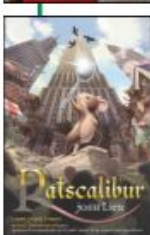
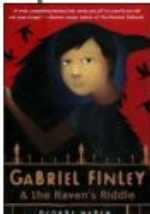
When Gabriel rescues a baby raven, he discovers people in his family can bond with ravens in fantastic ways. He goes on a quest with three brave friends and his raven to try to rescue his missing father, solving riddles and avoiding flocks of vicious birds along the way.

Kinda Like Brothers by Coe Booth

Jarrett's plans for an amazing summer come crashing down when he realizes he not only has to go summer school, but his mom is fostering a new baby... and the baby comes with an older brother. Now Jarrett has to share his friends, his room, and his life with a complete stranger, Kevon. The two cannot get along: Kevon acts like he's better than Jarrett, and has been keeping some major secrets. Jarrett's got to do something about it. But what?

Ratscalibur by Josh Lieb

After being bitten by an elderly rat, Joey finds himself transformed from a 7th grade boy into a rat. After drawing the "spork from the scene," Joey goes on a quest into Central Park to find Squirrelin the Squagician, battling crows, rats and more with Ratscalibur, his sword, in order to save his new rat friends in this rodent retelling of the classic King Arthur story.



The Tapper Twins go to War (with Each Other) by Jeff Rodkey

It all started with a rumor (someone farted in the cafeteria) and twins Claudia and Reese were at war. Through text messages, interviews, photos, and screenshots, the series of events in the battle are retold. The pranks are all fun and games until they have to deal with the consequences of their actions.

Took: A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn

Daniel is the new kid in a small town in West Virginia and isn't fooled by Brody trying to scare him with creepy ghost stories. When Daniel's little sister starts acting strange and distant, eventually disappearing into the woods, Daniel knows something is terribly wrong. Could the ghost stories be true? Has Erica been "took"?

Under the Egg by Laura Marx Fitzgerald

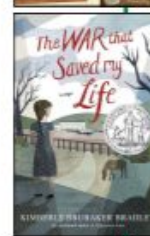
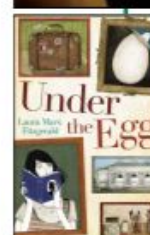
Theodora Tenpeny's beloved Grandpa Jack has died and left her with a broken heart and a house full of responsibilities. Grandpa Jack's last words, telling Theo to look "under the egg," lead her and her quirky new allies on a chase from clue to clue across New York City.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Born with a twisted foot, Ada has never been allowed to leave her small London apartment. As the threat of bombs looms over London during World War II, Ada and her little brother Jamie escape to the countryside. Ada's world opens up as she gains confidence and learns to trust those around her... but is trust enough to keep her family safe?

A Whole New Ballgame by Phil Bildner

5th grade is exciting and unpredictable for best friends Rip and Red. Their new teacher, Mr. Acevedo prefers eccentric out-of-the-box assignments that prove to be the opposite of boring test prep. When Mr. Acevedo turns out to be their new basketball coach, too, the boys realize they're along for a wild ride.



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2018 Nutmeg Book Award Teen Nominees



The Boy in the Black Suit

by Jason Reynolds

Matt is trying to cope with his mom's death from cancer and his dad's drinking. A job at a local funeral home gives him comfort and then he meets a girl, who helps him share his feelings. This is a story of growing from loss.



Full Cicada Moon

by Marilyn Hilton

All Mimi wants is to be an astronaut, but being a female with Japanese and African-American parents in 1969 Vermont comes with its own challenges. As she makes new friends and overcomes the barriers around her, she realizes what is really important.



Goodbye Stranger

by Rebecca Stead

Three girls, who promised never to fight, have found their friendship tested. Will their friendship survive the trials of middle school and growing up?



I am Princess X

by Cherie Priest

When they were young May and Libby created a princess together. When Libby died the princess died with her. Years later May starts seeing images of the princess around town. Could Libby still be alive?



I Kill the Mockingbird

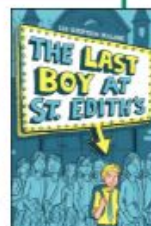
by Paul Acampora

In honor of their recently deceased teacher a group of friends hatch a plot to popularize the classic "To Kill a Mockingbird," by creating a controversy surrounding the novel. Their efforts increase demand, but have consequences they don't expect.

The Last Boy at St. Edith's

by Lee Gjertsen Malone

There used to be 27 boys at St. Edith's Academy, but over time all but one left leaving Jeremy the only boy out of 475 students! In desperation, Jeremy pulls a series of pranks in hopes of getting expelled so he can go to school with his friends.



The Novice

by Taran Matharu

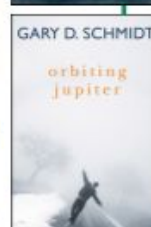
When Fletcher accidentally summons a Familiar, he is forced to leave his home to attend The Academy where he is taught how to use his powers.



Orbiting Jupiter

by Gary Schmidt

Trying to escape his past, Joseph is trying to find his future. Can Jack and his family help Joseph find a home on their family farm? Will Joseph find the one thing from his past that he is looking for?



The Seventh Most Important Thing

by Shelley Pearsall

After his father's death, Arthur throws a brick at the local "Junk Man" when he sees him wearing his father's favorite hat. He is sentenced to community service working with the Junk Man to complete his mysterious project.



Thirteen Chairs

by Dave Shelton

Thirteen souls at a table, each with a tale to tell. Are you brave enough to pull up a chair?



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Newbery Medal Winners, 1950 - Present

- 2016: Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña (G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin)
- 2015: The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- 2014: Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick Press)
- 2013: The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate (HarperCollins Children's Books)
- 2012: Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos (Farrar Straus Giroux)
- 2011: Moon over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool (Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books)
- 2010: When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead (Wendy Lamb Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books)
- 2009: The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman, illus. by Dave McKean (HarperCollins)
- 2008: Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz (Candlewick)
- 2007: The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron, illus. by Matt Phelan (Simon & Schuster/Richard Jackson)
- 2006: Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins)
- 2005: Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata (Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster)
- 2004: The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick Press)
- 2003: Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi (Hyperion Books for Children)
- 2002: A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin)
- 2001: A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck (Dial)
- 2000: Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis (Delacorte)
- 1999: Holes by Louis Sachar (Frances Foster)
- 1998: Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse (Scholastic)
- 1997: The View from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg (Jean Karl/Atheneum)
- 1996: The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman (Clarion)
- 1995: Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech (HarperCollins)
- 1994: The Giver by Lois Lowry (Houghton)
- 1993: Missing May by Cynthia Rylant (Jackson/Orchard)
- 1992: Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (Atheneum)
- 1991: Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli (Little, Brown)
- 1990: Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (Houghton)
- 1989: Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices by Paul Fleischman (Harper)
- 1988: Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman (Clarion)
- 1987: The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman (Greenwillow)
- 1986: Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan (Harper)
- 1985: The Hero and the Crown by Robin McKinley (Greenwillow)
- 1984: Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary (Morrow)

1983: Dicey's Song by Cynthia Voigt (Atheneum)
1982: A Visit to William Blake's Inn: Poems for Innocent and Experienced Travelers by Nancy Willard (Harcourt)
1981: Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson (Crowell)
1980: A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-1832 by Joan W. Blos (Scribner)
1979: The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin (Dutton)
1978: Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson (Crowell)
1977: Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor (Dial)
1976: The Grey King by Susan Cooper (McElderry/Atheneum)
1975: M. C. Higgins, the Great by Virginia Hamilton (Macmillan)
1974: The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox (Bradbury)
1973: Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George (Harper)
1972: Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien (Atheneum)
1971: Summer of the Swans by Betsy Byars (Viking)
1970: Sounder by William H. Armstrong (Harper)
1969: The High King by Lloyd Alexander (Holt)
1968: From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg (Atheneum)
1967: Up a Road Slowly by Irene Hunt (Follett)
1966: I, Juan de Pareja by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino (Farrar)
1965: Shadow of a Bull by Maia Wojciechowska (Atheneum)
1964: It's Like This, Cat by Emily Neville (Harper)
1963: A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (Farrar)
1962: The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare (Houghton)
1961: Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell (Houghton)
1960: Onion John by Joseph Krumbold (Crowell)
1959: The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare (Houghton)
1958: Rifles for Watie by Harold Keith (Crowell)
1957: Miracles on Maple Hill by Virginia Sorensen (Harcourt)
1956: Carry On, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham (Houghton)
1955: The Wheel on the School by Meindert DeJong (Harper)
1954: ...And Now Miguel by Joseph Krumbold (Crowell)
1953: Secret of the Andes by Ann Nolan Clark (Viking)
1952: Ginger Pye by Eleanor Estes (Harcourt)
1951: Amos Fortune, Free Man by Elizabeth Yates (Dutton)
1950: The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli (Doubleday)