

**Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet School**  
**Summer Reading Books & Project List**  
**2009–2010**

**Projects:**

1. For one of the books, create a reading journal. The journal should include one entry for each chapter of the book. Journal entries should contain at least one paragraph describing what happened in the chapter. Illustrations are encouraged but not required.
2. For the second book, create something that illustrates the book. Some examples are listed below, but you do not have to limit yourselves to these examples:
  - a. Make a mini-book about the story. Your mini-book should retell the story and include an illustration on each page. Your mini-book can be made by folding 8½ x 11 sheets of paper in half and stapling them. Your book should have a minimum of 12 pages.
  - b. Create a Power Point presentation summary of your novel. Your presentation should have at least 12 slides. Print out a copy of your presentation to turn in to your teacher.
  - c. Imagine that you are a character in the novel. Choose a chapter, then rewrite that chapter including yourself as the character. Think about what you would say, what you would do, and how you would feel about the events that are occurring.
  - d. Use paper mache´, clay, fabric, wood, etc., to create a likeness of the main character in the book. You need to put significant effort into your artwork.
  - e. You have been hired to cast the film production of your book. Decide which actors (must be real actors) will play each role and explain why that person is a good choice for that particular character. This can be done in the format of a Power Point or a poster. You must include a picture of each actor for their character.
  - f. Film a scene from the novel (using a video camera). You must be one of the characters in the scene. Pay attention to costumes, dialogue, characters, and setting. Your video should be at least four minutes.

**AR Tests:**

All students will be required to take an AR test for each book.

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**Book List (Must Select Two Books)**

*Chaos Code*

by Justin Richards

Join Matt on an action packed modern-day treasure hunt that takes him across the globe in search of a code fabled to have brought down Atlantis.

*Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam*

by Cynthia Kadohata

Cracker is a female German shepherd who is trained to sniff out booby traps and other dangers to the US troops in the Vietnam War. The story is told in alternating viewpoints between Cracker and her handler.

*Deep and Dark and Dangerous*

by Mary Downing Hahn

In this chilling ghost story Ali goes to spend the summer with her aunt and learns about a girl who disappeared and was presumed dead thirty years earlier.

*Diamonds in the Shadow*

by Caroline Cooney

Jared's family takes in a refugee family fleeing a war in Africa. Unfortunately, there was one more person that made it to America from Africa and he is looking for something the refugees have and will stop at nothing to get it.

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*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

by Jeff Kinney

Through both text and pictures, Greg chronicles his hilarious first year of middle school. Greg would like to be cool, popular and impress girls but nothing ever seems to work out the way he wants.

*Dragon Slippers*

by Jessica Day George

All Creel wants to do is move to the big city and become a seamstress. Her fortunes change when she meets her first dragon and is given a magical pair of blue slippers.

*Elijah of Buxton*

by Christopher Paul Curtis

Eleven-year-old Elijah was born into freedom in Canada but witnesses the cruelties of slavery when he takes a perilous mission into the United States.

*Fire From the Rock*

by Sharon Draper

Sylvia is chosen to be one of the first black students to integrate Little Rock's all white Central High School, chronicling first hand one of the most volatile moments of the Civil Rights Movement's history.

*Football Genius*

by Tim Green

Troy has the amazing ability to predict football plays before they happen. If he can get anyone to listen to him perhaps he can help his favorite NRL team pull themselves out of their losing streak.

*Gabriel's Horses*

by Alison Hart

Gabriel, a slave on a Kentucky plantation that breeds and trains Thoroughbreds, is determined to do whatever it takes to protect his beloved horses while the Civil War rages around him.

*Kimchi and Calamari*

by Rose Kent

Joseph is bewildered when he is given a family ancestry assignment. Ethnically Joseph is Korean but he has been raised Italian by his adoptive Italian family. This is the beginning of a quest in which ultimately Joseph comes to reconcile and accept his various ancestries and establish his own identity.

*Night of the Howling Dogs*

by Graham Salisbury

Taken off guard while camping on a remote beach in Hawaii, Dylan's Boy Scout troop struggles to survive after they are separated by a tsunami. This account is based on a true story.

*Peak*

by Roland Smith

Peak Marcello loves to climb, it's in his blood, but unfortunately he lives in Manhattan. When Peak is sent to live with his father, who runs a climbing business in Asia, he takes on the challenge to become the youngest person to ever reach the summit of Mount Everest.

*Schooled*

by Gordon Korman

Capricorn has lived a completely isolated and sheltered life on a commune with his grandmother Rain. When Rain ends up in the hospital a local social worker takes Capricorn in and sends him to Middle School.

*So Totally Emily Ebers*

by Lisa Yee

Following her parent's divorce, Emily moves to California with her mom and befriends Millicent Min and Stanford Wong over the summer.