May 14, 2007

Dear Parents and Students:

Summer reading is very important in developing life-long reading habits, in maintaining literacy skills and in promoting reading for pleasure. Studies have repeatedly shown that children who continue to read during the summer months perform better when school resumes in the fall. To that end, we have created a Summer Reading List from which our students are expected to select and read at least two books, one fiction and one nonfiction. These books were selected for their interest, diversity and reading level. These books will be available at each Cleveland Public Library branch location. For more information about each title please visit www.cmsdnet.net and click on “Summer Reading List.” Copies of the reading list will be available at each of the Cleveland Public Library’s branches.

Students are to complete projects, which should be brought to school in early fall. The suggested projects are based on the English Language Arts Standards Matrix to reinforce the instruction provided in our classrooms.

Research has shown that when parents are actively involved in learning at home, their children become more successful in and out of school. Your family book discussions will help your children reach an understanding about people, places, and events that they would never reach otherwise.

Reading should be a constant in your child's life no matter what the time of year. By modeling the joy you take in reading, your child will take your cue and hopefully develop a lifelong love of reading. Please join us as we strive to make Cleveland a premiere school district in the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Eugene T.W. Sanders, Ph.D.

The primary goal of the Cleveland Municipal School District is to become a premiere school district in the United States of America.
Adler, David A. *You can, toucan, math: word problem-solving fun*. “Crows in Rows” to “Obese Geese,” this title presents a flock of bird-themed rhyming word problems. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division tables conveniently cover the endpapers, and a brief introduction to each mathematical function is provided on the first spread.

Jenkins, Steve. *I see a kookaburra!: discovering animal habits around the world*. This colorful introduction to six different biomes mixes clearly presented information with seek-and-find fun. The book opens with a glorious two-page collage made of cut and torn paper that depicts a desert in the American Southwest. Eight indigenous animals are included in the picture, but readers will have to search hard to find them as they are mostly camouflaged by cacti and rocks.

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Good mornin’ Ms. America*. This collection of poems and riddles in various forms, including rhyming quatrains and haiku, offers playful trivia about U.S. geography and everyday Americana.

Lipsey, Jennifer. *I love to paint!* Budding young artists will be eager to create their own masterpieces by painting as they read along.

Matthews, Elizabeth. *Different like Coco*. Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel was always different—and she vowed to prove that being different was an advantage. The rags-to-riches story of the fashion and cultural icon plays out in this picture-book biography as full of style and spirit as its heroine.

Murphy, Stuart J. *Elevator magic*. Explains the concept of subtraction through a rhyming text about a descending elevator.

Ruddell, Deborah. *Today at the bluebird café: a branchful of birds*. It's all-you-can-eat at the Bluebird Cafe, A grasshopper-katydid-cricket buffet, with berries and snails and a bluebottle fly, a sip of the lake and a bite of the sky. A world of birds unfolds in twenty-two vivid poems that capture the unique personalities of birds from backyard blue jays to toucans and cockatoos.

Sidman, Joyce. *Butterfly eyes and other secrets of the meadow*. Sidman applies her flair with poetry to explore the interactions of creatures and plants in a particular environment. Here, she employs varied poetic forms with simple explanations for a pleasing introduction to meadow ecology.
Thompson, Gare. *Amazon journey: cruising the rain forest*. An introduction to the rain forest, featuring photographs and descriptions of sites along the Amazon River.

Wick, Walter. *Can you see what I see? Once upon a time*. Twelve favorite fairy tales, classic stories and folk tales become this rhyming search-and-find adventure.
Students entering grades K-2

**Fiction:**

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Once upon a banana.* In this hilarious book, a monkey's craving for a banana turns the streets of a busy city upside down. The mostly wordless tale is told through rhyming street signs and delightfully detailed watercolor paintings.

Bachelet, Gilles. *My cat, the silliest cat in the world.* This silly cat doesn’t always act like other cats. Could that possible mean it’s not really a cat?

Bate, Teresa. *Keeper of soles.* When Death comes calling for his soul, Colin the cobbler thinks on his feet and promises the Grim Reaper a new pair of sandals—then boots, then walking shoes—in this lighthearted tale about outwitting death.

Beaumont, Karen. *Move over, Rover.* When a storm comes, Rover expects to have his doghouse all to himself but finds that various other animals—including a skunk—come to join him. *A Geisel Honor Book.*

Chodos-Irvine, Margaret. *Best best friends.* Two best friends have a fight that separates them—no more hugs, no more sharing toys until the fight is over.

Cronin, Doreen. *Dooby dooby moo.* When Duck discovers an ad in the paper announcing a talent show at the county fair (first prize, a slightly used trampoline), Farmer Brown's animals are unstoppable. The cows and sheep concentrate on their singing while the pigs work on interpretive dance.

Diakite, Penda. *I lost my tooth in Africa.* This story recounts a child's visit to Mali, where she loses her tooth. After she hides it under a calabash, she waits for the African Tooth Fairy to replace it with a chicken.

Knudsen, Michelle. *Library lion.* A lion starts visiting the local library but runs into trouble as he tries to both obey the rules and help his librarian friend.

Muntean, Michaela. *Do not open this book!* As Pig tries to write a book, he chastises the reader who keeps interrupting him by turning the pages.

Wiesner, David. *Flotsam.* A colorful picture book that features a young, science-minded boy who goes to the beach to collect and examine anything floating that has been washed ashore and discovers an underwater camera that contains a collection of unusual pictures.
Kindergarten-Grade 2
Suggested Elementary Projects

Students may choose any of the following projects. One project should be completed for fiction selection and one project should be completed for the nonfiction selection. Projects may be turned in to the school.

- Make a picture book of your favorite characters.
- Make a sock puppet for two of the main characters.
- Make a time-line of events.
- Create and write a new ending for the story.
- Write a summary of the story.
- Write a few pages in a diary as if you were the main character.
- Write a song about the story.
- Prepare a book jacket for your story.
- Write a letter of appreciation to the author, asking questions and sharing thoughts.
- Draw a picture of your favorite part of the book.
- Make a peep-box of an important scene or event.
- Create a cartoon strip based on the main character.
- Prepare a list of the most unusual, difficult, or exciting words and their meanings.
- Complete a story map of the main events.
- Create paper dolls of the main characters. Make a backdrop and paste the dolls to the backdrop.
Nonfiction:

Brooks, Gwendolyn (ill. by Faith Ringgold). *Bronzeville boys and girls*. Each of the thirty-four poems is named for a child ("Eunice in the Evening"; "Cynthia in the Snow") and is either written from the viewpoint of a child or about a child.

Burleigh, Robert. *Stealing home: Jackie Robinson against the odds*. When he played for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1947 to 1956, Jackie Robinson helped his team win six National League pennants and one World Series. But Robinson's real legacy is being the first African American to cross the color line of major league baseball.

Dash, Joan. *A dangerous engine: Benjamin Franklin, from scientist to diplomat* An eye-opening portrait of the multi-talented genius focusing on his many significant achievements.


Freedman, Russell. *Freedom walkers: the story of the Montgomery bus boycott*. A compelling account of this pivotal event in the Civil Rights Movement. Illustrated with many period photographs.


Gutman, Dan. *Casey at bat*. Casey comes to bat; even his teeth have muscles. He hits the ball mightily. He hits it so hard that it crosses the Atlantic, causes the Leaning Tower of Pisa to lean further, knocks the nose off the Sphinx—well, you get the idea. It even travels through time to explain what happened to the dinosaurs in an increasingly exuberant imagined rhyme.


St. George, Judith. *Make your mark, Franklin Roosevelt!* Young Franklin Roosevelt grew up knowing the finer things in life—sailing, horseback riding, and foxhunts on his
family’s large estate. Growing up wealthy meant he could live a gentleman’s life, like his beloved papa.

Sue, Macy. *Bull's-eye: a photobiography of Annie Oakley*. The Annie Oakley of stage and television is a rough-and-tumble heroine who little resembles the real-life woman. Born Phoebe Ann in 1860, she was the sixth daughter of a farming couple from Ohio and showed an unusual spirit at a very young age.
**Students entering grades 3-5**

**Fiction:**

Brown, Monica. *My name is Celia/Me llamo Celia.* Brightly colored illustrations and text follow the life of salsa singer Celia Cruz from her home in Havana, Cuba, to New York and Miami where she brings joy to herself and others through her music. Presented in English and Spanish. *A 2007 Pura Belpre Honor Book.*

Blume, Judy. *Tales of a fourth grade nothing.* Life with his little brother, Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store, smearing mashed potatoes on the walls at Hamburger Heaven, or trying to fly, he's never far from trouble.

Chreech, Sharon. *Absolutely normal chaos.* Mary Lou Finney is less than excited about her assignment to keep a journal over the summer. Boring! Then cousin Carl Ray comes to stay with her family, and what starts out as the dull dog days of summer quickly turns into the wildest roller coaster ride of all time.

Grimes, Nikki. *The Road to Paris.* Eight-year-old Paris Richmond has never had it easy. Her white father walked out on the family; her black mother tends to drink when she's lonely. Only Paris's older brother Malcolm is a constant, even when they are sent to live with an awful foster mother.

Holm, Jennifer. *Penny from Heaven.* It's the summer Penny Falucci turns 12. Although she lives with her plain, ordinary mother, grandparents, and poodle, Scarlett O'Hare, she spends a lot of time with her deceased father's large, loving Italian-American family as she tries to know the father she can't remember. *A 2007 Newbery Honor book*

Lord, Betty Bao. *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson.* Shirley Temple Wong is thrilled to be moving from her home in China to America. But it isn't easy. She doesn't speak English, the kids at school ignore her, and she feels very far from home.

Lord, Cynthia. *Rules.* Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him (It's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store). *A 2006 Newbery Honor book.*

Norman, Lissette. *My feet are laughing.* Sadie, an imaginative young Dominican American, relates her experiences growing up in her grandmother's brownstone house in Harlem.
Schotter, Roni. *Mama, I'll give you the world.* At Walter's World of Beauty, Luisa's secret plans are underway to create a very special birthday celebration for her hard-working, single mother who is employed there as a stylist.

Woods, Brenda. *My name is Sally Little Song.* From the age of four, Sally has worked as a slave in the cotton fields on a Georgia plantation. She is 11 in 1801 when her parents hear that she and her older brother are to be sold. The family runs away and finds shelter with the Seminole Indians in Florida.
Grades 3-5 Suggested Elementary School Projects

Students may choose any of the following projects. One project should be completed for fiction selection and one project should be completed for the nonfiction selection. Projects may be turned in to the school.

- Choose a character you’d like to have as a friend and tell why.
- Make a time-line of events.
- Create and write a new ending for the story.
- Write a summary of the story.
- Write diary entries as if you were the main character.
- Write a song about the story.
- Prepare a book jacket for your story.
- Write a letter of appreciation to the author, asking questions and sharing thoughts.
- Draw a picture of your favorite part of the book.
- Create a cartoon strip based on the main character.
- Write a poem about the main character.
- Write an essay telling why this would (or would not) make a good movie.
- The U.S. President has learned that you have read this book and wants to know one thing the main character discovered about life that you think all Americans should know. What would you tell him and why?
- The author has written to you and wants to know how this book could have been better. How would you answer?
Students entering grades 6-8

Nonfiction:

Allen, Thomas B. *Harriet Tubman, secret agent: how daring slaves and free blacks spied for the Union during the Civil War*. This small book contains a lot of fascinating information on the network of slaves and free blacks who advanced the Union cause during the Civil War.

Bolden, Tanya. *M.L.K.: Journey of a King*. Bolden looks past the public figure to bring the man, and his deeper vision of the “beloved community,” into focus in this eloquent, handsomely designed profile.

Caputo, Philip. *10,000 days of thunder: a history of the Vietnam War*. Caputo has produced what is at once an overview and a sensitive, resonant picture of the war as seen and experienced by American soldiers, the Viet Cong, North Vietnamese guerrillas, and the citizens of both South Vietnam and the United States. Covering the period from the rise of Bolshevism in Russia in the early 20th century to the American normalization of relations with Vietnam in 1995, it's an ideal source for both information and understanding.

Fradin, Judith Bloom. *5,000 miles to freedom: Ellen and William Craft's flight from slavery*. In 1848, light-skinned Ellen Craft, dressed in the clothing of a rich, white man, assumed the identity of "Mr. William Johnson" and, escorted by his black slave, William, traveled by railroad and boat to reach the North. With the passage of a more stringent Fugitive Slave Law in 1850, the couple, whose story was well known as a result of public speeches and accounts in the abolitionist press, decided to travel to England.

Myers, Walter Dean. *The Harlem Hellfighters: when pride met courage*. In writing this account of the 369th Infantry Regiment from New York City, Myers was joined by Miles, a documentary filmmaker and official historian of the group that came to be known as the Harlem Hellfighters in the early 20th century. The authors begin with an explanation of the racial conditions and wartime roles of African Americans throughout history, describe the regiment's establishment and development, and then focus on its role in World War I.

Rainis, Kenneth G. *Blood and DNA evidence: crime-solving science experiments*. Rather than merely explain how cases are solved, this new book in the Forensic Science Projects series invites readers to complete scientific experiments that emulate the solution to actual murders. Each chapter of the book begins with a recounting of a murder--some recent, some from more than 100 years ago--and then relates how the detectives determined whether the bloodstains at the crime scene were human and how their size, shape, and trajectory provided clues to determine the killer.

Shea, Therese. *Interpreting America's Civil War: organizing and interpreting information in outlines, graphs, timelines, maps, and charts*. Through text and skill
exercises, readers gain knowledge of the seeds of the conflict that became the American Civil War, including the practice of slavery; its abolition; the 1860 presidential election; secession of the southern states; key battles; and the final year of the war.

Skurzynski, Gloria. *Are we alone?: scientists search for life in space*. The age-old question in this title is answered here in a scientific and satisfying manner. Reports of UFOs, alien crashes, and crop circles are not ignored, but a healthy skepticism is encouraged. The chapters that follow describe the efforts modern scientists are making to find, identify, and communicate with life on other planets.

Thimmesh, Catherine. *Team Moon: how 400,000 people landed Apollo 11 on the moon*. From launch to splashdown, Thimmesh gives names and voices to the 400,000-strong army that got Neil Armstrong and company to the moon and back. Taking as her organizing principle the journey itself, she describes how each element was made possible by NASA and its many contractors. *The 2007 Sibert Medal Winner*.

Canale, Viola s. *The Tequila Worm*. Family and storytelling have always been the two most important aspects of Sofia's life. After a childhood in the barrio, chronicled here in entertaining vignettes, she accepts a scholarship to a boarding school. She leaves home and family behind but takes the stories with her.
Students entering grades 6-8

Fiction:

Hokenson, Terry. *Winter road*. This survival story takes the classic girl-versus-nature plot to new extremes when a teen pilot crashes her Cessna in the Canadian bush in January.

Houston, Julian. *New boy*. As a new sophomore at an exclusive boarding school in the 1950s, Rob Garrett, a young black man, is witness to the persecution of other students and wonders about the growing civil rights movement back home in Virginia.

Jaramillo, Ann. *La Linea*. When Miguel, 15, leaves San Jacinto, Mexico, to join his parents in California, his sister, Elena, 13, secretly follows him. Together with their guides they barely survive a harrowing journey through the desert and across *la linea*, the border.

Lopez, Lorraine. *Call me Henri*. Faced with family problems, difficulty in school, and gangs in the barrio, Enrique dreams of some day reaching the "other America" depicted on television, while sympathetic teachers help him cope by supporting his fight to study French instead of ESL.

Lupica, Mike. *Heat*. Michael Arroyo is a 13-year-old Cuban American who lives in the shadow of Yankee Stadium. Yes, he is a Little League ballplayer, and, yes, he has a dream: to pitch in the Little League World Series. To do so, his South Bronx All-Stars will need to beat the best the greater New York area has to offer in the regional championship, to be played in--you guessed it--Yankee Stadium.

Nolan, Han. *A summer of Kings*. Over the course of the summer of 1963, fourteen-year-old Esther Young discovers the passion within her when eighteen-year-old King-Roy Johnson, accused of murdering a white man in Alabama, comes to live with her family.

Pearsall, Shelley. *All of the above*. This novel is based on the true story of a Cleveland middle school tetrahedron built in 2002. Exhausted by his efforts to teach math to apathetic middle schoolers, Mr. Collins proposes that his class attempt to build the world's largest tetrahedron structure. The resulting endeavor, described in alternating chapters by Mr. Collins and four of the students, builds more than geometry as readers come to see them as individuals and as a developing unit.

Sachar, Louis. *Small steps*. In this sequel to *Holes*, three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

Woods, Brenda. *Emako Blue*. Monterey, Savannah, Jamal, and Eddie have never had much to do with each other until Emako Blue shows up at chorus practice, but just as the
lives of the five Los Angeles high school students become intertwined, tragedy tears them apart.

Woodworth, Chris. *Georgie’s moon*. With a chip on her shoulder and a talent for disruption, seventh-grader Georgie Collins moves with her mom to a small Indiana town, where they await the return of Georgie's father from Vietnam.
Grades 6-8 Suggested Middle School Projects

Students may choose any of the following projects. One project should be completed for the fiction selection and one project for the nonfiction selection. Projects may be turned in to the school. Please note that some schools throughout the District have included this project in their Academic Achievement Plans, making this a mandatory assignment.

- Create a board game or computer game based on the characters and events in the book.
- Characters and events in the book. Include clearly written instructions, board or computer background and playing pieces or picture of action figures.
- For nonfiction, create a game designed to teach the most important information.
- Choose six quotations from your book and divide a large sheet of paper into six sections and illustrate each quotation.
- Draw a caricature of a character from your book.
- Using words or pictures cut out of old magazines and newspapers create a collage illustrating the plot or theme of your book.
- Draw a 4 (or longer) panel comic strip based on the events of your book.
- Create a three-dimensional miniature scene showing the setting of your book.
- Draw a map of the book’s setting, showing with words or symbols where key events took place.
- Write a song with lyrics based on the characters or events of the book.
- Write a different ending for the book.
- Choose an issue from current events and decide what the main character of your book would think about it. Write a speech on that issue from the character’s point of view.
- Choose a job that you think a character from our book would be qualified to obtain. Write a resume for the job as if you were the character.
- Draw an illustrated time line showing the events of your book. Research would events that took place at the same time and put them on the other side of the timeline.
Students entering grade 9-12

Nonfiction:

Allen, Judy. *Unexplained: An encyclopedia of curious phenomena, strange superstitions, and ancient mysteries.* A seamless combination of absorbing fact-filled text and stunning visuals in an investigation of mysteries that continue to baffle, tantalize, and spark endless debate.

Baldwin, James. *The fire next time.* A national bestseller when it first appeared in 1963, The Fire Next Time galvanized the nation and gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement. At once a powerful evocation of James Baldwin's early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document.

Benanav, Michael. *Men of salt.* Benanav reveals that for the last 1,000 years, the so-called caravan of white gold has plied the desolate sands of the Sahara to hack rock salt. The men lead strings of camels over some of the most severe terrain on earth, from the legendary city of Timbuktu in Mali to the remote salt-mining outpost of Taoudenni.

Scott, Damien and Ex, Kris. *How to draw hip hop.* Hip-hop is a cultural force that influences everything we see and everything we hear. This book explains drawing basics and construction of the hip-hop look; ways to capture the style and spirit of the B-boy and B-girl; and how to draw hip-hop gear, environments, characters, and graffiti.

Santiago, Esmeralda. *When I was Puerto Rican.* Esmerelda and her seven siblings live in a corrugated metal shack in Puerto Rico. She is uprooted as a result of poverty and her parents' quarreling and suffers blows to her ego from their expectations of her. The girl goes to New York, where her grandmother lives, and must rely on her intelligence and talents to help her survive in an alien world.

Seckel, Al. *Optical illusions: the science of visual perception.* Intriguing collection of baffling images and shapes that change before your eyes: hidden figures, incredible designs and dazzling graphic patterns. The book includes such well-known optical illusions as Shepard's Tabletop, Wade's Spiral, the Floating Finger illusion, Ames Room, and Rubin's Face/Vase illusion. There are more than 275 illusions in all, with explanations of each image and notes about the science of visual perception.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and dimed: on (not) getting by in America.* Can you really survive on minimum wage? To find out, the author left her middle-class life for a year to see what life is really like for America’s working poor.

Harper, Hill. *Letters to a young brother: MANifest your destiny.* Harper offers his personal story: a young man brought up by a demanding father, who developed a relationship with his mother only as he grew older. He views the youth of today as an evolved species, like the latest model car, with improvements that come from the
experiences of those who came before.

Bryson, Bill. *A short history of nearly everything.* A renowned travel writer brings complex scientific concepts to life by describing how the universe and life as we know it came to be.

Engle, Margarita. *The Poet slave of Cuba: a biography of Juan Francisco Manzano.* It is the biography of an extraordinary young man, with extraordinary intellectual powers, who was born into slavery in Cuba in 1797. Told in verse, it recounts the sufferings and trials of Manzano. As a boy, he was capable of memorizing and reciting poetic verses in many different languages.
Students entering grade 9-12

Fiction:

Anderson, M. T. *The astonishing life of Octavian Nothing, traitor to the nation*. Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

Budhos, Marina. *Ask me no questions*. What is it like to be an illegal alien in New York now? In a moving first-person, present-tense narrative, Nadira, 14, relates how her family left Bangladesh, came to the U. S. on a tourist visa, and stayed long after the visa expired. Their illegal status is discovered, however, following 9/11, when immigration regulations are tightened. When the family hurriedly seeks asylum in Canada, they are turned back, and Nadira's father, Abba, is detained because his passport is no longer valid.

Danticate, Edwidge. *The farming of bones*. The Farming of Bones begins in 1937 in a village on the Dominican side of the river that separates the country from Haiti. Amabelle Desir, Haitian-born and a faithful maidservant to the Dominican family that took her in when she was orphaned, and her boyfriend Sebastien, an itinerant sugarcane cutter, decide they will marry and return to Haiti at the end of the cane season. However, hostilities toward Haitian laborers find a vitriolic spokesman in the ultra nationalist Generalissimo Trujillo who calls for an ethnic cleansing of his Spanish speaking country. As rumors of Haitian persecution become fact, as anxiety turns to terror, Amabelle and Sebastien's dreams are leveled to the most basic human desire: to endure.

Dessen, Sarah. *Just listen*. Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their eyes were watching God*. Meet the unforgettable Janie Crawford, an articulate African-American woman in the 1930s. The story traces Janie's quest for identity, through three marriages, on a journey to her roots.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Street love*. The swift flow of these short poems carries readers along in thoughts, conversations, and scenes as Damien and Junice's romance begins.

Mosley, Walter. 47. Forty-seven is the name and number of a 14-year-old slave working on Master Tobias's Georgia plantation in 1832. Forty-seven tells of his fated encounter with 3,000-year-old Tall John from “beyond Africa,” who has arrived in a Sun Ship from planet Elle (where red and purple forests are populated by tiny, multi-colored men and women) in the guise of a young runaway slave.

Na, Ann. *Wait for me*. Mina is the perfect daughter. Bound for Harvard, president of the honor society, straight A student, all while she works at her family’s dry cleaners and
helps care for her hearing-impaired little sister. On the outside, Mina does everything right. On the inside, Mina knows the truth. Her life is a lie.

Reinhardt, Dana. *A brief chapter in my impossible life*. Simone, 16, has always known she was adopted but has never had any real desire to meet her birth mother despite the fact that she knows her parents keep in touch. Her family is perfect the way it is, thank you. Sure, she looks different and has different talents from her parents and younger brother, but that has never mattered. That all changes when her birth mother calls and wants to meet her.

Werlin, Nancy. *The rules of survival*. Living with an unpredictable, psychotic mother has taught Matthew how to survive. Constantly on alert, he and his sister, Callie, devotedly shelter their younger stepsister, Emmy, from their mother's abuse and worry about staying safe.
Grades 9-12 Suggested
High School Projects

Students may choose any of the following projects. One project should be completed for the fiction selection and one project for the nonfiction. Projects may be turned in to the school. Please note that some high schools throughout the District have included this project in their Academic Achievement Plans, making this a mandatory assignment.

- Draw an illustrated time line showing the events of your book. Research world events that took place at the same time and put them on the other side of the time line.

- Write a song with lyrics based on the characters or events of the book.

- Choose an issue from current events and decide what the main character of your book would think about it. Write a speech on that issue from the character’s point of view.

- Write a different ending for the book

- Choose a job that you think a character from your book would be qualified to obtain. Write a resume for the job as if you were the character.

- Write a letter to the editor of your school newspaper or local newspaper, giving your opinion about an issue raised by your book.

- Write a front-page news story about an important incident from your book. You may want to draw a “photo” to accompany your story.

- Write a poem in response to the book.

- Write an additional chapter for the book, showing what happens to the main character after the book ends.

- Compile a glossary of slang, dialect or specialized vocabulary used in your book. Draw pictures to illustrate your definitions and examples.
Eugene T. W. Sanders, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer

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The primary goal of the Cleveland Municipal School District is to become a premier school district in the United States of America