

# BOOK A TRIP



## to the Summer Reading 2014 Book Talk

**When:** August 26 and August 28

**Where:** Salem Middle School Library

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ (during 2014-15 school year)

**Book Choice** \_\_\_\_\_

## Salem Middle School Grades 5-8

### Summer Reading Program 2013

Students in grades 5-8 will have a choice of two books to read. Upon returning to school in September, teachers will assign an essay topic for a summer reading grade. Moreover, if students attend the summer reading book talks (August 26 or 28), they will receive extra credit on their essay. Students will be expected to discuss their book with their peers in a Literature Circle format. Teachers will guide the discussions and assess students' performance.

#### Directions:

1. Choose a book and read it carefully
2. Complete your reading log
3. Choose a date to attend the book meeting, either August 26 or 28
4. Be prepared to participate in small group discussions for extra credit. Be sure to bring your book and reading log with you to the meeting.
5. Review your book in preparation for an essay that your teachers will assign when you return to school in September.

- Incoming fifth graders

#### *The Liberation of Gabriel King*



by K. L. Going

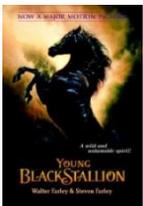
He's afraid of spiders, corpses, loose cows, and just about anything related to the fifth grade. Gabriel King's best friend, Frita Wilson, thinks Gabe needs some liberating from his fears, and she has a plan. They are going to spend the summer of 1976 facing each and every one of the fears on Gabe's list. While Gabe can't quite figure out how tackling his fears will make him brave, maybe Frita knows what she's doing. But it turns out that Frita has her own list, and while she's helping Gabe confront his fears, she's avoiding the thing that scares her the most



#### *Me, Mop, and the Moondance Kid*

by Walter Dean Myers

This is a fast-paced story about three orphaned children and the Elks, a Little League baseball team. T.J., his brother Moondance, and their best friend Mop had all lived with the nuns in the Dominican Academy until the two brothers were adopted. Now Mop is convinced that the coaches, Maria and Jim Kennedy, want to adopt her, provided she is a worthy child. What better way to prove her worth than to be the star of the Elks?

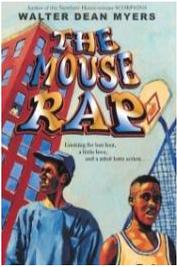


#### *The Black Stallion* (Text Exemplar)

by Walter Farley and Steven Farley

When the steamer *Drake* is shipwrecked off the coast of Spain, there are only two survivors. One is young Alec Ramsey. The other is Black Stallion - wildest of all creatures - who saves Alec's life. The Black Stallion is the horse Alec has always dreamed of: beautiful, savage, and majestic. Alec is determined to tame him. But the job turns out to be more difficult and dangerous than he ever imagined. Stranded on a desert island, the boy and stallion develop a deep and special bond.

- **Incoming sixth graders**



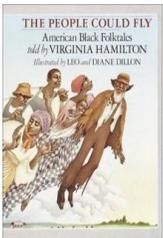
***The Mouse Rap***  
by Walter Dean Myers

The Mouse should have known that he wasn't going to get nearly as much time to chill or hoop as a dude on summer vacation deserves. One night while tubing out, he sees a news report on some lost loot from a 1930's bank heist, which is supposedly still hidden in Harlem. Soon the Mouse and his crew are searching for clues that will lead them to the treasure.



***A Wrinkle in Time*** (Text Exemplar)  
by Madeleine L'Engle

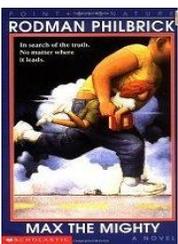
It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.



***The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales***  
told by Virginia Hamilton

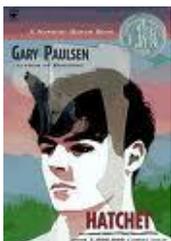
"The well-known author retells 24 black American folk tales in sure storytelling voice: animal tales, supernatural tales, fanciful and cautionary tales, and slave tales of freedom. All are beautifully readable. With the added attraction of 40 wonderfully expressive paintings by the Dillons, this collection should be snapped up."

- **Incoming seventh graders**



***Max the Mighty***  
by Rodman Philbrick

Meet Max Kane, the brooding giant-of-a-boy who escaped from his basement hiding place and faced the real world in *Freak the Mighty*. Still grieving over the loss of his best friend, Kevin, Max finds himself defending a young, solitary girl cruelly nicknamed "Worm" because she loves to read. And When Max gets blamed for a horrific crime, he and Worm flee across America-hunted by the police and pursued by the mysterious man known as the Undertaker. The only way the teens can survive is to confront Worm's darkest and most revealing secret. And that means facing something more frightening than death itself.



***Hatchet***  
by Gary Paulsen

A city boy is stranded in the Canadian wilderness equipped with nothing but a hatchet and the clothes on his back. Readers get a riveting view of Brian's struggle to survive for the next two months, forever changing his attitude toward the twentieth century civilization to which he is eventually returned.

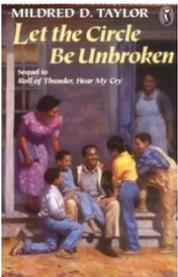


## ***The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks*** (Text Exemplar)

by Katherine Paterson

A beautiful mandarin duck is captured and caged by a greedy lord who wants to show off the bird's magnificent plumage. But the wild creature pines for his mate. When Yasuko, the kitchen maid, releases the bird against her lord's command, she and the one-eyed servant, Shozo, are sentenced to death. The grateful bird intends to return their kindness, but can he outsmart the cruel lord?

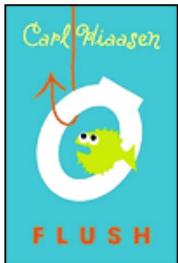
- **Incoming eighth graders**



## ***Let the Circle Be Unbroken***

by Mildred D. Taylor

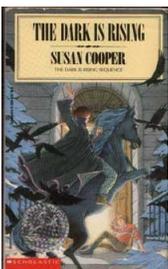
For the Logan family, it is a frightening and turbulent time. First, their friend, T.J., must go on trial for murder-and confront an all-white jury. Then Cousin Suzella tries to pass for white, with humiliating consequences. And when Cassie's neighbor, Mrs. Lee Annie, stands up for her right to vote, she and her family are driven from their home. Other neighbors are destroyed and shattered by the greed of landowners. But through it all, Cassie and the Logans stand together and stand proud-proving that courage, love, and understanding can defy even the deepest prejudice.



## ***Flush***

by Carl Hiassen

You know it's going to be a rough summer when you spend Father's Day visiting your dad in the local lockup. Noah's dad is sure that the owner of the Coral Queen casino boat is flushing raw sewage into the harbor-which has made taking a dip at the local beach like swimming in a toilet. He can't prove it though, and so he decides that sinking the boat will make an effective statement. The boat is pumped out and back in business within a day and Noah's dad is stuck in the clink. Now Noah is determined to succeed where his dad failed. He will prove that the Coral Queen is dumping illegally.



## ***The Dark is Rising*** (Text Exemplar)

by Susan Cooper

On the Midwinter Day that is his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers a special gift -- that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world from domination by the forces of evil, the Dark. At once, he is plunged into a quest for the six magical Signs that will one day aid the Old Ones in the final battle between the Dark and the Light. And for the twelve days of Christmas, while the Dark is rising, life for Will is full of wonder, terror, and delight.