

**Howard L. Goff Middle School**



**For Students Entering Grades 6-8**

Dear Students and Parents,

Summer vacation is the perfect time to get lost in a good book! Whether you are on a road trip, lounging outside in the backyard, or cooling off at the pool, reading an engaging story is one of the most valuable ways to spend your time. In fact, reading for pleasure has been shown to increase vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Educational experts agree that reading during the summer is the best way to keep and even improve upon all of those literacy skills you learned during the school year. If these benefits are not convincing enough, remember that a good book not only magically transports you to another reality, but it can also give you a broader perspective of the world around you.

This summer, your assignment is to read at least one book of your choice. We have included a list of fantastic titles, but the books on this list are not required reading nor is this intended to be an all-inclusive list. In addition to these titles, check out the following resources:

- [Goff Middle School Library](#)
- [East Greenbush Community Library](#)
- [Nassau Free Library](#)
- [American Library Association Summer Reading Lists](#)
- [Goodreads Middle School Book Lists](#)

As always, parents are encouraged to review the selections to ensure the appropriateness for their particular child.

When you return to school this September, you will complete an assignment on this book in your English class. As you read, you may want to take a few notes on the main characters, setting, major plot events, conflict, author's style, or anything else you find interesting. Note-taking, however, is not required.

So, enjoy your summer and find an exciting book to read. We look forward to hearing about it in September!

Sincerely,  
Your 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Teachers



## *Goff Middle School*

### *Grades 6, 7 & 8 Recommended Reading List*

#### **Realistic Fiction**

- *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook* by Leslie Connor
- *Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading* by Tommy Greenwald
- *Code of Honor* by Alan Gratz
- *Eleven* by Tom Rogers
- *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
- *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper
- *Slacker* by Gordon Korman
- *The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin
- *We Are All Made of Molecules* by Susan Nielsen
- *When My Sister Started Kissing* by Helen Frost

#### **Non-Fiction**

- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (Young Reader's Edition) by William Kamkwamb
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea* by Sungju Lee
- *The Omnivore's Dilemma: Young Readers' Edition* by Michael Pollan
- *Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian Football Team* by Steve Sheinkin
- *Ugly* by Robert Hoge

#### **Science Fiction/**

- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer Holm
- *Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle

#### **Graphic Novel/Manga**

- *Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans* by Dan Brown
- *Raid of No Return: A World War II Tale of the Doolittle Raid* by Nathan Hale
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson
- *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier
- *The Stonekeeper (Amulet 1)* by Kazu Kibuishi
- *Sunny Side Up* by Jennifer Holm

#### **Historical Fiction**

- *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Lions of Little Rock* by Kristin Levine
- *Mississippi 1955* by Chris Crowe
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- *Some Kind of Courage* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

#### **Mystery/Thriller**

- *Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk
- *The Body in the Woods* by April Henry
- *Hold Fast* by Blue Balliet
- *Trial by Fire* by Norah McClintock
- *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz
- *Treasure Hunters* by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein
- *Who Could That Be at This Hour?* by Lemony Snicket

#### **Sports**

- *Baseball Genius* by Tim Green/Derek Jeter
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend* by Sharon Robinson
- *Last Shot: Mystery at the Final Four* by John Feinstein
- *Soar* by Joan Bauer
- *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor
- *The Underdogs* by Mike Lupica
- *The Walk On* by John Feinstein

#### **Fantasy**

- *Frogkisser!* by Garth Nix
- *The Girl who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
- *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman
- *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
- *Powerless* by Matthew Cody
- *A Tale Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz
- *The Thief of Always* by Clive Barker
- *The Young Elites* by Marie Lu
- *The Zodiac Legacy: Convergence* by Stan Lee, Stuart Moore, & Andie Tong

#### **Utopia/Dystopia**

- *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer
- *House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer
- *Legend* by Marie Lu
- *The Neptune Project* by Polly Holyoke
- *The Rains* by Gregg Hurwitz
- *The Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld