

Summer Reading 2009 for students entering Grade 6 in September, 2009.

All incoming sixth grade students are required to read **Countdown** by Ben Mikaelson and take a test in September 2009. The test grade will count as the first English grade of the first quarter. Students must read a second book from the choices listed below and complete a book cover project. The Higgins PTO/Library will have grade six summer reading books available for sale at the Grade 5 Parent Orientation on May 13 at Higgins Middle School - *cash only please!* Books may also be checked out through the Peabody Institute Library and are available from local booksellers.

All students entering grade six must read:

COUNTDOWN by Ben Mikaelson

Danger in Space! When NASA selected Elliot to be the first teen in space, he eagerly anticipated the day he would board the space shuttle *Endeavour*. After intense preparations, Elliot never expected anything to go wrong on his voyage, but when danger threatens, the only contact he has, via shortwave radio, is with Vincent, a Maasai boy in Kenya. The two can't agree on anything. When the *Endeavour* makes an emergency landing on the coast of West Africa and Elliot's life is hanging in the balance, can he and Vincent reconcile their cultural differences and become friends? \$8.00

In addition to **Countdown**, students must select one or more of the books listed below and complete a Book Cover project. To download the Book Cover Project Model and a Grading Rubric go to <http://www.peabody.k12.ma.us> and select Summer Reading 2009 and Grade 6. The forms are also available at the office at Higgins Middle School.

CHASING VERMEER by Blue Balliet - Genre: Mystery

Sixth-grade classmates Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay are drawn into the mystery: a claim that some of the works attributed to Johannes Vermeer were not, in fact, painted by that seventeenth-century Dutch artist. Their investigation--fueled by the enigmatic behavior of their favorite teacher, a shared interest in unexplained phenomena, and a few mystical experiences of their own--uncovers a series of coincidences and connections that, like the pentomino set (a puzzle-like math tool) Calder carries in his pocket, fit together in often-unexpected patterns. \$8.00

AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS by Gennifer Choldenko - Genre: Historical Fiction

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. *Newbery Honor Book for 2005*. \$7.00

THE WRECKERS by Iain Lawrence - Genre: Adventure

Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the English coastal town where they are stranded. \$7.00

A SINGLE SHARD by Linda Sue Park - Genre: Global

A homeless boy in a 12th-century Korean village makes himself surprisingly useful to a master potter. Tree-ear has been living with Crane-man under a bridge, scavenging for food and comfort until one day he watches Min, the potter, becoming so fascinated he later creeps back to look at the finished pots. Surprised in the act, one of the pots is broken and Tree-ear must work to pay for the damage. The work is strenuous. Obtaining a royal commission to make pots worthy of the palace is at the heart of the plot. Intrigues, danger, and the same strong focus on doing what is right turn a simple story into a compelling read. Important details of the times are folded into the narrative without being obtrusive. *Newbery Award 2002*. \$7.00

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FLUSH by Carl Hiassen - Genre: Realistic

What's a kid to do when his dad's thrown in jail for an unsuccessful act of eco-terrorism? Why, do it better, of course. Readers first meet Noah Underwood in the visiting room of the Florida Keys jail where his father proudly waits for justice to be done to the owner of the Coral Queen, the casino boat that regularly and illegally dumps raw sewage into the bay. Noah's determination and sense of right comes straight from the author's heart, and readers will cheer as he and his cohorts scuttle once and for all the activities of the Coral Queen. *Best Books for Young Adults 2006* \$9.00

BUD, NOT BUDDY by Christopher Paul Curtis - Genre: Historical Fiction

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father – the renowned bandleader, H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. *Newbery Award 2000, Recommended author of the Massachusetts Frameworks* \$7.00

BOY: TALES OF CHILDHOOD by Roald Dahl - Genre: Autobiography

"As full of excitement and the unexpected as his world-famous, best-selling books, Roald Dahl's tales of his own childhood are completely fascinating and fiendishly funny". \$7.00

MY LOUISIANA SKY by Kimberly Willis Holt - Genre: Historical Fiction

Growing up in Saitter, Louisiana, in the 1950s, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern, but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse. *Boston Globe Horn Book.* \$7.00

THE BREADWINNER by Deborah Ellis – Genre: Global

Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, eleven-year-old Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Barred from attending school, shopping at the market, or even playing in the streets of Kabul, the heroine is trapped inside her family's one-room home. That is until the Taliban hauls away her father and Parvana realizes that it's up to her to become the "breadwinner" and disguise herself as a boy to support her mother, two sisters and baby brother. \$9.00

NINJAS, PIRANHAS AND GALILEO by Greg Smith - Genre: Realistic

Poor Elias. Secretly in love with one of his best friends, Honoria, he is constantly reminded that she likes Shohei, another seventh-grader at their Chicago magnet school. Shohei can't see it - he's too busy writing anonymous e-mail love letters to Honoria for Eli. Both boys are pushed by their parents into the science fair, which Honoria hopes to win by turning her pet piranhas into vegetarians. When Elisa stumbles on the brilliant plan of reproducing one of his brother's award-winning experiments, Shohei begs to be his partner. The plan backfires and lands Elias in Student Court. Honoria's brilliant strategy for Eli's defense means a crisis of conscience for Shohei, who will have to admit that he has copied his experiment's results. \$7.00

INKHEART by Cornelia Funke - Genre: Fantasy

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters into life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story. \$10.00