

## **Thacher Montessori 2009 Summer Reading List Upper Elementary**

Please read 4 or more books this summer. Keep a list of all the books you read, and bring it in when the school year begins. Below you will find a list of books that might interest you.

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin  
adapted by Sarah Thomson (Young reader's edition)

An adaptation of the bestselling tale of Greg Mortenson's quest to build schools for children in Pakistan. An inspirational tale of one man's journey to change the world...one child at a time.

Ugly by Donna Jo Napoli

A retelling of the Hans Christian Anderson story of the ugly duckling set in Tasmania. Exciting and suspenseful with a full range of Tasmanian animal characters.

The Secret of Platform 13 by Eva Ibbotson

Odge Gribble, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on their mission through a magical tunnel from their island to London to rescue their King and Queen's son, who had been stolen as an infant.

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, and tame rabbits. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures. (National Book Award)

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

When Jeffrey Lionel Magee wanders into Two Mills, PA, a legend is in the making. Before long, stories begin to circulate about how fast and how far he can run and about feats so incredible they earn him the nickname, "Maniac." (Newbery Medal)

Scat by Carl Hiaasen

The latest ecological mystery by the author of Hoot. A biology teacher disappears after a mysterious fire blazes in the Everglades.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

This year's Newbery Medal winner is a fabulous fantasy about a newly orphaned boy who is adopted by the ghosts in a graveyard. Exciting and suspenseful.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

Every kid thinks about running away at one point or another; few get farther than the end of the block. Young Sam Gibley gets all the way to the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. There he sets up house in a huge hollowed-out tree, with a falcon and a weasel for companions.

Princess Academy by Shannon Hale

This charming historical fantasy tale of the quest for a prince has many unexpected twists. Strong suspense and plot drive the action as the girls outwit would-be kidnappers and explore the boundaries of leadership, competition, and friendship. (Newbery Honor)

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman

Catherine, the spirited and inquisitive daughter of an English country knight narrates in diary form the story of her 11<sup>th</sup> year, in the year 1290. Here, she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off. (Newbery Honor)

Crsipin: The Cross of Lead by Avi

An action packed adventure that follows the frantic flight of a 13-year-old peasant boy across 14<sup>th</sup> century England. (Newbery Medal)

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

The journal of a Jewish girl in her early teens describes both the joys and torments of daily life, as well as typical adolescent thoughts, throughout two years spent hiding with her family and friends during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Each member of the Beaumont family develops a “savvy” or supernatural ability on their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. A fabulous tale of friendship, adventure and a little bit of fantasy. (one of 2009’s Newbery Honor books)

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O’Dell

This is the story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Year after year, she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away. But while she waited, she kept herself alive by building a shelter, making weapons, finding food and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs. (Newbery Medal)

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer

In England in the early medieval period, young Jack is chosen by the village’s bard to serve as apprentice in this exciting fantasy. The author weaves the threads of Norse and Celtic mythology into a coming-of-age tale that followers of Tolkien and J. K. Rowling will enjoy.

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

A fast-paced, impossible to put down adventure awaits as the young orphan Peter and his mates are dispatched to an island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. An imaginative first book in a series of prequels to the classic tale of Peter Pan.

Many of the authors of the books listed above have written other great books, as well.

**Other Recommended Authors:** Sharon Creech, E. B. White, Lois Lowry, J. K. Rowling, Russell Freedman, Karen Hesse, Edward Eager, Patricia Reilly Giff, Linda Sue Park, Brian Jacques, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Katherine Paterson.