



**School of the Arts Foundation Academy
Summer Reading Program**

45 Prince Street
Rochester, NY 14607



School of the Arts
English Department
Summer Reading Program Kit 2010
Foundation Academy
For Students Entering 8th Grade



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Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Section Title</u>
4	A Letter to Parents/Guardians
5	Summer Reading List
6-7	Graphic Organizers



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A Letter to Parents/Guardians

Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming Eighth Graders:

This letter outlines the expectations for School of the Arts students for the 2010 Summer Reading Program who will be entering 8th grade in September.

Students are required to read two novels:

- See a list of choices on pages 6-8 of this packet.
- Students are encouraged to read more than the two required novels for extra credit.

The Week of September 13th 2010...

- Students will hand in their completed graphic organizers.
- Parents must sign the graphic organizers to verify their child completed the reading.
- Students will write an in-class essay based on the two novels they read for a grade worth 20% of their first marking period average.

Students are responsible for obtaining the summer reading novels from a public library or retail bookseller.

Although all the novels in this summer reading program are pre-approved by a panel of teachers, parents and administrators, please be aware that some novels may contain mature themes or scenes. It is strongly encouraged that you consider reading the novels along with your child to ensure proper interpretation of the content of these novels. This interaction can ensure greater retention of the main ideas and characters of the novels.

Thank you for your support of the **SOTA Summer Reading Program!**

Sincerely,
The SOTA English Department

P.S. - Extra Copies of this Summer Reading Kit will
be available at the SOTA Box Office over the summer!





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Student Selected Summer Reading Novels for Incoming 8th Graders

- Select and read *TWO* of the novels on pages 6-8.
- Obtain the novel from a library or retail bookstore.
- Complete a graphic organizer on pages 8-11.



FEVER 1793

by Laurie Halse Anderson



During the hot mosquito-infested summer of 1793, the dreaded yellow fever spread like wildfire, killing people overnight. In the foreground of this story is 16-year-old Mattie Cook, whose mother and grandfather own a popular coffee house on High Street. Mattie's comfortable and interesting life is shattered by the epidemic, as her mother is felled and the girl and her grandfather must flee for their lives. As first frost arrives and the epidemic ends, Mattie's sufferings have changed her from a willful child to a strong, capable young woman able to manage her family's business on her own.

CHINESE CINDERELLA: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter

by Adeline Yen Mah



As the youngest of her five siblings, Wu Mei suffers the worst at the hands of her stepmother Niang. She is denied carfare, frequently forgotten at school at the end of the day, and whipped for daring to attend a classmate's birthday party against Niang's wishes. In her loneliness, Wu Mei turns to books for company: "I was alone with my beloved books. What bliss! ...it is only when she wins an international play-writing contest in high school that her father finally takes notice and grants her wish to attend college in England.

ESPERANZA RISING

by Pam Munoz Ryan

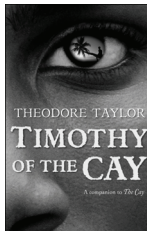


Esperanza believed her life would be wonderful forever. She would always have fancy dresses and a beautiful home filled with servants. Papa and Abuelita would always be there with her. But a sudden tragedy shatters her world and forces Esperanza to flee California, where they settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. .

TIMOTHY OF THE CAY

by Theodore Taylor

" 'Tis a beautiful cay, dis cay,' Timothy had said. He was right." So says Phillip Enright after his first actual view of the islet on which, in *The Cay*, he was stranded with the old black sailor Timothy, who taught him to survive. This novel explores social and racial imbalances and draws a graceful parallel between Timothy's youthful struggle to achieve an unheard-of dream--the captaincy of his own boat--and Philip's courage in choosing to undergo a risky operation to restore his vision. Somewhat more thoughtful than its well-loved antecedent, this boldly drawn novel is no less commanding.



NO MORE DEAD DOGS

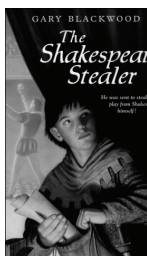
by Gordon Corman



For expressing his true views of *Old Shep, My Pal*, eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace earns a detention that takes him off the team and plunks him down in the auditorium, where his almost equally stubborn English teacher is directing a theatrical version of--you guessed it. To the delight of some cast members, but the loud outrage of Drama Club President, Rachel Turner, Wallace Wallace makes a few suggestions to punch up the production; by the end, it's a rock musical and the (stuffed) pooch actually pulls through. At least, that's the plan. *John Peters*
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SHAKESPEARE STEALER

by Gary Blackwood



Young Widge is an Elizabethan Oliver Twist with a talent for shorthand. Raised in an orphanage, he is apprenticed to an unprincipled clergyman who trains Widge to use a cryptic writing system that he's invented to pirate sermons from other rectors. Hired by a mysterious traveler, the boy is hauled off to London to attend performances of Hamlet in order to transcribe the script for another theater company. Naturally, all does not go smoothly, and in the course of trying to recover his stolen notebook, Widge goes to work at the Globe, eventually donning a dress and wig to play Ophelia before the queen. *Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.*



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Graphic Organizer for Novel 1

Parent Verification Statement

I verify that my child read this novel and completed the graphic organizer over the summer.

Signed _____ Print Name _____ DATE _____

Title of Novel _____ Author _____

Main Character(s) _____ Minor Characters _____

Setting (Place) _____

Setting (Time) _____

Describe the Problem
the Main Characters
Must Overcome

Describe the Solution(s)
to the Problem
Above

Describe the
Ending of the
Story





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Graphic Organizer for Novel 2

Parent Verification Statement

I verify that my child read this novel and completed the graphic organizer over the summer.

Signed _____ Print Name _____ DATE _____

Title of Novel _____ Author _____

Main Character(s) _____ Minor Characters _____

Setting (Place) _____

Setting (Time) _____

Describe the Problem
the Main Characters
Must Overcome

Describe the Solution(s)
to the Problem
Above

Describe the
Ending of the
Story

