

**SOUTH BRUNSWICK
CROSSROADS NORTH & SOUTH SUMMER READING LIST
June 2009**

*For guidance in making your choice, please see your teacher or librarian.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We hope that you will support your child and encourage him/her to begin this assignment early in the summer. South Brunswick Library, Barnes & Noble at Princeton Market Fair and in North Brunswick, Borders in East Brunswick and West Windsor, and Half Price Books in Montgomery Shopping Center have copies of the list and will try to make as many of the choices available to you as they can. You may also order through the school – look for order forms to come home in May.

Crossroads Language Arts Department

DIRECTIONS

1. Choose **one** of the books listed below.
2. As you read, write a total of **ten open-ended questions** from the **beginning, middle, and end** of your book. You are **not** required to write your answers, but be prepared to discuss them.
3. Hand in your questions to your Language Arts teacher during the first **two full days** of school.
4. You will be included in a discussion with others who chose to read the same book. On the day the discussion groups meet, the schedule is suspended so that the whole building can be involved.

What is an open-ended question?

Open-ended questions **cannot** be answered with a simple yes or no.

They **cannot** be answered with one or two words.

They do not check facts.

They require **thought, explanations, opinions, insight, and support from the text.**

There is not only one answer.

For example:

What do the character's actions show you about his personality?

Why is the setting so important to the story?

How would I have behaved/felt in this situation?

BUD, NOT BUDDY

When his mother dies in 1936, Bud hits the road convinced that a poster of a jazz band will help him find his father.

Christopher Paul Curtis

CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS

Pampered young Harvey Cheyne learns respect and responsibility after spending a season fishing the Grand Banks.

Rudyard Kipling

CITY OF THE BEASTS

Fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold has the chance to take the trip of a lifetime. Parting from his family, Alexander joins his fearless grandmother on an expedition to the dangerous, remote world of the Amazon.

Isabel Allende

THE CITY OF EMBER

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Now the lights of the city are beginning to flicker. Lina and her friend Doon must decipher the message she finds before the lights go out forever!

Jeanne DuPrau

CRISPIN: THE CROSS OF LEAD

This story, set in 14th Century England, centers on the frantic flight of an orphaned outcast who gets pegged for murder.

Avi

DEATH BE NOT PROUD

This is a true story of a teenage boy who bravely faces death.

John Gunther

DUNK**David Lubar**

While hoping to work in an amusement park dunk tank on the New Jersey shore, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, hassles with police, and must also deal with the girl that got away.

FORBIDDEN CITY**William Bell**

Seventeen-year-old Alex Jackson accompanies his father, a TV cameraman, to China in 1989 where he is caught up in the Tiananmen Square student revolt.

A GIFT OF MAGIC**Lois Duncan**

This is the story of a girl whose family is "gifted" with talents. Nancy is gifted with ESP.

THE LIFE YOU IMAGINE: Life Lessons for Achieving Your Dreams**Derek Jeter**

New York Yankee, Derek Jeter, motivates readers to do their best as he shares some of his personal history and outlines the ten inspiring principles that led to his success.

MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN**Jean George**

Written as a diary, the story of a boy who runs away to live in the Catskill Mountains becomes one of survival.

NAMING MAYA**Uma Krishnaswami**

When Maya accompanies her mother to India to sell her grandfather's house, she uncovers family history relating to her parents' divorce and learns more about herself and her relationship with her mother.

NO MORE DEAD DOGS**Gordon Korman**

Eighth grade football hero, Wallace Wallace, is sentenced to a detention of attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in a production that changes his life.

REDWALL**Brian Jacques**

When Redwall Abbey is challenged by the arrival of an evil rat and his villainous hordes, the inhabitants of Redwall are determined to destroy the enemy.

TAKING SIDES**Gary Soto**

Being the only Hispanic-American on the basketball team is hard enough, but Lincoln faces a racist coach and a game against the team from his old neighborhood.

THE THIEF LORD**Cornelia Funke**

Two runaway brothers find shelter with Venice's Thief Lord, while a detective hired by their aunt pursues them. 'An exciting tale follows.

THIEF OF HEARTS**Laurence Yep**

Stacy Palmer realizes for the first time her true heritage and finally understands what it means to be Chinese-American.

THE VIEW FROM SATURDAY**E. L. Konigsberg**

This is a tale about a team, a class, a school, and a series of contests that asks important questions about life.

THE WANDERER**Sharon Creech**

Thirteen-year-old Sophie crosses the Atlantic as a member of the crew of a sailing boat to visit her grandfather in England. This is the story of her adventure.

A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA**Ursula K. LeGuin**

A boy, an apprentice to a wizard, becomes a man while trying to subdue evil.