

Now you are ready for your backyard safari. Choose a comfortable spot where you can sit and observe regularly. Cover your head with a hat. A breeze blowing your hair can draw attention. Wear comfortable clothes that blend into your habitat. Wear unscented bug repellent when necessary. Stay as quiet as possible. Keep the sun at your back. You will see better. Using the required book as an example, jot down your observations in your journal. Make a note of questions to answer as you make your observations, then answer them through more observation or by looking for facts in field guides:

1. Choose two different bird species in your neighborhood to watch. Use a field guide to establish food preference, plumage coloration, and habitat preference. Examples: flight silhouettes, beak shape, body shape, and flight patterns. Do the birds in your backyard differ from the articles written about them? What do they eat?
2. Look for animal tracks and identify two mammals beside humans near where you live. Tracks are easiest to find on wet days or on the beach. Draw their tracks.
3. Identify two types of trees in your neighborhood. Draw the limb and leaf pattern.

Use your imagination in creating your journal. You can draw pictures and include photographs of your observations. You might want to make a note of any resources you find helpful. Bring your journal to school when you return in the fall as you will continue to use them in your science class. We will also display them in the library.

Some ideas for this journal came from "Observing Nature" from *North Carolina Aquariums*. <http://www.ncaquariums.com>

HAMMOND

Middle School Summer Reading Lists

Dear Students,

Get ready to enter a world of imagination, discovery, and adventure. You are about to embark on a journey to the Galapagos with Rosie the Beetle, or to New England during the Civil War, or even to a quiet spot in your own backyard to find neighbors that you never knew existed. You won't need to pack a suitcase or find your passport. There is no time machine required. You will travel through books. Your adventure awaits!!!

Each summer, Hammond School publishes its list of required summer reading. The books selected to be on this list are chosen for their literary quality, entertainment value, and for their respective reading level. There is something for everyone on this list.

Katherine Hopkins and Lynn Barron, our fabulous librarians, can help you narrow your search in order to find books of interest. Also, ask your parents about the books that they read when they were you age.

I hope that you will enjoy your required summer reading as well as some books of your own choice.

I am excited to present the 2008 Summer Reading List to you.

Happy travels,

Mrs. Blair Lowry

Head of Middle School

RISING FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

Required for Country of Study for 5 & 6 Grades:

Weaver, Ann H.

The Voyage of the Beetle

Rosie the Beetle accompanies Darwin on the now-famous voyage of the Beagle. Her lively, witty narrative describes how she took Darwin under her wing, providing clues and hints that guided his insights.

Required for Language Arts for 5th Grade: All students read

Clements, Andrew

Frindle

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

See instructions at the end of the 5th & 6th Grade reading list for your required English Book.

Required for Language Arts for 6th Grade: All students read

Curtis, Christopher Paul

The Watsons go to Birmingham

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

See instructions at the end of the 5th & 6th Grade reading list for your required English Book.

Third required book for 5th & 6th Grade:

Choose one from the list below.

Students will discuss their choice novel in reading circles when they return to school in the fall. We recommend you read this book last so it will be fresh in your mind when you return.

Birdsall, Jeanne

The Penderwicks

Along with their loving but preoccupied botanist father and a clumsy dog named Hound, the four Penderwick sisters spend their summer holiday in the Massachusetts Berkshires in a rose-covered cottage on the grounds of a mansion called Arundel Hal, an enchanting story of summer and adventure.

Rising Seventh & Eighth Grade summer reading instructions:

Salisbury, Graham

Eyes of the Emperor

Following orders from the United States Army, several young Japanese American men train K-9 units to hunt Asians during World War II.

Smith, K.

Skeeter

The story of two young boys befriended by an old black man who is a legendary hunter.

Voigt, Cynthia

Homecoming

Resourceful thirteen-year-old girl leads her siblings on an arduous journey to locate their long-lost aunt.

For the Required Novel for English:

Complete the novel evaluation for the required book for English. Follow instructions carefully! This will be collected on the first day of school. Your novel evaluation will serve as proof that you read the novel carefully, so make sure that you complete your assessment to the best of your ability! You will receive a check grade for the completion and quality of your work. Your check grade will be factored into your first quarter average. For further clarification, an online sample is provided.

For the Required Book for Science:

You will go on safari in your own backyard. Please record all information in a bound notebook/journal like the one pictured here. You will continue to use it as your science journal when you return to school in the fall.



Start your field assignment by reading the required book, *Naturalist's Guide to Observing Nature*. Jot down in your journal some ideas to help you better observe nature in your backyard. In your journal answer the following questions (you may want to check out some field guides from your library or find field guides online).

1. What is the core message of the required book?
2. Name two plants located in South Carolina. Use both common and scientific name.
3. Name two common mammalian animals in South Carolina. Use both common and scientific name.
4. Name two common reptiles in South Carolina. Use both common and scientific name.
5. Name two common birds of South Carolina. Use both common and scientific name. *Continued on page 8.*

Rising Seventh & Eighth Grade summer reading list continued

Third required book: Choose one from the list below. Students will discuss their choice novel in reading circles when they return to school in the fall. We recommend you read this book last so it will be fresh in your mind when you return.

Avi *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
A young girl travels on her own across the Atlantic on a frigate whose crew mutinies.

Bauer, Joan *Hope Was Here*
When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Christie, Agatha *Murder on the Orient Express*
A whodunit on the rails!

Farmer, Nancy *House of the Scorpion*
Winner of the National Book Award and a Newbery Honor Book, Farmer "raises questions of what it means to be human, what is the value of life, and what are the responsibilities of a society." In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Greene, Bette *Summer of My German Soldier*
An unlikely romance set in Georgia during World War II.

Hobbs, Will *Downriver*
A contemporary adventure story of a group of students stranded in the Grand Canyon while white-water rafting.

Horowitz, Anthony *Point Blank*
007 for middle schoolers. All the gadgets, chase scenes and explosions a miniature James Bond fan could want. Fourteen-year-old Alex continues his work as a spy for the British MI6.

North, Sterling *Rascal*
Nonfiction story of the author's boyhood experiences with his pet raccoon.

Rising Fifth & Sixth Grade summer reading list continued

Goetze, Jutto *Snow Wings*
Manfred and his friends encounter avalanches, magical snowmen, and flying sleighs while trying to unlock the power of the King's crystal and return it to its rightful owner.

Going, K. L. *The Liberation of Gabriel King*
Gabriel, a white boy who is being bullied, and Frita, an African-American girl facing prejudice, decide to overcome their many fears together as they enter fifth grade in Georgia in 1976.

Hunter, Erin *Into the Wild*
Rusty, a bored house kitten, is apprenticed by the ThunderClan and must struggle to fit in when the group of feral cats is threatened by the enemy ShadowClan.

Jiang, Ji-li *Red Scarf Girl*
The author tells about the happy life she led in China up until she was twelve-years-old when her family became a target of the Cultural Revolution, and discusses the choice she had to make between denouncing her father and breaking with her family, or refusing to speak against him and losing her future in the Communist Party.

Lisle, Janet Taylor *The Lost Flower Children*
After their mother's death, Olivia and Nellie go to live with their great aunt, where they slowly bring her overgrown and weedy old garden back to life, enabling them to adjust to a new life as well.

Mikaelsen, Ben *Red Midnight*
After soldiers kill his family, twelve-year-old Santiago and his four-year-old sister flee Guatemala in a kayak and try to reach the United States.

Rawls, Wilson *Where the Red Fern Grows*
A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

Riordan, Rick *The Lightning Thief*
Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

Instructions for required novel for 5th & 6th grade Language Arts

Students should write three paragraphs for the required book. The first paragraph should include the title of the book, the author, and general information concerning the book (genre, interesting fact, etc.). The second paragraph should include a brief description of the plot, the setting, and the main characters. This should be a summary of what was read. The third paragraph should be an explanation of the conflict in the book: the type of conflict, the characters involved in the conflict, a brief description of how the conflict originated (began), and an explanation of how the conflict is resolved at the conclusion of the book. Use examples and details from the book to support your explanation of the conflict. Your teachers will collect this on the first day of school.

An outline model for setting up your paper is shown below.

Outline Model

Your Name
Homeroom Teacher

Title of Book
By: (author's name)

Paragraph 1: introduction to novel

Paragraph 2: summary of novel

Paragraph 3: conflict in novel

(Many annotations courtesy of Follett Library Resources)

RISING SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

Required for 7th & 8th Grade Science:

Rinehart, Kurt *Naturalist's Guide to Observing Nature*

A practical field guide to learning the fundamentals of observing wildlife and plants in nature, with tips on making accurate identifications.

You will want to read this book at the beginning of the summer. Like naturalist Charles Darwin who explored the Galapagos Islands off Ecuador, students will explore their own backyards. Students will submit a naturalist's journal of their observations when they return to school in the fall. See instructions for the journal at the end of this reading list.

Required for 7th Grade English:

Choose one book from below. See instructions at the end of the 7th & 8th Grade reading list for your required English book.

Bauer, Joan *Rules of the Road*

Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of successful shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force her to retire, and along the way Jenna hones her talents as a sale woman and finds the strength to face her alcoholic father.

or

Paterson, Katherine *The Preacher's Boy*

In 1899, ten-year-old Robbie, son of a preacher in a small Vermont town, gets himself into all kinds of trouble when he decides to give up being Christian in order to make the most of his life before the end of the world.

Required for 8th Grade English:

Choose one book from below. See instructions at the end of the 7th & 8th Grade reading list for your required English book.

Alcott, Louisa May *Little Women*

Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in nineteenth-century New England during the Civil War.

or

Spillebeen, Geert *Kipling's Choice*
(translation by Terese Edelstein)

Denied entry into the British navy himself as a young man, famous writer Rudyard Kipling uses his influence to set his son, John, a commission in the Irish Guards as a soldier in World War I. John goes from a life of comfort and privilege to one of sheer survival, trying to live up to his family name amid the horror of war.