

2008: "METAMORPHOSIS @ YOUR LIBRARY"



East Rochester School District

Grades 7 and 8

SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST

Abbott, Tony. Firegirl

One day a new girl joins the 7th grade class. Tom can tell from the moment his teacher begins to tell the class about the difficulties the new student faces that everything is going to change. Jessica has been terribly scarred in a fire, and her appearance is frightening. Tom begins a friendship with her, and finds his old friendships to be less fun than they used to be. Jessica has opened his eyes to see within a person and he will never be the same.

Bauer, Michael Gerard. Don't Call Me Ishmael

Having a name like Ishmael Lesseur makes you a target for bullies, at least that's how 14-year old Ishmael feels. How could his parents have chosen that name? Then a new kid starts at school, a boy who has weird facial tics and who seems to be afraid of nothing. Jamie and Ishmael form a debate team with some other kids and learn that words are mighty. A funny read.

Blacker, Terence. Boy 2 Girl

On a dare, Sam starts his first week at a new school dressed as a girl. He soon finds that behavior that was considered obnoxious when he was dressed as a boy are seen as spunky when he's dressed as a girl. Then things start to get out of control and he continues to dress as a girl even after the first week of school ends. It becomes even more difficult to cover up the lies, and eventually he has to come clean. This one is another funny read.

Green, Tim. Football Genius

This is written by a former defensive end for the Atlanta Falcons who has become a literacy advocate. He writes the story of Troy White, a genius when it comes to football. Once he gets the flow of the game, he can accurately predict what plays will follow. When Troy's mother gets a job working for the Atlanta Falcons he sees a chance to help his favorite team win, but the coaches don't believe in his abilities. Things get more complicated when he tries to help the team through a player and things backfire. His mother then loses her job, and Troy is in big trouble at home. Will Troy get a second chance for his team and his mother's job?

Hale, Shannon. Book of a Thousand Days

Dashti, a maid, and her Lady Saren are locked in a tower for seven years because of Lady Saren's refusal to marry. Food runs out and two men arrive both asking for Lady Saren's hand. Dashti and Lady Saren escape from the tower to find their kingdom greatly changed and find they must travel to a distant city to begin new lives.

Lord, Cynthia. Rules

Living with a younger brother who has autism is a drag to Catherine. She's always explaining proper behavior to him. Catherine is twelve years old and her brother's behavior is sometimes embarrassing to her. One day while waiting for her brother at the clinic where he has occupational therapy she meets Jason, a boy who uses a wheelchair and can't speak. Through words written on index cards she becomes friends with Jason, and learns a lot about people who have disabilities. Rules was a 2007 Newbery Honor book.

Roy, Jennifer. Yellow Star

A story about the Holocaust told in verse format. Sylvia is 4 ½ years old when her family enters the ghetto in Lodz, Poland. Throughout World War II she must hide from the Nazis to save her life, sometimes in a shallow hole dug in the graveyard. Out of hundreds of children who entered the ghetto in 1939, Sylvia is one of 12 that survived. A story you will never forget.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. Flipped

On the day they met in 2nd grade Juliana flipped for Bryce. She loves everything about him, especially his beautiful blue eyes. Bryce, on the other hand, thinks that Juliana is annoying and a show-off. The book is written from alternating points of view, first Juliana's, then Bryce's and the reader can't help wondering if they are really seeing the same things because their point of view is so different. Bryce's grandfather helps Bryce see all the good in Juliana, just at the point when Juliana is wondering what she ever saw in Bryce. A funny, touching read about middle school, and that first crush.

**Roxanne Willard, Middle School Librarian
Summer 2008**