June 2019

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Research indicates that the only way children become better readers is by reading. In order to instill a love of reading in our children, we need to encourage our students to read all year long, and summer is an important time for them to read for enjoyment. Reading can fill your child's days with the love of stories and the fascination of factual reading. That is why students should be given the opportunity to choose the books they would love to read. Therefore, this summer we will offer Shelton’s Summer Reading Program.

The Summer Reading Program for students entering fifth and sixth grades allows students to choose books they want to read. Students should choose a book they can read independently and may also choose books they can read with their parents. Students are encouraged to read books from many genres. Students are to write down the titles of all the books they read during the summer on the front of the bookmark. All books written down will count towards the Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge as well. Students are to choose their favorite book they read during the summer and complete a short response about the book on the back of the bookmark. Using this response, they will get the opportunity to “book talk” their favorite book with their new classmates in their reading class when school starts. Studies have shown that students tend to choose books to read based on peer recommendations so our hope is that students will want to read more by listening to their classmates’ book talks.

We ask that your child complete and return the completed bookmark to his/her homeroom teacher no later than **September 6, 2019**. Should you misplace the bookmark, you may download it from the Shelton Public Schools website at www.sheltonpublicschools.org.

The success of this program depends heavily upon your support as parents and guardians. Our shared commitment will help your children to become critical readers and thinkers while developing a lifelong love of reading.

Sincerely,

Victoria White
Supervisor of Literacy, Assessment and Professional Learning
Dear Students,

Perry Hill School has prepared a mandatory summer reading activity that will help you keep your reading skills sharp during the long summer months. This activity will be graded upon your return to school in September. We hope that it is a fun way to keep you in the habit of reading every day.

The first part of the summer reading activity is simple. READ. Read novels, nonfiction, biographies, poetry, short stories, or plays - anything that will keep your interest. You can find great titles at local libraries and bookstores. Sometimes the best book recommendations come from friends. The point is to find something that interests you.

While you are reading, complete the Shelton Public Schools Summer Reading bookmark and write down the titles of the books you have read.

The second part of the activity is planning a book talk. You will complete the back of the bookmark about one of your favorite books from the summer and then give a book talk to your new classmates in your reading class when we get back to school. The completed bookmark will be due no later than Friday, September 6, 2019. Teachers will score this as a homework assignment for the first marking period, so you have a chance to start off the new school year with an A+.

Only students who return the bookmark with both sides of the bookmark completed will be eligible to participate in a raffle for a variety of fun prizes.

Also, all classes with 100% participation in the summer reading activity will receive an additional incentive!

On behalf of Perry Hill School, let us wish you a happy and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Williams
Write down the titles of all the books you read this summer. Complete the back of this bookmark about one of the books you read and return to your teacher by September 6, 2019.
You are going to talk about one of the books you read this summer with your new classmates during the first week of school. Choose the book you want to talk about and jot down some ideas.

Title of Book ____________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

Author ________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

Genre ________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

Using only three lines, describe your book:

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

You should read this book because:

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

Complete this sentence about your book:

If you like ____________________________________________

______________________________________________________

then you will like this book.

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

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Using only three lines, describe your book:

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Complete this sentence about your book:

If you like ____________________________________________

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then you will like this book.
Summer Reading List*  
A Universe of Stories! ~ Grades 5-6 
Suggested space-themed summer reading  
compiled for the Connecticut State Department of Education  
by Linda Williams, Connecticut State Library

FICTION

Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce  
Super-sized twelve-year-old Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. | Lexile: 670

Shooting the Moon by Frances O'Roark Dowell  
When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in. | Lexile: 890

The Jamie Drake Equation by Christopher Edge  
Jamie has a close encounter with an alien who tells him his father, an astronaut on a mission at the International Space Station, is in trouble and needs Jamie's help. | Lexile: 960

Last Day on Mars by Kevin Emerson  
While waiting to leave Mars before it burns up just like the Earth before it, Liam and his friend Phoebe discover some facts about time and space and realize that the human race is just one of the races trying to survive in space.

Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton  
In 1969 twelve-year-old Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont, where Mimi's mixed-race background and interest in "boyish" topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider. | ALA, NCSS, Nutmeg 2018 | Lexile: 790

Unidentified Suburban Object by Mike Jung  
Chloe Cho is a Korean American seventh-grader who would like to get in touch with many of the aspects of her heritage, but her parents are unwilling to talk about it—then when a class assignment forces Chloe to confront them directly, they finally tell her the truth about her family, which may just be too much for one girl to handle. | Lexile: 830

Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee  
Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces. | Lexile: 780

Love, Ish by Karen Rivers  
Twelve year old Mischa "Ish" Love's longtime dream has been to someday live on Mars, but when she collapses on the first day of seventh grade, Ish receives a diagnosis which threatens her future plans. | LA | Lexile: 640

We're Not From Here by Geoff Rodkey  
The award-winning author of the Chronicles of Egg series finds the narrator, a Mars colonist, relocating in the aftermath of Earth's mysterious demise to the planet Choom, where the mosquito-like inhabitants dislike human singing, jokes and emotions so much that they are outlawed. | Lexile: 740

A Problematic Paradox by Eliot Sappingfield  
Thirteen-year-old Nikola's world is turned upside down when her father is abducted by aliens and she is transported to a boarding school for geniuses, but things get stranger when she realizes she has certain abilities that put her school in danger. | Lexile: 850

The Truth About Martians by Melissa Savage  
When a flying saucer crash-lands next to Mylo's Roswell, New Mexico, ranch in 1947, he and his friends Dibs and Gracie set out to find and help the Martians. | Lexile: 650

The Countdown Conspiracy by Katie Slivensky  
Miranda, one of six elite kids training for the world's first-ever mission to Mars, begins receiving death threats from hatemongers who do not consider her worthy, until a terror attack on the training base places the team and mission in Miranda's hands. | Lexile: 700
**SUMMER READING LIST**

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

**Sanity & Tallulah** by Molly Brooks  
Sanity and Tallulah live in a space station at the end of the galaxy. When Sanity's illegally created three-headed kitten escapes, the girls have to turn their home upside down to find her in this graphic novel. | ALA | Lexile: 530

**Rocket to the Moon!** by Don Brown  
Presenter a history of rocket technology, from ancient Chinese rockets, the "bombs bursting in air" during the War of 1812, and Russia's Sputnik program.

**One Trick Pony** by Nathan Hale  
In a future where alien beings consume technology as a few humans try to save it, Strata, her brother, and a friend are separated from their caravan and, with a wonderful robotic horse, must fight their way back. | ALA | ILA | Lexile: 260

**Cleopatra in Space #1: Target Practice** by Mike Mathack  
When a young Cleopatra finds a mysterious tablet that zaps her to the far, REALLY far future, she learns of an ancient prophecy that says she is destined to save the galaxy from the tyrannical rule of the evil Xaius Octavian. | ALA | ILA | Lexile: 430

**Red's Planet** by Eddie Pittman  
The story of headstrong 10-year-old foster child Red, who stows away on an alien spaceship and is marooned on a deserted planet with a menagerie of misfit aliens. | ILA | Lexile: 350

**NONFICTION**

**Seven Wonders of the Solar System** by David A Aguilar  
Explores seven extraordinary celestial wonders, from our close neighbor Mars to mysterious Planet 9. | NSTA | Lexile: 1070

**American Moonshot** (Young Readers' Edition) by Douglas Brinkley  
A young readers' edition of the award-winning historian's 50th anniversary account of America's race to the moon shares behind-the-scenes insights into the heroic achievements of the Apollo 11 team and why the mission was so important.

**A Black Hole is Not a Hole** by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano  
Introduces black holes, describing their physical features, how they were discovered, what causes them, and where they exist in space. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 900

**When Planet Earth Was New** by James Gladstone  
Describes the formation of planet Earth, from its beginnings as molten rock and poison gas, to the formation of oceans, to the evolution of life. | NSTA | Lexile: 530

**Our Moon: New Discoveries About Earth's Closest Companion** by Elaine Scott  
Discusses the most up-to-date information known about the moon, including the newest theories on how it formed, the recent discovery of water on its surface, and the possibility of future moon colonies. | NSTA | Lexile: 1280

**To Pluto & Beyond: The Amazing Voyage of New Horizons** by Elaine Scott  
The newest book from science writer, Elaine Scott, introduces young readers to New Horizons, the space ship that NASA built to explore Pluto and the fringes of our solar system. | NSTA | Lexile: 1090

**Welcome to Mars: Making a Home on the Red Planet** by Buzz Aldrin  
The Apollo 11 astronaut invites curious youngsters to evaluate Mars as a potential planet for human colonization, describing what Mars residents might experience while traveling to and living on the Red Planet. | NSTA | Lexile: 900

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream** by Tanya Lee Stone  
Presests the story of the thirteen women connected with NASA's Mercury 13 space mission, who braved prejudice and jealousy to make their mark and open the door for the female pilots and space commanders that would soon follow. | ALA, NCTE, NSTA | Lexile: 980

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*Many of the listed books were selected as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: the American Library Association (ALA), the International Literacy Association (ILA), the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) or the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY). Other awards as noted.*
Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster* by Jonathan Auxier
In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance, Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem. | Lexile: 630

The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
Luna, whose magical abilities are emerging, was raised in the forest by a witch, a swamp monster, and a dragon, but when a young man from the Protectorate is determined to kill the witch, Luna must use her magic to protect her family. | ALA | Lexile: 640

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden. | Lexile: 970

The Madman of Piney Woods* by Christopher Paul Curtis
Even though it is now 1901, the people of Buxton, Canada (originally a settlement of runaway slaves) and Chatham, Canada are still haunted by two events of half a century before—the American Civil War, and the Irish potato famine, and the lasting damage those events caused to the survivors. | Lexile: 870

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau
In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. | ALA | Lexile: 680

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich
Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847. | ALA | Lexile: 970

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm by Nancy Farmer
In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. | ALA | Lexile: 660

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh
Eleven-year-old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her after-school route, but when some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge. | Lexile: 760

Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson
A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart. | ALA, Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 440

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis
Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter. | Lexile: 940

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. | ALA | Lexile: 670

Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina
Merci Suárez begins the sixth grade and knows things will change, but she did not count on her grandfather acting strangely, not fitting in at her private school, and dealing with Edna Santos’ jealousy. | ALA | Lexile: 700

Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery
Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. | Lexile: 850

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park
Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. | Lexile: 920

*New to the list in 2019
Summer Reading
Favorites & Classics
For Grades 5-6

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. | Lexile: 810

Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce
While staying with his aunt and uncle, Tom discovers a beautiful garden that is visible only at night and meets a little girl from the Victorian era with whom he travels back in time. | Lexile: 860

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes
In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. | ALA | Lexile: 750

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. | ALA | Lexile: 700

Amal Unbound * by Aisha Saeed
In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. | ALA | Lexile: 600

The Marvels * by Brian Selznick
In 1766, a boy, Billy Marvel, is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes on to found a brilliant family of actors that flourishes in London until 1900—and nearly a century later, Joseph Jervis, runs away from home, seeking refuge with his uncle in London, and is captivated by the Marvel house, with its portraits and ghostly presences. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 770

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. | ALA, NBA | Lexile: 750

Beyond the Bright Sea * by Lauren Wolk
Twelve-year-old orphan Crow embarks on a journey to discover who her parents were and why they abandoned her as an infant. | ALA | Lexile: 770

Brown Girl Dreaming * by Jacqueline Woodson
In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South. | ALA, NBA, NCTE | Lexile: 990

Front Desk * by Kelly Yang
After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school. | ALA | Lexile: 640

The Chronicles of Prydain by Lloyd Alexander
Crispin trilogy by Avi
Poppy by Avi
John Bellairs Mysteries by John Bellairs
The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall
The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper
The Unicorn Chronicles by Bruce Coville
The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
Joey Pigza by Jack Gantos
Shadow Children by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Redwall by Brian Jacques
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Regarding the... by Kate Klise
Dog Friday trilogy by Hilary McKay
Percy Jackson & the Olympians by Rick Riordan
Harry Potter by J. K. Rowling
Septimus Heap by Angie Sage
Enola Holmes Mysteries by Nancy Springer
The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
Sammy Keyes by Wendelin Van Draanen
Adam Canfield by Michael Winrip
Enchanted Forest Chronicles by Patricia Wrede
Dear America by various authors