GOVERNOR’S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2015 TOP PERFORMING SCHOOL

June 2019

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Research indicates that the only way students become better readers is by reading. In order to instill a love of reading in our students, 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 adolescent’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 in the secondary level contains a list of suggested books that are appropriate and interesting for students based upon the grade level that they will be entering. This list offers a wide variety of titles and authors to meet students’ varied interests and readiness levels. It includes nonfiction and content area selections to extend the science and social studies curricula. Students should choose books they can read independently. Any books read while participating in the Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge should be listed and counted toward the requirements for our program.

We ask that your child complete and return the appropriate forms to his/her language arts teacher. Please be sure to sign your own name to verify that the reading has been completed.

Should you misplace the forms, you may download them 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 students to become critical readers and thinkers while developing a life-long love of reading.

Sincerely,

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

Shelton Intermediate School has prepared a mandatory summer reading program that will help you keep your reading skills sharp during the long summer months. The activity you complete for the program will be graded upon your return to school in September. We hope that it is a fair yet fun way to keep in the habit of daily reading.

The most important part of the summer reading program is to READ. Read novels, nonfiction, biographies, poetry, short stories, or plays, anything that will keep your interest. Many great books are suggested on the attached summer reading list, but you can find even more great titles at the local libraries and bookstores. Sometimes the best book recommendations come from friends. The point is to find something that interests you.

The first part of the program is to read one fiction or nonfiction book of your choice. While only one is required, you can read more to count towards the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. Record the titles you read on the Shelton Public Schools Summer Reading Bookmark and keep track of the number of books. Students who read 3 or more YOUNG ADULT (YA) books will take part in a celebration in September to enjoy a treat from the ice cream truck.

As you reflect on your reading, complete 4 responses on the attached handout. You can write about connections, an interesting part, a big idea, questions, agreeing/disagreeing, or new learning. Responses need to be developed and at least 3 sentences in length. The response sheet will be due no later than Friday, September 6, 2019. Language Arts teachers will score this as a homework assignment for the first marking period, so you have a chance to start off the new year with an A+.

The second part of the program is to participate in the Newsela Summer Reading Challenge. You can read articles from the summer reading collection or browse through the topics and pick any article of interest. Read at least 5 articles and take the quiz associated with each article and you will earn a "workshop grade boost," which means your lowest workshop grade for Language Arts will be dropped in the first marking period. For every article you read in Newsela, you will earn points for SIS. We have a chance to win a $2500 technology grant!

On behalf of the Language Arts Department, let me wish you a happy and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Ms. Corris
Reading Consultant
Shelton Intermediate School
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3. Symbol _______ Page Number _______

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Student Instructions

Read about ancient ghost stories, learn about the effects of video games, or see how your favorite celebrities are making a difference—all on Newsela this summer!

Starting on June 1st, you will be able to access our new Summer Reading Collection. Just follow these steps:

1. Log into your account at newsela.com. Don’t have an account? Create one following these steps. Be sure to join your teacher’s class too!
2. Hover over Collections at the top of the page
3. Click on Summer Reading Collection - 2019

Start by selecting the section on the left side that best matches your school level. Then explore the topics that interest you the most. Take your time reading and show what you know by annotating and completing the article quiz and write prompt.

Don’t forget, you can read on the Newsela app too! Download it from iTunes or the Google Play store so you can read anywhere.
Dear families,

We're pleased to announce that we have a subscription to Newsela PRO for students to access summer reading material! The Newsela Summer Reading Collection provides engaging nonfiction content curated to match student interests like animals, sports, the latest technology and more.

**Newsela in the classroom**
Every article is available at 5 reading levels. Newsela helps parents and teachers ensure that all students can access texts at their just right reading level. This supports learners in making reading gains and allows them to challenge themselves as they read. In addition to reading an article, students are able to annotate the text, answer a write prompt, and take a short quiz for comprehension.

**Newsela at home**
Here's how you can get involved:

1. Sign up for a parent account to assign articles to your reader. Visit newsela.com to register.
2. Download the free Newsela app for iOS or Android in the app store on a device your student uses. They will be able to access Newsela offline, so they can read articles on the go!
3. Read the articles in the Summer Reading Collection together, available in your student's account. Discuss current events and other nonfiction topics covered on Newsela, ask questions, and make connections. Encouraging your reader to choose topics of interest helps strengthen their love for reading and learning.

We look forward to reading together this summer!

Your reader can sign in to Newsela any time by visiting www.newsela.com/signin or downloading the Newsela app.

**Newsela Username:**

**Newsela Password:**
Write down the titles of all the books you read this summer. Return this signed bookmark and your written responses to your Language Arts teacher by Friday, September 8, 2017.

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Parent Signature: ________________________________

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**Reading is Thinking!**

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**FICTION**

**Honor Among Thieves** by Rachel Caine & Ann Aguirre
A savvy young criminal with antisocial behavior is recruited to attend the Honors space program and joins a team on a sentient spaceship destined for the far reaches of the galaxy only to discover dangerous secrets hidden among the stars. | Nutmeg 2020 | Lexile: 720

**Maggot Moon** by Sally Gardner
Following a stray football to the other side of a wall where there is a secret, Standish Treadwell discovers astonishing truths about a moon landing that the overseeing Motherland, a ruthless regime, is determined to hide. | ALA | Lexile: 690

**Defy the Stars** by Claudia Gray
Teenaged soldier Noemi and an enemy robot, Abel, who is programmed to obey her commands, set out on an interstellar quest to save her home planet, Earth colony Genesis. | Nutmeg 2020 | Lexile: 830

**Dangerous** by Shannon Hale
When aspiring astronaut Maisie Danger Brown, who was born without a right hand, and the other space camp students get the opportunity to do something amazing in space, Maisie must prove how dangerous she can be and how far she is willing to go to protect everything she has ever loved. | ILA | Lexile: 680

**Aurora Rising** by Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff
Told in separate voices, eighteen-year-old Tyler Jones, top graduate of Aurora Academy, and a group of misfits and troublemakers embark on their first mission with Auri, a stowaway from the distant past. | Lexile: 800

**Illuminae** by Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff
The planet Kerenza is attacked, and Kady and Ezra find themselves on a space fleet fleeing the enemy, while their ship's artificial intelligence system and a deadly plague may be the end of them all. | ALA, Nutmeg 2019 | Lexile: 780

**Life in Outer Space** by Melissa Keil
Sixteen-year-old Sam Kinnison is perfectly happy as a game playing, movie-obsessed geek until beautiful, friendly, and impossible to ignore Camilla Carter starts him wondering if he has been watching all the wrong movies. | ALA | Lexile: 740

**What Goes Up** by Katie Kennedy
Teenagers Rosa and Eddie, trainees in a top-secret space exploration and research program, must thwart the aliens' Earth-destroying mission by stealing their spacecraft and traveling extra-dimensionally to an alternate Earth. | Lexile: 650

**The Diabolic** by S. J. Kincaid
Nemesis is a Diabolic, a humanoid teenager and the galaxy's most deadly weapon, who masquerades as Sidonia, a senator's daughter, and becomes a hostage of the galactic court. | ALA | Lexile: 810

**Exo** by Fonda Lee
Donovan Reyes is a loyal member of an alien security force on Earth, but after a routine search and seizure goes bad, Donovan finds himself a captive of the human revolutionary group, Sapience, terrorists who seem to prefer war to alien rule. | ALA | Lexile: 810

**Across the Universe** by Beth Revis
Teenaged Amy, a cryogenically frozen passenger on the spaceship Godspeed, wakes up to discover that someone may have tried to murder her. | ALA | Lexile: 720

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**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

**Lowriders in Space** by Cathy Camper
Lupe, Flapjack, and Elirio customize their car into a low rider for the Universal Car Competition to win the cash prize that will enable them to buy their own garage. | ALA | Lexile: 430

**The Far Side of the Moon**
The Story of Apollo 11's Third Man by Alex Irvine
This graphic retelling of the Apollo 11 moon-landing mission follows astronaut Michael Collins, commander of the lunar orbiter, to the far side of the moon. | ALA | Lexile: 920
**SUMMER READING LIST**

**GRAPHIC NOVEL**

**Space Dumplins** by Craig Thompson
For Violet Marlocke, family is the most important thing in the whole galaxy. So when her father goes missing while on a hazardous job, she can't just sit around and do nothing. To get him back, Violet throws caution to the stars and sets out with a group of misfit friends on a quest to find him. But space is big and dangerous, and she soon discovers that her dad has been swallowed by a giant, planet-eating whale. With her father's life on the line, nothing is going to stop Violet from trying to rescue him and keep her family together. | ALA | Lexile: 390

**CHASING SPACE**

**Leland Melvin**

**NONFICTION**

**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

**Exploring Space: From Galileo to the Mars Rover and Beyond** by Martin Jenkins
Presents a brief history of space exploration, covering such topics as the first human missions, life on the International Space Station, and settling on Mars. | NSTA

**To the Moon!: The True Story of the American Heroes on the Apollo 8 Spaceship** by Jeffrey Kluger
Recounts the first crewed spaceship to travel to the Moon, describing how the Cold War and the tragedy of Apollo 1 shaped the Apollo 8 mission and offering facts about living in a spaceship. | NCTM, NSTA | Lexile: 1180

**The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity** by Elizabeth Rusch
The story of the two robot vehicles, Spirit and Opportunity, that were sent to explore Mars, lasting far past their projected lives of 3 months and sending back invaluable images of the environmentally hostile planet. | ALA, NCTE, NSTA | Lexile: 950

**Countdown: 2979 Days to the Moon** by Suzanne Slade
Told in free verse, the story of the American effort to land the first man on the moon comes to life. | NSTA | Lexile: 940

**Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon** by Catherine Thimmesh
Culled from direct quotes from the people behind the scenes, NASA transcripts, national archives and NASA photos, the whole story of Apollo 11 and the first moon landing emerges. | ALA, NCTE, NSTA | Lexile: 1060

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist** by Sylvia Acevedo
The inspiring memoir for young readers about a Latina rocket scientist whose early life was transformed by joining the Girl Scouts and who currently serves as CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA. | ALA | Lexile: 960

**Endurance: My Year in Space and How I Got There (Young Readers Edition)** by Scott Kelly
Adapted from the memoir of NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, who spent a record-breaking year in space. | NSTA | Lexile: 1070

**Chasing Space (Young Readers Edition)** by Leland Melvin
A memoir by the former NASA astronaut and NFL wide receiver traces his personal journey from the gridiron to the stars, examining the intersecting roles of community, perseverance, and grace that create opportunities for success. | NSTA | Lexile: 1020

**Sally Ride: A Photobiography of America’s Pioneering Woman in Space** by Tam O’Shaughnessy
A biography of the famous astronaut drawing on personal and family photographs from her childhood, school days, college, life in the astronaut corps, and afterward. | NSTA | Lexile: 870

*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.*
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
When their owner dies at the start of the Revolution, Isabel and her younger sister are sold to Loyalists in New York, where Isabel is offered the chance to spy for the Patriots.  | Lexile: 780

City of Orphans by Avi
In 1893 New York, thirteen-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works. Includes historical notes. | Lexile: 570

Zombie Baseball Beatdown  
by Paolo Bacigalupi
While practicing for their next baseball game, thirteen-year-old friends Rabi, Miguel, and Joe discover that the nefarious activities of the Delbe, Iowa, meatpacking plant have caused cows to turn into zombies. | Lexile: 650

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis
In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. | Lexile: 1070

Eva by Peter Dickinson
After a terrible accident, a young girl wakes up to discover that she has been given the body of a chimpanzee. | Lexile: 1010

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman
While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he caused, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement. | Lexile: 760

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. | Lexile: 820

Chomp by Carl Hiaasen
When the difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades using animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him while avoiding Tuna's gun-happy father. | Lexile: 800

Standing Against the Wind by Traci L. Jones
As she tries to escape her poor Chicago neighborhood by winning a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school, shy and studious eighth-grader Patrice discovers that she has more options in life than she previously realized. | Lexile: 780

Hey, Kiddo * by Jarrett Krosoczka
The powerful, unforgettable graphic memoir from Jarrett Krosoczka, about growing up with a drug-addicted mother, a missing father, and two unforgettable opinionated grandparents. | ALA | Lexile: 510

The Giver by Lois Lowry
Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. | Lexile: 760

Far Far Away* by Tom McNeal
When Jeremy Johnson Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate, Ginger Boltinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown. | ALA, Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 790
**Summer Reading**

**New Favorites & Classics**

*For Grades 7 & 8*

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**Touching Spirit Bear** by Ben Mikaelsen

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life. | Lexile: 670

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**Island of the Blue Dolphins** by Scott O'Dell

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life. | Lexile: 1000

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**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. | Lexile: 1020

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**The River Between Us** by Richard Peck

During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois. | Lexile: 740

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**The Wee Free Men** by Terry Pratchett

Tiffany, a young witch-to-be in the land of Discworld, teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of six-inch-high blue men, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland. | Lexile: 680

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**Counting by 7s** by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident. | ALA, NCTE, Nutmeg | Lexile: 770

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**Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. | Lexile: 590

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**Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind** by Suzanne Fisher Staples

When eleven-year-old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes. | Lexile: 970

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**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred D. Taylor

A black family living in the South during the 1930s are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand. | Lexile: 920

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**The Hobbit** by J. R. R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. | Lexile: 1000

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**Howl's Moving Castle** by Diana Wynne Jones

Eldest of three sisters in a land where it is considered to be a misfortune, Sophie is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice until a witch turns her into an old woman and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared wizard Howl. | Lexile: 800

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**The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak

Death tells the story of a young German girl, Liesel, whose book-stealing and story-telling talents during World War II help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. | Lexile: 730

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**FAVORITE SERIES**

- **The Princess Diaries** by Meg Cabot
- **Artemis Fowl** by Eoin Colfer
- **Young Wizards** by Diane Duane
- **The Rangers Apprentice** by John Flanagan
- **Lunar Chronicles** by Marissa Meyer
- **The Squire's Tales** by Gerald Morris
- **The News Crew** by Walter Dean Myers
- **Song of the Lioness** quartet by Tamora Pierce
- **His Dark Materials** by Phillip Pullman
- **Divergent** trilogy by Veronica Roth
- **Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel** by Michael Scott
- **The Tillermans** by Cynthia Voigt
- **Leviathan** by Scott Westerfield