

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading 2016

### Note to Parents:

One of our district's primary goals has always been to develop lifelong readers and learners. For this reason, we like to offer students a variety of books from which to select.

As in the past, each middle school student is **required** to select at least one book from his or her grade level's summer reading list. Each student should read this book for enjoyment while keeping the guiding questions and grade level theme in mind. It is the student's responsibility to record evidence from the text and a brief explanation of how it relates to the grade level theme on the attached handout. This will help your child be prepared to write or speak about the text upon his or her return to school in September.

Thank you for encouraging your child's reading. We look forward to building on the foundation you have helped establish during the summer.

### You can find the books at these locations:

**Cherry Hill Public Library** • [www.chplnj.org](http://www.chplnj.org)  
856-667-0300

**Barnes & Noble** • [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)  
Cherry Hill – 856-486-1492  
Marlton – 856-596-7058  
Moorestown – 856-608-1622

For more resources about the books,  
please visit <http://www.teachingbooks.net/ql4frwy>

Username: chclc  
Password: books



### **A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park**

*A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

### **The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**

Twin brothers Josh and Jordan Bell are awesome on the court. But, Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious novel of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

### **Island on Bird Street by Uri Orlev**

When the entire Warsaw Ghetto is evacuated during World War II, one boy still remains hidden, waiting in obedience for his father to return as he told him he would. The young boy must struggle to survive in the midst of fear and danger.

### **The Dreamer by Pam Muñoz Ryan and Peter Sis**

From the time he is a young boy, Neftali hears the call of a mysterious voice. He knows he must follow it – even when the neighborhood children taunt him, and when his harsh, authoritarian father ridicules him, and when he doubts himself. It leads him under the canopy of the lush rain forest, into the fearsome sea, and through the persistent Chilean rain, until finally, he discovers its source.

### **The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott**

Twin 15-year-old siblings Sophie and Josh Newman take summer jobs across the street from one another: she at a coffee shop, he at a bookstore owned by Nick and Perry Fleming. Armed goons garbed in black with "dead-looking skin and... marble eyes" (actually Golems) storm the bookshop, take Perry hostage and swipe a rare book. The stolen volume is the Codex, an ancient text of magical wisdom. Sophie and Josh learn that they are mentioned in the Codex's prophecies: "The two that are one will come either to save or to destroy the world."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Theme and Guiding Questions

**Life's journeys**

**Guiding questions:**

- In what ways can personal challenges help people develop courage and wisdom?
- How do life experiences influence the way people see, understand, and interpret the world around them?
- In what ways are personal choices influenced by the society/culture of an individual and the age in which he/she lives?
- How do people find meaning and purpose in the personal challenges faced along life's journey?

**Directions:** The book you have chosen to read this summer will help you to learn about the personal challenges involved in **life's journeys**. Consider the questions above as you read the book and complete the double-entry journal.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Textual evidence of an event or challenge that is important in the character's life journey.	Explain what the character learned from the event or personal challenge he/she experienced on this journey.
<p><b>Example from <u>The Dreamer</u> by Pam Muñoz and Peter Sís</b>  <i>"Stop that incessant daydreaming!" The white tip of Father's yellow beard quivered as he clenched and unclenched his narrow jaw. "And why are you out of bed?"</i>  <i>Neftali averted his eyes.</i>  <i>"Do you want to be a skinny weakling forever and amount to nothing?"</i>  <i>"N-n-n-no, Father," stammered Neftali</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Page#_10_</i></span></p>	<p><i>Neftali is ridiculed by his father for his imagination and daydreaming. His father is harsh. Many children would be defeated by this. However, Neftali continues his journey of self-understanding and knows that he must follow his inner voice</i></p>
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