

May 2012

Dear Parents and Students,

Santa Monica Public Library's theme for 2012 summer teen readers is "Own The Night." And what better way to celebrate by reading true stories and starry adventures about teens.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is pleased to announce our summer reading program prepared by our school librarians in collaboration with **Santa Monica Public Library**, and support from **California State Library**. On the other side of this letter is a list of recommended books to read during the summer. Because students' maturity and reading levels vary, we encourage parents to participate actively in selecting and/or discussing these books.

Students are expected to read and respond to two books from the list for the grade they will be entering in the fall. Students are responsible for obtaining their own books. The public libraries, as well as local booksellers specializing in children's and young adult literature, will have most of these titles available.



We are very excited about this program and hope the books on this list will provide knowledge and pleasure for your child.

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BOOK SELECTION GUIDELINES:

All students must read and be prepared to read, share & evaluate **2 BOOKS** in September from the **2012 SUMMER READING LIST:**

***SERIES:** Students can choose any book of a **series*. Please note students' 2nd book choice can not be from the same series.

TASK #1: Be prepared to make a written recommendation to your teacher that a book you read be retained or deleted from next year's list.

TASK #2: Guidelines for the assignment for the second book you read will be given the first or second week of school. This assignment could be in-class writing, a booktalk, or a special project.

Have a fantastic summer filled with reading and adventure!

Sincerely,

Erica Cuyugan, *Teen Services Librarian*,
Santa Monica Public Library

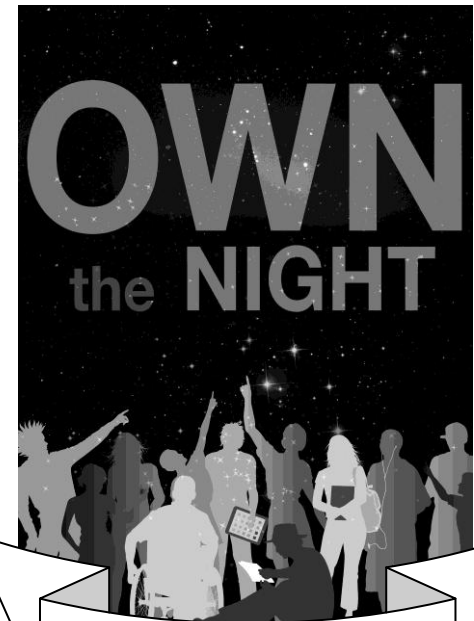
Joe DiMercurio, *Librarian*, Malibu High School
Kelly Urtz, *Librarian*, Lincoln Middle School
Susan Bodok, *Librarian*,
John Adams Middle School

The California Summer Reading Program is a project of the **California Library Association**, supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, a federal grant program administered in California by the State Librarian.



**INCOMING
6TH GRADE**

**2012 SUMMER
READING LIST**



VISIT

Santa Monica Public Library
or your local library for
fun activities & prizes celebrating
"Own the Night!"

Check smpl.org. Click Teens tab
for Summer Reading & programs.

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC

LIBRARY

YOUTH SERVICES





REALISTIC

ALVAREZ, JULIA - *HOW TIA LOLA CAME TO STAY.* Although ten-year-old Miguel is at first embarrassed by his colorful aunt, Tia Lola, when she comes to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with his mother, his sister, and him after his parents' divorce, he learns to love her.

GANTOS, JACK - *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY. (*SERIES).* To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention and controlling his mood swings. When his prescription meds wear off, he starts getting worked up and acting wild.

HIAASEN, CARL - *HOOT.* Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

JOHNSTON, TONY - *ANY SMALL GOODNESS.* Arturo and his family and friends share all kinds of experiences living in the barrio of East Los Angeles.

RHODES, JEWELL PARKER - *NINTH WARD.* Lanesha and Mama Ya-Ya live in New Orleans's ninth ward. When Hurricane Katrina devastates their neighborhood, together they fight to survive this powerful storm.

SPINELLI, JERRY - *CRASH.* Seventh grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the importance of friendship and family.

TELGEMEIER, RAINA - *SMILE.* If sixth grade isn't hard enough, Raina has to overcome braces, retainers, headgear, earthquakes, boy troubles and 'frenemies' - all in her first semester.

BIOGRAPHY

FLEISCHMAN, SID - *ESCAPE!: THE STORY OF THE GREAT HOUDINI.* This Newbery Medalist presents an entertaining account of the magician and king of escape artists, Harry Houdini.

SCIESZKA, JON - *KNUCKLEHEAD.* In this comic-scrapbook biography, Jon recounts being one of six brothers, the class clown in catholic school, and his childhood in the turbulent sixties.

CLASSIC

TOLKIEN, J.R.R. - *THE HOBBIT.* Hobbit Bilbo Baggins faces adventures in a land inhabited by dwarfs, elves, goblins, dragons, and humans.

HISTORICAL

CHOLDENKO, GENNIFER - *AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS.* A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there. He contends with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

PECK, RICHARD - *A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO.* Joe recounts his annual summer trips with his sister to rural Illinois during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

SALISBURY, GRAHAM - *UNDER THE BLOOD-RED SUN.* Tomikazu Nakaji's life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

CARMAN, PATRICK - *THE DARK HILLS DIVIDE.* When she finds the key to a secret passageway leading out of the walled city of Bridewell, twelve-year-old Alexa explores the mysterious forests and mountains that lie beyond the wall.

HADDIX, MARGARET PETERSON - *RUNNING OUT OF TIME.* When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1996 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists.

IBBOTSON, EVA - *WHICH WITCH?* Deciding that he must sire a child to carry on his tradition of Loathing Light and Blighting the Beautiful, the Great Wizard Arriman announces a competition among the witches of Todcaster, one of whom will marry him.

LAW, INGRID - *SAVVY.* In this Newbery Honor book, Mississippi's 13th birthday means she is about to receive her special powers, 'her savvy', which can be anything from creating electricity to making hurricanes. Will her 'savvy' be able to save her dad's life after he has a car accident?

OPPEL, KENNETH - *AIRBORN.* Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

STEAD, REBECCA - *WHEN YOU REACH ME.* Sixth grader Miranda receives mysterious notes that predict future tragic events in her New York neighborhood. She is convinced she must solve this time-defying mystery in order to save her friend Sal from an accident.

WALDEN, MARK - *H.I.V.E.: THE HIGHER INSTITUTE OF VILLAINOUS EDUCATION. (*SERIES).* Thirteen-year-old Otto is kidnapped and taken to a secret academy where all of the top young, devious minds are being trained as the next generation of super-villains.

MYSTERY & ADVENTURE

BALLIETT, BLUE - *CHASING VERMEER.* When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

DOWD, SIOBHAN - *THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY.* After Ted and Kat's cousin Salim vanish from the London Eye ferris wheel, the siblings investigate and solve the mystery of his disappearance.

HOROWITZ, ANTHONY - *STORMBREAKER. (*SERIES)* After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider continues his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

NELSON, O. T. - *THE GIRL WHO OWNED A CITY.* When a plague sweeps over the earth killing everyone except children under twelve, ten-year-old Lisa organizes a group to rebuild a new way of life.

VAN DRAANEN, WENDELIN - *SAMMY KEYES AND THE HOTEL THIEF. (*SERIES)* Thirteen-year-old Sammy gets in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from her apartment.



READ & ENJOY
2 BOOKS!

2012 SUMMER READING LISTS ARE ONLINE AT [SMPL: WWW.SMPL.ORG](http://WWW.SMPL.ORG)
AND [SMMUSD: HTTP://SMILENET.SMMUSD.ORG](http://SMILENET.SMMUSD.ORG).

