

Summer Reading - Preparation for 5ème



Read at least one (but ideally 2 or 3 - even better if you read one fiction and one non-fiction) books from this list (or other English books) to prepare for 5ème next year. Do not feel obligated to choose your book from this list, this is just to help if you are looking for some additional books!

FICTION BOOKS

- ★ Stone, Nic **CLEAN GETAWAY**. Set against the backdrop of the segregation history of the American South, take a trip with this New York Times bestseller and an eleven-year-old boy who is about to discover that the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem--his G'ma included.
- ★ Williams- Garcia, Rita. **ONE CRAZY SUMMER**. This is a story of three sisters who travel to Oakland, California, in 1968 to meet the mother who abandoned them.
- ★ Applegate, Katherine. **THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN**. Spectators come to see Ivan, a silverback gorilla, and other animals housed behind the glass walls in the Big Top Mall. He is content until Ruby, a baby elephant from Africa, joins the group. Ivan is now determined to find her way out of this caged existence. This book is loosely based on a true story.
- ★ Shannon Messenger **THE KEEPER OF THE LOST CITIES series** If you liked the Harry Potter series, you'll like these books which follow twelve-year-old Sophie Foster who has a secret. She's a Telepath—someone who hears the thoughts of everyone around her. It's a talent she's never known how to explain. Everything changes the day she meets Fitz, a mysterious boy who appears out of nowhere and also reads minds.
- ★ Mbalia, Kwame. **TRISTAN STRONG PUNCHES A WHOLE IN THE SKY**. Seventh grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. Can Tristan save this world before he loses more of the things he loves?
- ★ Reynolds, Jason. **LOOK BOTH WAYS**. Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.
- ★ Spinelli, Jerry. **STARGIRL**. Sixteen-year-old Leo tells the story of Stargirl Caraway, the free spirit who enrolls at Mica High School, not exactly the "hotbed of nonconformity." Also, *Love, Stargirl*.
- ★ Pearson, Mary E. **THE ADORATION OF JENNA FOX**. Sometime in the near future, Jenna Fox, 17, awakens from an 18-month-long coma following a devastating accident, her memory nearly blank. She attempts reorientation by watching videos of her childhood, "recorded beyond reason" by worshipful parents, but mysteries proliferate. Jenna can recite passages from Thoreau yet can't remember having any friends. As memories return, however, Jenna starts picking at the explanation her parents have spun until it unravels.
- ★ Alexander, Kwame. **CROSSOVER** (1st in a series). 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.
- ★ Maldonado, Torrey. **TIGHT**. Lately Bryan's been feeling it in all kinds of ways. He knows what's tight for him in a good way--reading comics, drawing superheroes, and hanging out with no drama. But drama's hard to escape where he's from, and that gets him wound up tight.
- ★ Braden, Ann **THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN OCTOPUS**. Zoey thinks how much easier everything would be if she were an octopus: eight arms to do eight things at once. Incredible camouflage ability and steady,



unblinking vision. Powerful protective defenses. Unfortunately, she's not totally invisible, and one of her teachers forces her to join the debate club.

- ★ Cynthia Lord, **RULES** Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life but finds it difficult living with a brother with autism. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors.

Current Seme Students Recommend the following:

- ★ Marie Lu **Warcross** For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game—it's a way of life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. When the game's creator needs a spy on the inside of this year's tournament in order to uncover a security problem, he wants Emika for the job. With no time to lose, Emika's whisked off to Tokyo and thrust into a world of fame and fortune that she's only dreamed of. But soon her investigation uncovers a sinister plot, with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire.
- ★ Kiera Cass **The Selection series** For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape a rigid caste system, live in a palace, and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her, and competing for a crown she doesn't want. Then America meets Prince Maxon—and realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.
- ★ James Dasher **The Eyes of Minds (The Mortality Doctrine)** The VirtNet offers total mind and body immersion, and the more hacking skills you have, the more fun it is. Why bother following the rules when it's so easy to break them? But some rules were made for a reason. Some technology is too dangerous to fool with. And one gamer has been doing exactly that, with murderous results. The government knows that to catch a hacker, you need a hacker. And they've been watching Michael. If he accepts their challenge, Michael will need to go off the VirtNet grid, to the back alleys and corners of the system human eyes have never seen—and it's possible that the line between game and reality will be blurred forever.
- ★ Philip Pullman **Northern Lights** "Without this child, we shall all die." Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...
- ★ **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who. Together, this dynamic pair began a journey through space aided by a galaxyful of fellow travelers. Where are these pens? Why are we born? Why do we die? For all the answers, stick your thumb to the stars!

NON-FICTION BOOKS

- Woodson, Jacqueline. **BROWN GIRL DREAMING**. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Her biography examines so much history.
- Burns, Loree Griffin. **TRACKING TRASH: FLOTSAM, JETSAM, AND THE SCIENCE OF OCEAN MOTION**. This book describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels great distances by way of ocean currents.
- Reynolds, Jason & Kendi, Ibram X. **STAMPED: RACISM, ANTI RACISM, AND YOU: A REMIX OF THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD-WINNING STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING**. The construct of race has always

been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited.

- DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinaami. **A BLACK HOLE IS NOT A HOLE.** What is a black hole? Where do black holes come from? How do we know they exist? Will Earth fall into one? This book is an excellent introduction to an extremely complex scientific theory.
- Kidd, Chip. **GO: KIDD'S GUIDE TO GRAPHIC DESIGN.** Graphic design is everywhere—the colors on a box of cereal, advertisements plastering the walls of buildings, the shapes of labels on toothpaste tubes and shampoo bottles, and more. This book shows how designers consider form, color, typography, and scale. But the author relies far more on full-page visuals of book covers, advertisements, vintage posters, and photographs to illustrate his points.
- Martin, Russell. **THE MYSTERIES OF BEETHOVEN'S HAIR.** A lock of the famous composer's hair was saved from 1827, at the time of his death, and handed down to the current owners. This is the story of how it was preserved and who the safekeepers were, as well as the results of the forensic tests that were performed to unravel the mystery of Beethoven's ill health.
- Montgomery, Sy. **KAKAPO RESCUE: SAVING THE WORLD'S STRANGEST PARROT.** The flightless Kakapo, found on a small island off the coast of New Zealand, is most unusual because of its size (it is not the longest, but the heaviest, parrot) and the fact that it buries its nest underground. Now 14 scientists are working to save the remaining 91 parrots of a population that once numbered in the millions.
- O'Connell, Caitlin. **THE ELEPHANT SCIENTIST.** American scientist Caitlin O'Connell studied African elephants in the wild and made many amazing discoveries about the lives of elephants and how they communicate.
- Rusch, Elizabeth. **ERUPTION! VOLCANOES AND THE SCIENCE OF SAVING LIVES.** More than one billion people live in deadly volcanic danger zones. When one of the volcanoes starts to act up, it is up to the international volcano crisis team to get up close and personal with the awakening giant and determine whether the smoke and seismic activity indicate an imminent deadly eruption.
- Yousafzai, Malala, with Patricia McCormick. **I AM MALALA: HOW ONE GIRL STOOD UP FOR EDUCATION AND CHANGED THE WORLD.** Malala Yousafzai is an outspoken advocate for education for all children. In October 2012, she nearly lost her life when she was shot at point-blank range on the way home from school because of her education advocacy. Malala tells her remarkable story.
- Paulsen, Gary. **MY LIFE IN DOG YEARS.** The author describes some of the dogs that were special to him during his life.