

Grade 6 Summer Reading List

Grade Six

2006-2007

Visiting Author

Jack Gantos



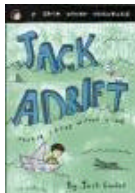
Jack Gantos, award-winning author of the *Joey Pigza* and the *Jack Henry* books, returns in February 2007 for his seventh annual visit to Weston Middle School.

During his visit, Mr. Gantos will meet with sixth grade students to discuss his experiences as a writer, as well as the craft of writing memoirs and fiction.

In anticipation of this visit, incoming sixth graders are encouraged to read one or more of Mr. Gantos' works.

Books by Jack Gantos:

- *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*
- *Joey Pigza Loses Control*
- *What Would Joey Do?*
- *Jack's Black Book*
- *Heads or Tails: Stories from the Sixth Grade*
- *Jack's New Power*
- *Jack Adrift*



To students entering Grade 6 September 2006

Dear Sixth Grade Reader,

The sixth grade English/Reading teachers present you with this list of great summer reading books. You are expected to read 3 - 5 books during the summer break because only through sustained reading do you maintain and improve your reading skills.

These books represent some of the best contemporary works by award-winning authors; they also dovetail with the sixth grade English/Reading curriculum.

Historical Fiction

Curtis, Christopher Paul – *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* 1963

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Curtis, Christopher Paul - *Bud, not Buddy*

After losing his mother and being shuffled around to various foster homes, ten year old Bud sets out on a journey to find his long lost father.

Cushman, Karen – *Rodzina*

Orphaned, 12-year-old Rodzina, boards a train on a cold day in March 1881 heading for the West. She expects to be adopted, but fears being turned into a slave. Worst of all she is afraid of not being adopted at all.

Taylor, Mildred – *Song of the Trees; The Gold Cadillac; Mississippi Bridge*

These short novels open windows for the reader on the Logan Family. The Logans are proud, educated landowners who challenge injustice - factors that threaten them as African-Americans in 1933 Mississippi.



Taylor, Mildred—*The Land*

The prequel to Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. In it, Paul Edward Logan, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between worlds as he pursues his dream of owning land in the years following the Civil War.

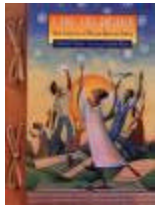
Salisbury, Graham – *Under the Blood-red Sun*

Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

Yolen, Jane - *Girl in a Cage*

The year is 1306 and the English army invades Scotland. Princess Marjorie, daughter of the new Scottish king, Robert-the-Bruce, is captured by the English and King Edward Longshanks has her imprisoned in a cage in the center of town. Exposed to the elements and to the scorn and taunts of the English, Marjorie holds fast to the knowledge that she must make her country proud, as a true princess should, even if she is in a cage.

Poetry



Clinton, Catherine, ed. – *I, Too, Sing America: Three Centuries of African American Poetry* (illustrated by Stephen Alcorn)

Driscoll, Michael, ed. – *A Child's Introduction to Poetry*

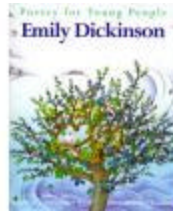
This charming anthology introduces students to the joy of all kinds of poetry including limericks, haiku, sonnet and free verse, with biographical overviews of famous poets from Homer, Shakespeare and Wordsworth to Robert Frost and Langston Hughes. This lush volume includes a CD of all of the poetry contained within the collection.

Janecko, Paul – *A Poke in the I: a Collection of Concrete Poems* (illustrated by Chris Rachka)

Chris Rachka's amusing and clever illustrations make this book a favorite.

Janecko, Paul, ed. – *Seeing the Blue Between: Advice and Inspirations for Young Poets*

Great inspirational advice for young people from 32 of today's best poets.



Poetry for Young People Series – Published by Sterling Press. This is a series of beautifully illustrated books of poetry by poets such as Emily Dickinson, William Carlos Williams and Walt Whitman.

Sandburg, Carl – *Poems for Children Nowhere Near Old Enough to Vote*

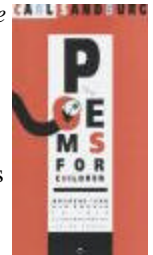
Stevenson, James – *Sweet Corn (and other "corn" anthologies)*

Stevenson's illustrations complement his poems of everyday contemporary life, including such topics as ketchup, a lost dog and bike riding.

Winter, Jeanette – *Emily Dickinson's Letters to the World*

A sweet book that humanizes Dickinson while incorporating her poetry

Additional recommendations: Any titles written for young people by Janet Wong, Walter Dean Myers with illustrations by Chris Myers, Nikki Grimes, and David McCord.



Non-Fiction and Biography

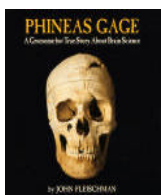
Armstrong, Lance - *It's Not About the Bike and Every Second Counts*

Both of these books chronicle the life of cyclist and cancer-survivor Lance Armstrong. The author talks about his Tour de France victories and life after cancer.



Fleischman, John – *Phineas Gage*

The gruesome but true story of Phineas Gage, a man who is horribly injured when a steel rod is driven through his skull during a railroad construction accident, helped scientists better understand the workings of the brain and the effects of brain injuries on personality. (Not for the squeamish.)



Morrison, Toni - *Remember: The Journey to School Integration*

Morrison imagines the thoughts and feelings of students living during the time of school integration in the South. The fictional text is paired with archival photos,

Murphy, Jim – *Blizzard; The Great Fire; Inside the Alamo and An American Plague*

Murphy examines events in history through the experiences of the people living through these events. Through meticulous research, he finds the people behind the headlines and humanizes non-fiction. Always riveting!

Niven, Penelope – *Carl Sandburg: Adventures of a Poet*

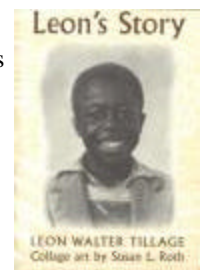
A biography that shows Sandburg as "The Poet of the People." Mixes scenes from his life with excerpts from his work and historically detailed illustrations.

Rummell, Jack - *Langston Hughes: Poet*

Discusses the life of this twentieth century poet and leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance.

Tillage, Leon Walter - *Leon's Story*

A black custodian reminisces about growing up as a sharecropper's son in the South and about being a civil rights protestor.



Additional recommendations: Any biography written by Russell Freedman.

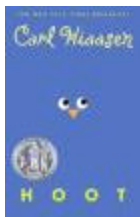
Realistic Fiction

DiCamillo, Kate – *Because of Winn-Dixie*

Opal Buloni, new to Naomi, Florida, where her father has accepted a position as a minister of the Baptist Church, finds her life changing even more drastically once she encounters and adopts a smiling mongrel named Winn-Dixie.

Hiaasen, Carl – *Hoot*

When Roy and his family move to Florida, he finds a new role and purpose when he joins a friend in attempting to save an environmentally threatened colony of owls.



Henkes, Kevin – *Olive's Ocean*

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage, twelve-year-old Martha deals with the death of a classmate, her relationship with her grandmother, and her plans to be a writer. This is a haunting but gentle story about a young girl's coming of age.



Giff, Patricia Reilly – *Pictures of Hollis Wood*

Hollis Wood struggles to fulfill her dream of finally belonging to a family after a series of disappointing foster care placements. Hollis is a survivor whose courage, talents, and hopefulness help her fulfill her dream.

Ellis, Deborah – *Parvana's Journey*

Following the death of her father, Parvana sets out to find the rest of her family. Along the way, she meets other children who join her. The second book in the Breadwinner trilogy, *Parvana's Journey* is a story of hope and courage in the face of horrific challenges.

Naidoo, Beverly – *Journey to Jo'burg*

Two South African children, alarmed by their sister's illness begin a journey to Johannesburg to find their mother. The children struggle to survive the journey as well as the harsh realities of apartheid in South Africa.

Additional recommendations:

Any books by Andrew Clements, Jack Gantos, or Richard Peck.

Fantasy

Colfer, Eoin – *Artemis Fowl Series*

The faerie world meets twelve year-old Artemis Fowl, a mortal whose brilliance and desire for gold may destroy their magic forever. Also read *The Wish List* and *The Supernaturalist* by the same author.

DiCamilla, Kate - *Tale of Despereaux*

Despereaux is a mouse who falls in love with a princess and tries to show that though small, he is chivalrous.

Funke, Cornelia - *Thief Lord*

Thief Lord is an adventure – fantasy in which two brothers, running away from an aunt and uncle who plan to separate them, flee to Venice. Like the bridges and canals of Venice, there are bountiful twists and turns in this this lively novel.

Oppel Kenneth – *Airborn*

A winner of the Michael J. Printz Award, this is a swashbuckling fantasy with airships, pirates and exotic creatures. In an era

reminiscent of the early 20th century, Matt Cruse is a cabin boy on the airship Aurora. Share Matt's adventures aboard the Aurora and in exotic locales as he sails the skies across the world.

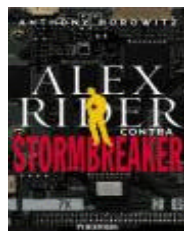
Tolkien, J.R.R. – *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy (advanced readers)

Additional recommendations: Any books by Susan Cooper, Gail Levine, Garth Nix, Tamora Pierce, Brian Jacques, or Jonathan Stroud.

Action and Adventure

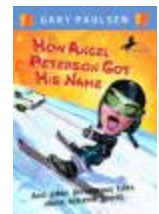
Horowitz, Anthony - *Alex Rider Adventures, Volumes 1 -6*

Follow fourteen year old Alex Rider as he continues his late uncle's work as a spy for the British Intelligence Agency, M16



Paulsen, Gary - *How Angel Peterson Got His Name and Other Outrageous Tales About Extreme Sports*

Gary Paulsen relays outrageous tales from his childhood in Minnesota. Readers will laugh along as Paulsen attempts ridiculous stunts, just to see what might happen. A book that many 13 year old boys can relate to.



Weston Middle School

Summer Reading List

Grade 7

Grade Seven

2006-2007

Students entering Grade 7 in September 2006

Dear Seventh Grade Reader,

The summer is a time when most of us take a break from school, but we shouldn't take a break from reading! The seventh grade English teachers certainly support your individual reading choices, but we want you to add some book titles to your list.

Please read one of these books about the Salem witch trials. These novels complement our seventh grade curriculum and our fall field trip experience to Salem, Massachusetts.

Rinaldi, Ann – *A Break With Charity*

Petry, Ann – *Tituba of Salem Village*

Rees, Celia – *Witch Child*



In addition to reading one of the books about the Salem witch trials, please read at least two books from the summer reading list on the following pages.

Classics

London, Jack – *White Fang*

Jack London's famous tale of dogs, the wilderness, and the fight for survival.



Montgomery, Lucy M. – *Anne of Green Gables Series*

Eleven-year old Anne is a feisty young girl who must find a way to win the right to stay at Green Gables. Her adventurous spirit leads her through many mishaps and growing experiences. Each book in the series adds to the story of Anne as she grows up at Green Gables.

Stevenson, Robert Louis – *Treasure Island*

A beloved classic about pirates, buried treasure and buccaneers.



Historical Fiction

Avi - *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

A 13 year-old girl finds herself the only female on a ship of murderous and devious men who accuse her of murder.

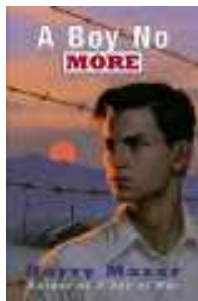
Fast, Howard – *April Morning*

The Battle of Lexington comes alive in this hour-by-hour account

Mazer, Harry - *A Boy no More*

Following the death of his father at Pearl Harbor, Adam is evacuated, with the rest of his family, from Hawaii to California.

On the mainland, Adam must deal with his feelings about the war, Japanese internment camps, the loss of his father and his own identity.



Realistic Fiction

**Park, Linda Sue –
*Project Mulberry***

This delightful book explores prejudice, patriotism and conservation within a family and friendship story that keeps you engaged throughout the book .

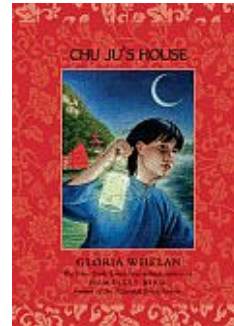


**Rawls, Wilson –
*Where the Red Fern Grows***

The exciting adventures of a young boy and his two coonhounds, Little Anne and Old Dan, unfold in this heartwarming story.

Whelan, Gloria - *Chu Ju's House*

Fourteen - year-old Chu Ju leaves her home in rural China to save her baby sister's life. She supports herself by working at various jobs, while wondering if she will ever see her family again



Zindel, Paul – *The Pigman (or any other book in this series)*

Two high school sophomores form a strange relationship with a lonely old man. Together they find laughter and joy.

Science Fiction

Avi - *City of Light, City of Dark: A Comic Book Novel*

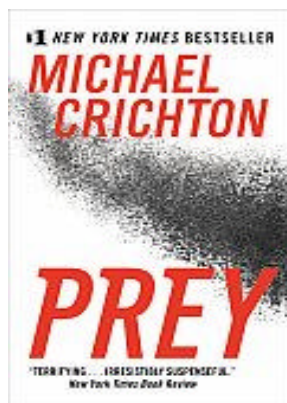
Many years in the future two pre-teens and their mother must use special powers to prevent a villain from destroying Manhattan. This book is in comic book form.

Card, Orson Scott – *Ender's Game Series*

Ender Wiggin becomes the leader of a troop of children who set out to destroy an alien species on another planet. Future adventures are detailed in the rest of the books in this series.

Crichton, Michael – *Prey*

Nanotechnology gets a mind of its own in this novel combining computers and biology.



Haddix, Margaret Peterson – *Among the Hidden Series*

In this futuristic series the population police enforce a law limiting families to two children. Third children live in isolation and fear until they come together and realize they are not alone.



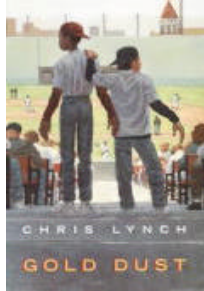
Lowry, Lois – *Gathering Blue and Messenger*

If you were riveted by *The Giver*, Lois Lowry's 1994 Newbery Medal winning masterpiece, then try her companion volumes, *Gathering Blue* and *Messenger*.

Sports

Bloor, Edward - *Tangerine*

When a boy who is legally blind moves to a new town, he uses his inner senses to overcome his disability and succeed at soccer.



Lynch, Chris – *Gold Dust*

A story about Boston, Fenway Park, Red Sox legends, and Richard Riley Moncreif who hopes to be the next baseball star.

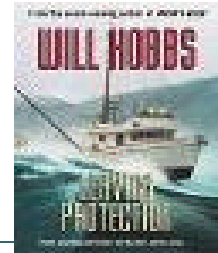
Action-Adventure

Hobbs, Will - *Leaving Protection*

After landing a desired job on a fishing vessel, a 16-year old boy must face a captain who will do anything to find a buried treasure, and mother nature who tries to throw them off course.

Mikaelsen, Ben - *Touching Spirit Bear*

When a violent 15 year-old is sent to a remote island in Alaska in lieu of prison, he must face up to the bear spirit, and his own rage.



Biographies

Filipovic, Zlata – *Zlata's Diary*

The daily account of life in war-torn Sarajevo is recalled in this poignant story.



Herriot, James – *All Creatures Great and Small*

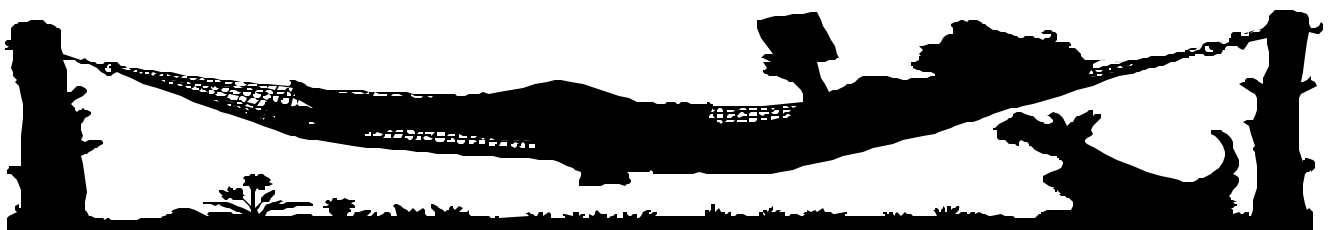
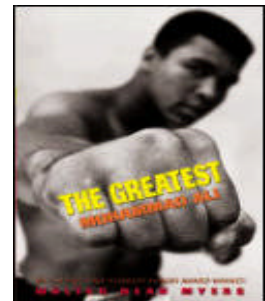
A delightful collection of the adventures of an English veterinarian. A must read for animal lovers!

Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki – *Farewell to Manzanar*

The story of one Japanese American family's attempt to survive the indignities of internment during WWII.

Myers, Walter Dean – *The Greatest: Muhammed Ali*

The life of the famous boxer and political activist is detailed in this wonderful book.



Weston Middle School

Summer Reading List Grade 8

Grade Eight

2006-2007

Students entering Grade 8 in September 2006

Dear Eighth Grade Reader,
Next September you will be returning to the Weston Middle School as an eighth grader. Congratulations!

Over the summer, we want you to prepare for eighth grade by reading at least two books. While we want you to enjoy the pleasure of personal reading, we highly recommend some books by selected authors. Your English teacher will expect you to be familiar with two writers when you return to school in the fall.

Please choose titles from the suggestions below. You will notice the range of styles and content among the books. These selections offer a rich world of reading experiences, and we encourage you to choose books that appeal to you. Reading a variety of authors will strengthen your reading



Non-Fiction

Angelou, Maya – *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

In this autobiography, African-American poet Maya Angelou recounts a youth filled with disappointment, frustration, tragedy, and finally hard-won independence.

Armstrong, Lance – *It's Not About the Bike*

Lance Armstrong's autobiography with Sally Jenkins is an inspirational story. In this book, Lance Armstrong is a hero for anyone to look up to, because not only is he an amazing world renowned cyclist, but he is also a normal person, who was forced to overcome many hardships to prove his heroism.



Beals, Melba Pattillo – *Warriors Don't Cry*

Beals was one of nine black teen-agers who in 1957 integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in the face of opposition from Gov. Orval Faubus and the state National Guard. President Dwight D. Eisenhower eventually sent troops to protect the students' right to attend school. This is the author's incredible memoir of those events, incorporating excerpts from a journal she kept as a 16-year-old.

Mah, Adeline Yen – *Chinese Cinderella*

Adeline Yen Mah tells the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her.



Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her step brother and step-sister are spoiled. Despite her success at academics, she yearns for a loving and understanding family.

Philbrick, Nathaniel – *In the Heart of the Sea: the Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*

Melville's novel *Moby Dick* was based on an actual event: the 1821 sinking of the Nantucket whaleship *Essex* by an enormous sperm whale. Nathaniel Philbrick's book details the ill-fated journey of the *Essex*, illuminating a terrifying drama not included in *Moby Dick* -- the fate of the survivors after their ship was sunk. Not for the faint of heart---the account can get quite gory!

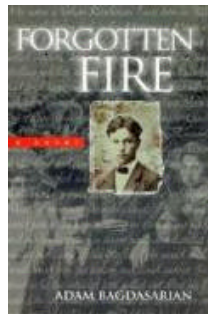
Realistic Fiction

Anderson, Laurie Halse – *Speak*

Melinda is a friendless outcast at Merryweather High. She busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, and now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. It is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman. It will take another violent encounter with him to make Melinda fight back. This time she refuses to be silent.

Bagdasarian, Adam – *Forgotten Fire*

Based on the experiences of the author's great uncle during the Armenian Holocaust, it is the story of one boy's search for strength and courage. This novel recounts a tragic and often overlooked human catastrophe, as seen through the eyes of a young person.



Korman, Gordon – *Son of the Mob*

Vince Luca, 17, has always been concerned, embarrassed, and fearful about his crime-family background, though he has sworn never to become involved or let it keep him from upstanding behavior. During his senior year, all he wants is romance, friendship and to get through school just like any normal guy, but things don't go as planned. His new girlfriend turns out to be the daughter of the FBI agent who is trying to put Vince's father away for good.

Lupica, Mike – *Travel Team*

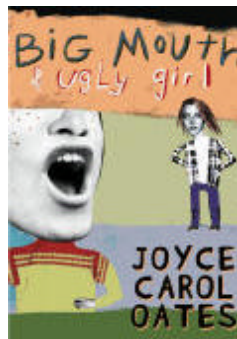
Twelve-year-old Danny Walker, a talented baseball player, fails to make the cut for his seventh grade all-star travel team—the same suburban Middletown team that Danny's father has led to the championship. Danny's father, still reeling from his own troubles, knows his son is not the only kid who was cut for the wrong reasons. Together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that heart is what really counts.

Na, An – *A Step From Heaven*

A young girl describes her family's bittersweet experience in the United States after their emigration from Korea. Told through the eyes of Young Ju, who is a preschooler when the book begins and a young woman heading off to college by the time it ends, *A Step from Heaven* is a tale about cultural differences, family dynamics, and the struggle to survive.

Oates, Joyce Carol – *Big Mouth and Ugly Girl*

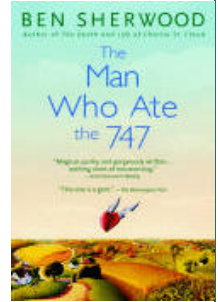
Loner Ursula Riggs has built an impenetrable persona for herself—warrior woman, alias Ugly Girl. Classmate Matt Donaghy has a big mouth, solely intended for entertaining his friends—until it gets him falsely accused of wanting to blow up his high school. When Ursula drags herself out of her shell to defend Matt, a friendship develops.



Sherwood, Ben – *The Man Who Ate the 747*

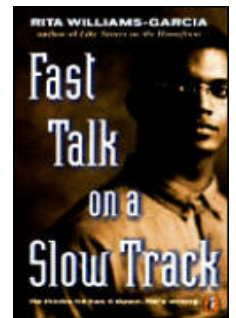
J.J. Smith, Keeper of the Records for the Book of Records, has traveled the world to witness and confirm extraordinary and uncanny events.

However, nothing could prepare him for his most profound discovery of all in a tiny town in America's heartland—a local farmer is consuming a Boeing 747, bite by bite, to prove his uncontested love to the woman of his dreams! This is a story about true love.



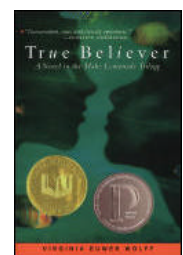
Williams-Garcia, Rita – *Fast Talk on a Slow Track*

This is a story about black teenager Denzel Watson, who has sailed through school, receiving straight A's, lavish praise and the honor of being high school valedictorian. Preparing to enter Princeton in the fall, Denzel attends the university's summer session for minority students -- and experiences failure for the first time.



Wolff, Virginia – *True Believer*

This is the sequel to the book *Make Lemonade*. Now, LaVaughn, a 15-year-old teen who's determined to break free from her constricting inner city neighborhood, is starting tenth grade. She deals with the distractions of first love, drifting apart from her lifelong friends, and realizing her intense desire to go to college.

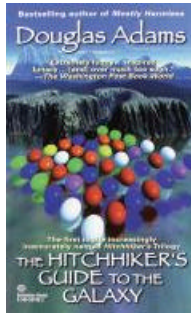


Science Fiction / Fantasy

Adams, Douglas – *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* or the other books in this series

Arthur Dent, a mild-mannered, out-to-lunch earthling, is plucked from his planet by his friend Ford Prefect just seconds before it is demolished to make way for a hyper-space bypass.

Ford, posing as an out-of-work actor, is a researcher for the revised edition of "*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*." Together the twosome begin their intergalactic journey through time and space.



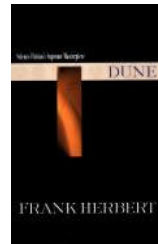
Chabon, Michael – *Summerland*

Ethan Feld, the worst ball player in the history of the game, is recruited by a hundred-year-old scout called Ringfinger Brown, himself a Negro League legend. Accompanied by his determined friend, Jennifer T. Rideout, and guided by a friendly werefox, Ethan struggles to defeat giants, bat-winged goblins, and one of the toughest ball clubs in the realms of magic, to save all the Summerlands, and ultimately the world.



Herbert, Frank – *Dune*

Set on the desert planet Arakis, this is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who becomes the mysterious man known as Muad'Dib. He avenges the traitorous plot against his noble family and brings to fruition peace throughout the universe. A blend of adventure, mysticism and politics.



King, Steven – *The Green Mile*

Set in the 1930's at the Cold Mountain Penitentiary's death-row facility, *The Green Mile* is the tragic story of John Coffey, a giant, gentle inmate wrongly condemned to death for the murder of twin nine-year-old girls. It is a story narrated years later by Paul Edgecomb, the ward superintendent, who discovers Coffey's secret: his supernatural ability.

Farmer, Nancy – *The House of the Scorpion*

In this sci-fi thriller, a young clone struggles for acceptance in his tumultuous, sheltered world. Matt's last name is Alacran, which means that he belongs to a powerful family that controls the drug farms between the US and the former Mexico. But Matt is different; he's a clone in a world filled with dangers for his kind. His only protection from the brutal surroundings are El Patron, the elderly patriarch and drug lord kingpin from whom he was made, his caretaker Celia, and a body-guard who has been assigned to him. Things fall apart when Matt learns the real reason for his creation and makes a harrowing escape to a promising, yet frighteningly insecure, world.

