

## Bak Middle School of the Arts - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

**Pick a book from this list for your summer Language Arts assignment**

You will select one of the following titles below and complete either the “Movie Poster Project” or the “Google Slide Presentation.” These projects are explained after the list of books in this packet. Each of these books deals with tolerance, bullying, and/or acceptance. Three of the books have PDF links.

Additionally, each student will be required to complete the Do The Write Thing Challenge.

TITLE	AUTHOR	OVERVIEW
<p><b>Tangerine</b></p> <p><a href="#">PDF Version</a></p>	<p>Edward Bloor</p>	<p>Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he’s not so blind that he can’t see there are some <i>very</i> unusual things about his family’s new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Where else does a sinkhole swallow the local school, fire burn underground for years, and lightning strike at the same time every day? The chaos is compounded by constant harassment from his football–star brother, and adjusting to life in Tangerine isn’t easy for Paul—until he joins the soccer team at his middle school.</p>
<p><b>Restart</b></p>	<p>Gordon Korman</p>	<p>Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember <i>anything</i>. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again . . . starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase. But who <i>is</i> Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is -- it's a question of who he <i>was</i> . . . and who he's going to be.</p>
<p><b>The Misfits</b></p>	<p>James Howe</p>	<p>Kids who get called the worst names oftentimes find each other. That's how it was with us. Skeezie Tookis and Addie Carle and Joe Bunch and me. We call ourselves the Gang of Five, but there are only four of us. We do it to keep people on their toes. Make 'em wonder. Or maybe we do it because we figure that there's one more kid out there who's going to need a gang to be a part of. A misfit, like us.</p>
<p><b>The Skin I'm In</b></p>	<p>Sharon Flake</p>	<p>Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher, whose face is blotched with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?</p>

<b>Crash</b>	Jerry Spinelli	Cocky seventh-grade super-jock Crash Coogan got his nickname the day he used his first football helmet to knock his cousin Bridget flat on her backside. And he has been running over people ever since, especially Penn Webb, the dweeby, vegetarian Quaker kid who lives down the block. Through the eyes of Crash, readers get a rare glimpse into the life of a bully in this unforgettable and beloved story about stereotypes and the surprises life can bring.
<b>Loser</b>	Jerry Spinelli	Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero."
<b>Bystander</b>	Jack Preller	Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you're new in town, it's hard to know who to hang out with—and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular. But something isn't right about Griffin. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things. And if Griffin doesn't like you, you'd better watch your back. There might be a target on it. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin: he's a liar, a bully, a thief. Eric wants to break away, do the right thing. But in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander . . . to the bully's next victim.
<b>Twerp</b>	Mark Goldblatt	Julian Twerski isn't a bully. He's just made a big mistake. So when he returns to school after a week-long suspension, his English teacher offers him a deal: if he keeps a journal and writes about the incident that got him and his friends suspended, he can get out of writing a report on Shakespeare. Julian jumps at the chance. And so begins his account of life in sixth grade--blowing up homemade fireworks, writing a love letter for his best friend (with disastrous results), and worrying whether he's still the fastest kid in school. Lurking in the background, though, is the one story he can't bring himself to tell, the one story his teacher most wants to hear.
<b>The Lions of Little Rock</b>	Kristen Levine	As twelve-year-old Marlee starts middle school in 1958 Little Rock, it feels like her whole world is falling apart. Until she meets Liz, the new girl at school. Liz is everything Marlee wishes she could be: she's brave, brash and always knows the right thing to say. But when Liz leaves school without even a good-bye, the rumor is that Liz was caught passing for white. Marlee decides that doesn't matter. She just wants her friend back. And to stay friends, Marlee and Liz are even willing to take on segregation and the dangers their friendship could bring to both their families.
<b>Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World</b>		

	<p>Ashley Herring Blake</p>	<p>When a tornado rips through town, twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed and her family of five is displaced. Ivy feels invisible and ignored in the aftermath of the storm--and what's worse, her notebook filled with secret drawings of girls holding hands has gone missing. Mysteriously, Ivy's drawings begin to reappear in her locker with notes from someone telling her to open up about her identity. Ivy thinks--and hopes--that this someone might be her classmate, another girl for whom Ivy has begun to develop a crush. Will Ivy find the strength and courage to follow her true feelings? <i>Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World</i> exquisitely enriches the rare category of female middle-grade characters who like girls--and children's literature at large</p>
<p><b>I Funny--A Middle School Story</b></p>	<p>James Patterson</p>	<p>Jamie Grimm is a middle schooler on a mission: he wants to become the world's greatest standup comedian--even if he doesn't have a lot to laugh about these days. He's new in town and stuck living with his aunt, uncle, and their evil son Stevie, a bully who doesn't let Jamie's wheelchair stop him from messing with Jamie as much as possible. But Jamie doesn't let his situation get him down. When his Uncle Frankie mentions a contest called The Planet's Funniest Kid Comic, Jamie knows he has to enter. But are the judges only rewarding him out of pity because of his wheelchair, like Stevie suggests? Will Jamie ever share the secret of his troubled past instead of hiding behind his comedy act?</p>
<p><b>Esperanza Rising</b> <a href="#">PDF Version</a></p>	<p>Pam Munoz Ryan</p>	<p>Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.</p>
<p><b>Holes</b> <a href="#">PDF Version</a></p>	<p>Louis Sachar</p>	<p>Stanley Yelnat's family has a history of bad luck going back generations, so he is not too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre. Nor is he very surprised when he is told that his daily labour at the camp is to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, and report anything that he finds in that hole. The warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth.</p>

# **Bak Middle School of the Arts Mandatory 6<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Reading Project**

The teachers and administration of the Bak Middle School of the Arts recognize the important role that reading plays in student achievement. Therefore, each summer, **all students** are required to complete a novel project. Each incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grader will choose and read one book from the summer reading list that is provided. The student will create a **Movie Poster or a Google Slide Presentation** that will be turned into the student's language arts teacher during the first week of school in August. This project will be part of the student's first nine weeks grade in language arts. **Please follow the directions below** .

## **Project Overview – “Movie Poster”**

1. **Size:** The “Movie Poster” must be – **12” x 18”** poster board cut to size (*vertical or horizontal*)
2. Each “Movie Poster” should have an **eye-catching** design that gets attention.
3. **All areas** of the “Movie Poster” must be covered with color or design (*no large blank spaces*)
4. You must be able to read the **title of the book** and the **author** clearly from across the room.
5. **Choose a scene** from the book that **represents** part of the **plot** or a **conflict** and base the illustration and design around that theme.
6. **On the back** of the Movie Poster, on a separate sheet of paper, type or hand-write the **page number** and **whole paragraph** that inspired the design and scene for the “Movie Poster”. **Also** on that separate sheet of paper **explain the meaning of the title of the book** and **why you feel the author choose that “title”** (*adhere this sheet of paper on the back of the “Movie Poster” along with your name*)
7. You may use **any** medium such as *crayon, paint, marker, collage, or computer design...* **No clip art or photocopy of the book cover may be used in the design...**be original and CREATIVE!
8. Include a sentence on the front of your poster that states the message that the author wants the reader to learn about bullying/acceptance/tolerance. Write it as a “tagline” – a short line that clarifies the message. (Example: Differences make a person special)
9. A well-designed poster conveys a picture that was in your mind while you were reading the book. Depict a scene from the book that would entice someone to “see the movie” or read the book!

## **Google Slide Presentation**

You can use this link <https://tinyurl.com/y9zrt9s8> (then click the blue “make a copy” button) to make a copy of a template that you should use for your project. Follow the instructions on the slides. You may change any of the formattings, colors, etc. Be creative! If you can not open this link, you may reference the example on the following pages.

**Have fun, and we look forward to meeting you in August! 😊**

## Example of Digital Project

(Can be completed as a Google slide presentation or as a Powerpoint)

<b>Title</b>
By: Author

<b>Title and Author</b>	
Title:	Add a picture of the book or another representation of the book.
Author:	
Genre:	

<b>Characters</b>
List the characters and their main attributes (characteristics)
Example:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matilda: wise beyond her years, studious</li></ul>

<b>Setting</b>
Setting: Where and when does the story take place?
Add a visual (picture)

## Conflict or Problem

Explain the major conflict or problem in the novel. Who is it between, what causes it? What kinds of problems are created for the main characters and others?

Add a visual (picture)

## Resolution and Lessons Learned

How is the problem resolved?

What did the author want us to learn from this story? (theme)

Add a visual

## Recommendation

Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?

