

**Scieszka, Jon. Guys Write for Guys Read**

*Short Stories 920 L*

The book, Guys Write for Guys Read, contains short stories, comics, and advice on what it is like to be a boy by well known authors and illustrators. Scieszka hopes the collection will inspire boys to read. Readers will be surprised to learn of the many famous people who contributed to this book.

**Verne, Jules. 20,000 Leagues under the Sea**

*Action / Adventure 440-1080 L*

Verne writes a thrilling sea adventure full of incredible inventions for his time. Captain Nemo and his sailors track down monsters that sink ships or do they? Travel to the Ceylon Sea and the South Pole with Captain Nemo as he takes revenge on the entire world.

**Weeks, Sarah. So B. It**

*Realistic Fiction 860 L*

The author tells a story of a young girl who lives with her mentally disabled mother. Her mother knows very few words, but there is one particular word that sticks in Heidi's mind and intrigues her curiosity. Trying to find the source of this word and the truth behind it, she goes on a journey across country in search of her past.

**Wells, H. G. The Time Machine**

*Science Fiction 290-1100 L*

The main character is an amateur inventor who lives in London, England. He is convinced that time is the fourth dimension and builds a machine to take him to the future to prove it. As he travels swiftly from one year to the next, his observations of the passing of time into the future are intriguing. His journey will take him as far as 802,701 AD where he finds a world vastly different from what he left.

**Wells, H. G. The War of the Worlds**

*Science Fiction 300 – 1170 L*

The book begins in the 1900's when the narrator and a well known astronomer witness an explosion on the surface of Mars. Soon after, a meteor is seen landing close to London. An object in the form of cylinders is discovered and from within it come tentacled creatures. Anyone who moves closely to this object disintegrates immediately...and this is only the beginning of many more strange and frightening things to come!

**Worth, Valerie. All the Small Poems and Fourteen More**

*Non-Fiction*

This collection includes ninety-nine original poems and illustrations and also fourteen new poems. The lines are short and exact. Ink drawings spark the reader's imagination.

**L- Lexile Score Information on Choosing Books Through the Use of a Lexile Score**

*The Lexile measure of a book refers to its text difficulty only. A Lexile measure does not take the subject matter or content of the book into consideration. Lexile measures are based on two well-established predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: word frequency and sentence length. Many factors other than these affect the relationship between a reader and a book, including its content, the age and interests of the reader, and the design of the actual book. The Lexile measure is a good starting point in your book-selection process, with these other factors then being considered.*

Source: *The Lexile Framework for Reading* ([www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com)) 5-07

# Hampton Academy



## Suggested Summer Reading (for incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

*Summer 2007*

*Dear Students and Parents,*

***In the following pages you will find a list of suggested books to read over the summer. These books are for all levels of readers and they represent a variety of genres including contemporary books and classics, award winners and time-tested favorites, fiction and non-fiction, favorite authors, and authors yet to be discovered.***

***A brief overview of each book, its genre, and a Lexile reading score have all been provided to assist you in making your summer reading choices. Your most recent Lexile reading score can be found on your spring NWEA reading test results. Of course, summer time is a great time to choose books related to your special interests.***

***It is very important that you take time to read over the summer. Reading, just like any other skill such as playing a sport or a musical instrument, only improves with practice!***

***In closing, we hope that you have an enjoyable and safe summer vacation and that reading will be one of the many fun things that you do.***

*Sincerely,*

***The Administration and Staff of Hampton Academy***

### Drop off a postcard!

- You can complete one "postcard" for each book that you read over the summer.
- Completed post cards may be turned into the Lane Library and the school's office during the summer. They may also be given to the school librarian in September.
- Extra postcards and reading lists are available at the front office, the Lane Library, and via the school website.
- How many postcards can you write? How many books can you read?

**Bender, Debra. A Gift of a Watermelon Pickle** *Non Fiction*  
These are excellent modern poems with special interest to young people. Unfamiliar and familiar poets appear in the 144 poems in this book. A flying saucer; lapping lake water, a basketball, or a bud—it is all poetry which reflects today.

**Dickens, Charles. Oliver Twist** *Historical Fiction 570 -1060 L*  
Oliver Twist is a young abandoned child in the dismal streets of London where he has to turn to a world of crime in order to survive. He lives and steals with a gang of pickpockets.

**Filipovic, Zlata. Zlata's Diary** *Biography 640 L*  
Zlata Filipovic kept a diary in the early 1990's. She was 11 years old and she wrote about her friends, school, and other 11 year old interests. As life circumstances change, Zlata's diary takes a turn towards descriptions of bombings, lack of food, water, gas, and more in her home land of Sarajevo. Zlata's Diary has been described as a similar account as that of Anne Frank's Diary.

**Frank, Anne. Anne Frank, the Diary of a Young Girl** *Biography 1080 L*  
In June of 1942 a young teenage Jewish girl wrote about her hopes and dreams during World War II. She and her family were hidden away From Nazi surveillance.

**Konigsburg, E. L. From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** *Realistic Fiction/ Adventure 700 L*  
Claudia is a 12-year-old girl who thinks that her family does not understand her. She wants to show her family how lonely it would be for them if she were not with them and so decides to run away and ends up staying at the museum of art. Her brother Jamie goes with her. Read about their exciting adventure together.

**Koss, Amy. The Cheat** *Realistic Fiction 620 L*  
This book describes the dilemma of cheating and the consequences following such a decision. It all begins when an eighth girl gets hold of the geography mid term and shares it with some of her friends. This is just the beginning... little does Sarah know what lies ahead around this whole issue of cheating.

**Lupica, Mike. Travel Team** *Realistic Fiction 930 L*  
Danny Walker is twelve years old and loves to play basketball. Danny dreams about playing on the travel team. This is the same travel team that made it to the national championships when his father was Danny's age. The team's coach thinks that Danny is too small. Everyone tries to make Danny feel better, but it doesn't help as he continues to reach for his dream.

**Nye, Naomi. 19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East** *Non-Fiction 910 L*  
There are 57 poems full of wonderful expressions and images. Nye writes "Peace is rough." From reading her work, the reader begins to understand what Nye means. Through her works Nye expresses her strong belief in all people.

**Paterson, Katherine. Jacob, Have I Loved** *Historical Fiction 880 L*  
This book takes place in the 1940s on an island and tells the story of the Bradshaw family. Truitt, the father, runs a crabbing/fishing business and works on his boat called the *Portia Sue*. He has two twin daughters, Sara Louise and Caroline. As the story continues, the reader begins to learn that one twin is always considered to be ahead of the other. She is thought to be prettier and smarter. As the story unfolds one twin tries to break free from the influence of the other even as they grow older.

**Peck, Richard. Past, Perfect, Present Tense: New and Collected Stories**  
The author has written a variety of short stories. This is a collection of 13 short stories with two of his newest. The author has not only written the short stories; but he has also included notes about the stories, information about the short story genre, and specific tips on how to be a writer of short stories.

**Peck, Richard. Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts** *Historical Fiction /Realistic Fiction 750 L*  
In 1904 Russell Culver is 15 years old. His teacher has just died over the summer and Russell hopes the school will close so that he can leave his small town for bigger things. That is not the way it is intended to be. Russell is greatly surprised to find his new teacher to be none other than his sister, Tansy. What a year it will be for the both of them!

**Poe, Edgar Allan. The Cask of the Amontillado** *Horror 700 L*  
Edgar Allan Poe's the Cask of the Amontillado, a short story, was published in 1846. This story placed in Italy tells of the revenge of the lead character on a friend whom he feels has turned on him. It will keep the reader in suspense as all of Poe's stories do .

**Salisbury, Graham. Under the Blood Red Sun** *Historical Fiction 640 L*  
Under the Blood Red Sun takes place on December 7, 1941, in Hawaii as the Japanese are attacking Pearl Harbor. The main characters are two thirteen- year-old boys. The boys' lives quickly change as members of their families are arrested and held in concentration camps. Through their friendship, the boys show great courage during this perilous time.

**Salisbury, Graham. House of Red Fish** *Historical Fiction 610 L*  
This book takes place one year after the end of Salisbury's previous book. Many of Tomi's family are still under arrest and others wait for more attacks from the Japanese. Tomi's family finds new enemies everywhere. But there is one ray of sunshine...one hope...and that is to bring up Tomi's father's boat which sank in the canal during the war.