

## Cooper Middle School Summer Reading 2009 Seventh Grade Friendship and Perspective Theme

"The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances:  
if there is any reaction, both are transformed. "

Carl Jung (1875 - 1961)

"The only way to have a friend is to be one."- Ralph Waldo Emerson

If none of these books appeal to you, you may select two on your own. The books you choose must deal with the theme of friendship in order to meet the requirements of this assignment.

*All the Way Home* by Patricia Reilly Giff- In 1941, circumstances bring together Brick, a boy from New York's apple country, and Mariel, a young girl made shy by her bout with polio, and the two make a journey from Brooklyn back to help Brick's elderly neighbors save their apple crop and to help Mariel learn about her past.

*Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maude Montgomery- An adventurous young orphan goes to live on a farm with an elderly brother and sister.

*The Boy Who Saved Baseball* by John H. Ritter-The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gata.

*Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo-Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog, Winn-Dixie.

*Bucking the Sarge* by Christopher Paul Curtis-Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

*Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett-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.

*Danger Zone* by David Klass- When he joins a predominantly black "Teen Dream Team" that will be representing the United States in an international basketball tournament in Rome, Jimmy Doyle makes some unexpected discoveries about prejudice, racism, and politics.

*Define "Normal": A Novel* by Julie Anne Peters-When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend.

*Far North* by Will Hobbs-After the destruction of their float plane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his Indian friend, Raymond, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness in the Northwest Territories.

*Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen- In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

*The Girls* by Amy Goldman Koss- Each of the girls in a middle school clique reveals the strong, manipulative hold one of the group exerts on the others, causing hurt and self-doubt among the girls.

*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by J.K. Rowling (available July 16)- This novel takes up the story of Harry Potter's sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry at this point in the midst of the storm of this battle of good and evil.

*The Heart of a Champion* by Carl Deuker-Seth faces a strain on his friendship with Jimmy, who is both a baseball champion and something of an irresponsible fool, when Jimmy is kicked off the team.

*Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen- 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.

*Life in the Fat Lane* by Cherie Bennet-Sixteen year old Lara, winner of beauty pageants and Homecoming Queen, is distressed and bewildered when she starts gaining weight and becomes a fat girl.

*Mick Harte was Here* by Barbara Park-Thirteen-year-old Phoebe recalls her younger brother Mick and his death in a bicycle accident.

*Miracle's Boys* by Jacqueline Woodson- Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother.

*Misfits* by James Howe- Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

*The Outcast of Redwall* by Brian Jacques-The destinies of the badger lord dubbed Sunflash and his mortal enemy, the ferret warlord Swartt Sixclaw, are entwined with those of many creatures, particularly the inhabitants of Redwall Abbey.

*Peeling the Onion* by Wendy Orr-Following an automobile accident in which her neck is broken, a teenage karate champion begins a long and painful recovery with the help of her family.

*Petey* by Ben Mikaelson-In 1922 Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot and institutionalized; sixty years later, still in the institution, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life.

*Pig and the Shrink* by Pamela Todd- Seventh grader Tucker needs to come up with a winning science fair project in a hurry, so he uses his fat friend Angelo as an experimental subject and in the process learns about more than just science.

*P.S. Longer Letter Later* by Paula Danziger and Ann M. Martin- Twelve year old best friends Elizabeth and Tara-Starr continue their friendship through letter writing after Tara-Starr's family moves to another state.

*Under the Same Sky* by Cynthia DeFelice- While trying to earn money for a motor bike, fourteen-year-old Joe Pedersen becomes involved with the Mexicans who work on his family's farm and develops a better relationship with his father.

*Slam* by Walter Dean Meyers- Seventeen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach see things differently.

*Stotan* by Chris Crutcher- A high school coach invites members of his swimming team to a memorable week of rigorous training that tests their moral fiber as well as their physical stamina.

*Swear to Howdy* by Wendelin VanDraanen- Two thirteen-year-old boys share neighborhood adventures, complaints about their older sisters, family secrets, and even guilt that bind them together in a special friendship.

*The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke-Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

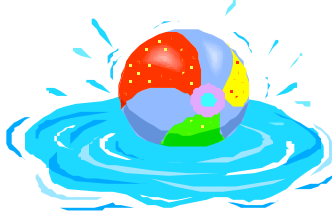
*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by AVI- As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

*Turnabout* by Margaret Peterson Haddix-Melly and Anny Beth both lived normal lives throughout the twentieth century. But in 2000, when they are old and ready to die, they are selected to participated in Project Turnabout and are given an injection to make them grow younger.

*When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* by Kimberley Willis Holt-During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend, Cal, meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

*Wilderness Peril* by Thomas J. Dygard- Two teenage boys camping in the Minnesota woods encounter a desperate airplane hijacker attempting to escape with three-quarters of a million dollars.

Book descriptions taken from Cooper Middle School Library Catalog.



**Cooper Middle School Summer Reading 2009  
Seventh Grade Friendship and Perspective Theme**

Assignment: Read at least two books on friendship. After reading each book, respond to **TWO** of the prompts below (You will write a total of **FOUR** journals). Each journal should be at least one page in length. (1/2 page typed). Be sure to keep your journals in a safe place! We will discuss your reading when we begin school again in August!

**Journal Prompts**

1. From whose point of view is the story told, and how is that important?
2. Describe the friends in the book (age, appearance, interests, relationships, and anything else you feel is important).
3. What do the friends have in common? What holds them together?
4. In what ways are the friends different?
5. In what ways are the friends similar?
6. What problems do the friends have, and how do they handle them?
7. Is there a major conflict, and if so, what is it?
8. How do the characters change and grow? What do they learn?
9. Was the friendship beneficial for one or both of the friends? Explain.
10. Explain how this story reminds you of your experiences or those of people you know