

CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

SUMMER READING LIST

7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
GOING INTO 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



**CREATED BY THE  
MS Library Media Specialists  
in coordination with the  
MS ELA Department  
June 2009**

Students will be expected to read at least one book from this list by  
September, 2009.

Images of books from <http://www.flr.follett.com>



# CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Mrs. Delia Bonenberger  
Superintendent of Schools  
Principal

Mr. Brian K. Bridges, Principal  
Mrs. Maureen E. George, Assistant

June 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian of Incoming Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Graders:

Congratulations on another successful school year! We hope that your child will continue to grow as a student over the summer through our summer reading initiative. The middle school years are critical for developing lifelong reading and studying habits. New York State has even suggested that all students read a total of twenty-five books per year. Because of the high standards that New York State is setting, we are launching a summer reading program where each student must read two books. One of the books may be a personal selection and the other must be read from a grade level specific list.

After your child has finished reading each of the books this summer, they must complete a novel journal. Your child will be given two novel journals and the book list before his/her last day of school. The novel journals and book lists may also be found on the school web site at [http://www.cheektowagacentral.org/junior\\_high.cfm](http://www.cheektowagacentral.org/junior_high.cfm) or the school's library web site at <http://www.cheektowagacentral.org/webpages/mslib/>. The novel must be handed in to your child's teacher no later than September 18, 2009. This will count for a grade in your child's English class in September. **The book that your child chooses must be no less than 75 pages in length.**

We look forward to hearing about all of the wonderful books that our students at CCMS will be reading this summer! We hope that this proves to be a positive experience and that your child's mind will continue to grow as he/she relaxes and unwinds with a good book over the summer months. Please do not hesitate to call the Middle School Office at 686-3660 with any questions you may have. Have a safe and happy summer!

Sincerely,

The CCMS English and Library Staff

## LESS CHALLENGING

### Slam

Walter Dean

Myers

Sixteen-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 sees things differently.

### Money Hungry

Sharon Flake

All thirteen-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again.

### No More Dead Dogs

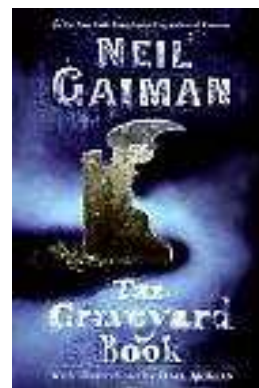
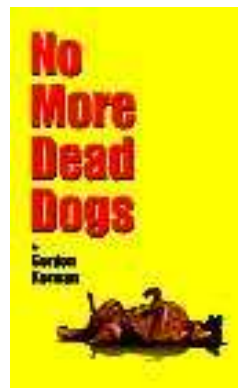
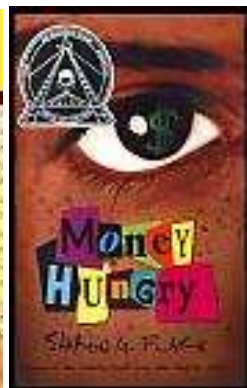
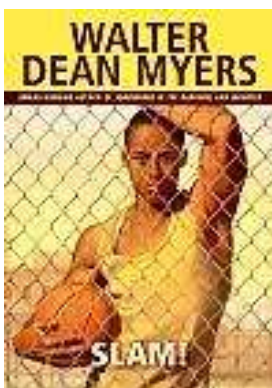
Gordon Korman

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

### The Graveyard Book

Neil Gaiman

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures. (2009 Newbery Award Winner)



## AVERAGE

### **The Ruins of Gorlan**

John Flanagan

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

### **Flipped**

Wendelin Van Draanen

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

### **Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie**

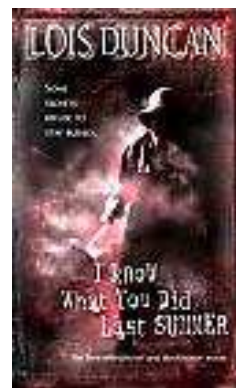
Jordan Sonnenblick

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

### **I Know What You Did Last Summer**

Lois Duncan

Four teenagers who have desperately tried to conceal their responsibility for a hit-and-run accident are pursued by a mystery figure seeking revenge.



## MORE CHALLENGING

### **Like Sisters on the Homefront**

Rita Williams-Garcia

Troubled fourteen-year-old Gayle is sent down South to live with her uncle and aunt, where her life begins to change as she experiences the healing power of the family.

### **The Angel Experiment**

James Patterson

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

### **The Christopher Killer**

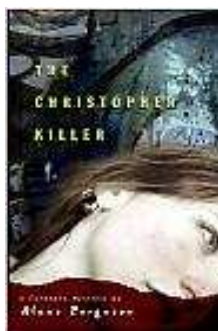
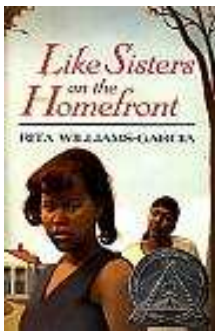
Alane Ferguson

On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.

### **Lawn Boy**

Gary Paulsen

Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
English 7/8

Date \_\_\_\_\_



### Novel Journal Entry Form

Directions: Use the questions below to clarify your understanding of and response to a novel. Reflect on each question before answering. Choose one of the extended responses from the box at the end of this assignment. You must write a one-paragraph answer to the response on a separate sheet of paper. This assignment is worth one hundred points.

Novel Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Genre \_\_\_\_\_

The novel was (circle one)      assigned      a personal selection

#### Elements of the Novel

1. Who was the **protagonist** (main character) in the novel?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What kind of person is the **protagonist**? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What evidence from the novel leads me to this opinion of the **protagonist**?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What **conflict** (challenge) does the **protagonist** encounter?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How is the **conflict** resolved?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What other important **characters** are involved in the **conflict**?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the setting of this **novel**? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Who tells the story- an outside observer (**third person**) or a character in the story (**first person**)?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What event do I consider the **climax** of the novel? \_\_\_\_\_

10. How would I describe the **mood** of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Would I recommend this book to a friend? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Response to the Novel

Rate this novel by circling the appropriate word.

13. The **characters** and **dialogue** are believable.                      **weak**                      **fair**                      **strong**

14. The **plot** engages my interest.                                              **weak**                      **fair**                      **strong**

15. The novel is written in a style that is clear and interesting.                      **weak**                      **fair**                      **strong**

16. Overall, I rate this novel as                                              **weak**                      **fair**                      **strong**

Reasons for my rating \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Readers Response Journal*

Directions: You must respond to one of the following prompts on a separate sheet of paper. Your response should be no less than one paragraph containing at least **five complete sentences**. Please staple your extended response to the back of this sheet when you are ready to hand this assignment in.

- Is there a character in the novel that you have strong feelings about? Explain your feelings. Does this character remind you of someone you know? If so, in what way? Did your feelings about this character change as the story progressed?
- Is there one event in this novel that was surprising or confusing? If so, write a brief paragraph to the author expressing your thoughts.