

This summer you will be required to read one of the books listed below. We have provided a synopsis of each book to help aid you in your decision. You will be assessed upon your return to school in September. Please read carefully and consider using your reading strategies to help you in your understanding and recollection of these novels.

Catherine Called Birdy – Karen Cushman

Set against a backdrop of life in a medieval manor, a 14-year-old girl feels trapped because her father is determined to marry her off to a rich man. She manages to send several would-be husbands packing, but then comes a man from the north--the oldest, the ugliest, and the richest.

Out of the Dust – Karen Hesse

A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's life. Her mother is gone. Her father can't talk about it. And the one thing that might make her feel better – playing the piano – is impossible with her wounded hands. To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm. Many are fleeing Oklahoma.

That Was Then, This Is Now – S.E. Hinton

Set in the same working-class landscape as The Outsiders, That Was Then, This Is Now paints a deeply felt portrait of best friends Byron and Mark, as they grow up and grow apart.

The Crystal Cave - Mary Stewart

The Crystal Cave tells the story of Myriddon Emrys, a young man who is on a quest to find his true purpose in life. His magical adventures lead him to become one of the best know wizards in the world, Merlin.

Black Duck - Janet Taylor Lisle

When Ruben and Jed find a dead body on the Rhode Island shore, they are certain it has something to do with smuggling liquor. Suddenly, the boys find themselves caught in a war between two Prohibition gangs.