

Sixth and Seventh Grade Summer Reading 2009

All 7th grade students are required to read **Free the Children** and one book of choice from the list below. A comprehension test on **Free the Children** will be given on the first day of school.

1) * **Free the Children** by: Craig Kielburger

This passionate and astounding memoir chronicles the efforts of 12-year-old Craig Kielburger and his human rights organization Free the Children, a group which aims to stop child labor in foreign countries.

Themes: memoirs, child labor, human rights, non-fiction

2) **When Zachary Beaver Came to Town** by Kimberly Willis Holt

Toby Wilson is having the toughest summer of his life. It's the summer his mother leaves for good; the summer his best friend's brother returns from Vietnam in a coffin; and the summer that Zachary Beaver, the "fattest boy in the world," arrives. There are heartaches, friendships gained, and old friendships renewed. And it's Zachary Beaver who turns the town of Antler upside down and leaves everyone, especially Toby, changed forever.

Themes: fitting in, 1970s, friendship

3) **Tangerine** by Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness, and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Themes: fitting in, diaries, brothers, sight

4) **Bull Rider** by Marilyn Halvorson

Sixteen-year-old Layne faces a dangerous challenge when he defies his mother and enters himself in a bull riding contest - the same rodeo event in which his father was killed.

Themes: rodeos, family relationships, adventure