

Eighth Grade Summer Reading 2009

All 8th grade students are required to read **Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea** and one book of choice from the list below. A comprehension test will be given on the first day of school for **Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea**.

1) * **Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea** by Jules Verne

A nineteenth-century science fiction tale in which a French professor and his companions, trapped aboard a fantastic submarine with a mad sea captain, come face to face with exotic ocean creatures and strange sights hidden from the world above.

(NOTE: DO NOT READ ABRIDGED VERSION OF THIS BOOK!)

2) **In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle** by Madeleine Blais

Finally, after five straight years of disappointments on the basketball court, the Amherst Lady Hurricanes found they just might have what it takes to go all the way. This is a fierce, funny, and intimate look into their minds and hearts during one very special season.

Themes: basketball, perseverance, non-fiction

3) **The Hound of the Baskervilles** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Sherlock Holmes and his partner Dr. Watson confront one of their most difficult cases ever: is there truly a curse on the old Baskerville estate? Is there truly a ghostly beast lurking on the dark, eerie moors? A masterful concoction of plot and mood, this story is guaranteed to give you the shivers.

Themes: mystery, Sherlock Holmes, historical fiction

4) **Drivers Ed** by Caroline B. Cooney

Getting a driver's license is the one thing that would make Remy's and Morgan's lives nearly perfect. And it seems as if it's going to be easy and fun. After all, Mr. Fielding, the Driver's Ed teacher, thinks his course is a joke. With their already licensed friend, Nickie Budie, Remy and Morgan take the stop sign at the corner of Warren and Cherry Roads. When this action has fatal consequences, they are forced to deal with death, guilt, and the responses of their friends and families. Though there are no easy answers to their dilemmas, the teenagers struggle to do the right thing in the face of their crime. This powerful story of a prank gone awry will leave teenagers grappling for solutions to tough issues.