

**Lake Zurich Middle School North**  
**HAL Summer Reading List**  
**Grade 8**  
**2011**

Dear Students and Parents,

For the upcoming 2011-2012 school year, all HAL students must read three required books from the attached list during the summer prior to entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The listed books were selected because of their recognized literary merit. Along with literary merit, the books are also in direct relation to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science and literature/history curriculum. Therefore, students are required to read books to enhance the content material studied in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We have provided a Lexile score, which is in direct relation to the MAP test, to help students and parents understand the reading level of the assigned texts. If you would like more information on Lexile, please refer to <http://www.lexile.com>.

All HAL students must read (please see descriptions below):

1. *The Book Thief*
2. *Albert Einstein: The Miracle Mind* or *Albert Einstein : A photographic story of a life*
3. One of the following 2012 Rebecca Caudill selections:

*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*

*Flygirl*

*Leviathan*

*Woods Runner*

All students must have their books read prior to the first day of school. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade gifted team will celebrate the summer reading titles in a variety of ways during the first two weeks of school. These texts provide a common literary experience when discussing classroom novels, enrich background knowledge, and generate points of comparison and analysis.

Students may purchase a book through the library by filling out the attached form. All forms must be turned into Mrs. Chaffee or Mrs. Malone on or before May 13th. Purchased books will be distributed to students before the last day of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. All listed books can also be found at bookstores or through online providers.

We hope to make this an enjoyable experience for all.

Sincerely,

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Gifted Team

**HAL 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List-2011**

Parents-Please sign your name next to any book(s) your child has read over the summer in order for him/her to receive recognition.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Description</u>
<i>The Book Thief</i> Lexile-730	Zusak, Markus	It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery. . . .Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.
<i>Albert Einstein: The Miracle Mind</i> Lexile-Not available	Yeatts, Tabatha	Thanks to his monumental accomplishments, Albert Einstein's name is synonymous with genius. With his famous $E=MC$ and insights into quantum physics, this legendary scientist not only revolutionized the way we understand the universe, but paved the way for such diverse technology as lasers, cell phones, electron microscopes, DVD players, atomic weaponry, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). This compelling biography follows Einstein from his childhood through his early career struggles, and on to the theoretical breakthroughs and groundbreaking writings that won him the Nobel Prize.
<i>Albert Einstein: A photographic story of a life</i> Lexile-1040	Wishinsky, Frieda	Albert Einstein struck many of his teachers as insolent and lazy, but his mind was always at work. As a young patent clerk, Albert loved to think about light, space, and time. Other scientists thought his ideas were crazy, but Albert didn't care. His imagination and natural gift for physics helped him develop ideas that would shake the world—and make him one of the most famous thinkers of our time.
<i>The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate</i> *2012 Caudill Nominee Lexile-830	Kelly, Jacqueline	Growing up with six brothers in rural Texas in 1899, 12-year-old Callie realizes that her aversion to needlework and cooking disappoints her mother. Still, she prefers to spend her time exploring the river, observing animals, and keeping notes on what she sees. Callie's growing interest in nature creates a bond with her previously distant grandfather, an amateur naturalist of some distinction. Interwoven with the scientific theme are threads of daily life in a large family—the bonds with siblings, the conversations overheard, the unspoken understandings and misunderstandings—all told with wry humor and a sharp eye for details that bring the characters and the setting to life.

<p><i>Flygirl</i> *2012 Caudill Nominee Lexile-630</p>	<p>Smith, Sherri</p>	<p>Meet 18-year-old Ida Mae Jones, a Louisiana girl who longs to be a pilot, in December 1941, on the eve of America's entrance into World War II. She is pretty and smart, but she has two huge strikes against her. She is black in an America where racism holds sway, and a competent pilot in an America in which she is denied her license because she is a woman. Readers learn a great deal about what it must have been like to be African American in the South during this period, as well as about the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP, a civilian group that performed jobs that freed male pilots for other things.</p>
<p><i>Leviathan</i> *2012 Caudill Nominee Lexile-790</p>	<p>Westerfeld, Scott</p>	<p>This is World War I as never seen before. The story begins the same: on June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife are assassinated, triggering a sequence of alliances that plunges the world into war. But that is where the similarity ends. This global conflict is between the Clankers, who put their faith in machines, and the Darwinists, whose technology is based on the development of new species. After the assassination of his parents, Prince Aleksandar's people turn on him. Meanwhile, as Deryn Sharp trains to be an airman with the British Air Service. When the two teens cross paths, and suddenly the line between enemy and ally is no longer clearly defined.</p>
<p><i>Woods Runner</i> *2012 Caudill Nominee Lexile-870</p>	<p>Paulsen, Gary</p>	<p>Though his parents are city folk trying to hack out a life on the frontier in Pennsylvania, 13-year-old Samuel is entirely at home in the woodland wilderness that surrounds their little settlement. Soon after word arrives of the uprising in Concord and Lexington, Samuel returns home from a jaunt in the forest to find his home burned down and his parents missing. Samuel tracks his captured parents through the countryside to British-held New York, encountering scalping bands of Iroquois, pillaging squads of mercenary Hessians, and a few hardy, helpful rebels along the way.</p>

# Book Order Form

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading 2011-HAL  
(for students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall)

RETURN TO THE LIBRARY BY MAY 13th.

Please clearly mark your choice or choices:

\_\_\_\_\_ The Book Thief 10.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Albert Einstein: The Miracle Mind 5.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Albert Einstein: A photographic story of a life 5.00

\_\_\_\_\_ The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate 7.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Flygirl 7.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Leviathan 9.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Woods Runner 7.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Lit Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Class period \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT      ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ cash/check      payable      to      MSN

