

Ms. Nichols' Reading Class  
Summer Reading List

**For students starting the 2009-2010 school year in the Dolphins group**

*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan (or any books in the “Percy Jackson and the Olympians” series)

Perseus, aka Percy Jackson, thinks he has big problems. His father left before he was born, he's been kicked out of six schools in six years, he's dyslexic, and he has ADHD. What a surprise when he finds out that that's only the tip of the iceberg: he vaporizes his pre-algebra teacher, learns his best friend is a satyr, and is almost killed by a minotaur before his mother manages to get him to the safety of Camp Half-Blood-- where he discovers that Poseidon is his father. But that's a problem, too. Poseidon has been accused of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt, and unless Percy can return the bolt, humankind is doomed. Fans of Greek mythology will be obsessed with these books, and they come highly recommended!

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

Leo Burlock follows that unspoken rule at Mica High School: don't stand out under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives and everything changes—for Leo and for the entire school. After fifteen years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body.

But the delicate scales of popularity shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl's arrival, Leo has fallen in love with her. Now he must choose....Jerry Spinelli is a REALLY popular author, and anyone who has ever felt left out will relate to our heroine, Stargirl!!

*Here Be Monsters* by Alan Snow

Ratbridge is populated by a variety of odd creatures and equally unusual humans. Underlings, including boxtrolls (shy trolls that wear boxes) and cabbageheads (they worship cabbage and wear them tied to their heads), live in tunnels and caves beneath the city. A boy named Arthur emerges from his home and discovers an evil plot. The shady members of the Cheese Guild, led by an unpleasant fellow called Snatcher, are kidnapping underlings and plotting to take over the town. Arthur's allies against the Guild include underlings, a man in iron socks, and the pirates and rats who run the Nautical Laundry. There's a great deal of inspired silliness throughout, which may appeal to fans of Roald Dahl and Lemony Snickett. Plus, great illustrations make this book a fun read!

*The Cay* by Theodore Taylor

In 1942, 11-year-old Phillip Enright lives with his parents on the Dutch island of Curaçao, but when the war moves too close for comfort, his mother decides to travel with him back to the safety of Virginia. When their boat is torpedoed, however, Phillip is blinded and finds himself adrift on a life raft with an old African-American man and a

cat. They eventually land on a deserted island. Phillip is suspicious of the man, but soon grows to trust--and ultimately love--the patient and generous Timothy. Dedicated to "Dr. King's Dream," *The Cay* has a clear message that friendship is colorblind; it is also a terrific adventure story of a young, newly blinded man learning to survive on an uninhabited island. The book is a great example of a classic novel that is still great to read today.

*Peak* by Roland Smith

Fourteen-year-old New Yorker Peak ("It could have been worse. My parents could have named me Glacier, or Abyss, or Crampon.") Marcello hones his climbing skills by scaling skyscrapers. After Peak is caught climbing the Woolworth Building, an angry judge gives him probation, with an understanding that Peak will leave New York and live with his famous mountaineer father in Thailand. Peak soon learns, however, that his father has other plans for him; he hopes that Peak will become the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest. Peak is whisked off to Tibet and finds himself in the complex world of an Everest base camp, where large amounts of money are at stake and climbing operations offer people an often-deadly shot at the summit. Fans of action and adventure will LOVE this book, or any book by Roland Smith!

*Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle is furious when she and her father move from rural Kentucky to a drab suburb in Ohio. She wants her farm back, and above all, she wants her mother back. Why had her mother left home anyway? And why had she disappeared so mysteriously into the mountains of Idaho? Sal comes to terms with these questions—and more—on a wild journey west with her exuberant grandparents. Both funny and moving, *Walk Two Moons* is a great story for those who often find themselves stuck between two worlds, and want to find their own place.